

# Paul Slabolepszy.

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With over thirty plays to his credit, Paul is arguably (after Athol Fugard) South Africa's foremost playwright, his work having been performed in the UK, the USA, Germany, France, Australia, Sweden, Denmark and the Middle East.

PLAYS: 1979 – RENOVATIONS; 1980 – THE DEFLORATION OF MILES KOEKEMOER; 1982 – SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE PALACE (Amstel, Vita & Fleur du Cap Best Play); 1983 – KAROO GRAND; 1984 – UNDER THE OAKS; 1985 – OVER THE HILL (DALRO Best Play); 1986 – BOO TO THE MOON, MAKING LIKE AMERICA (Vita Best Play); 1988 – TRAVELLING SHOTS; 1989 – SMALLHOLDING (Vita Best Play); 1990 – ONE FOR THE HIGH JUMP, THE EYES OF THEIR WHITES; 1991 – BRAAIT LAAITIES (Pick of the Fringe, Grahamstown Fest); 1992 – MOOI STREET MOVES (Paper Boat Best Play Award, Glasgow MayFest), THE RETURN OF ELVIS DU PISANIE (Vita, Fleur du Cap and DALRO Best Play); 1993 – PALE NATIVES; 1994 – VICTORIA ALMOST FALLS, TICKLE TO FINE LEG; 1995 – HEEL AGAINST THE HEAD (Vita, Star Tonight Best Comedy); 1996 – ONCE A PIRATE, 1997 – GOING FOR THE JOCLAR, FORDSBURG'S FINEST; 1998 – PLANET PERTH, LIFE'S A PITCH, 2000 – CRASHING THE NIGHT; 2001 – RUNNING RIOT; 2002 – IT'S JUST NOT CRICKET!; 2003 – WHOLE IN ONE; 2005 – ART OF CHARF (LADY LONELY HEARTS); 2006 – NOT THE BIG EASY; 2008 – FOR YOUR EARS ONLY; 2008 – FREAK COUNTRY; 2016 – SUDDENLY THE STORM (Naledi Best New South African Script 2016/17).

In December, 2013 – ARTSCAPE (Cape Town) produced a rework of an earlier play – VICTORIA ALMOST FALLS (now titled MY LOW-FAT, ALMOST ITALIAN WEDDING). In May, 2014 the Market Theatre, Johannesburg, produced a '20th Anniversary Production' of his hit 1994 play, PALE NATIVES and his latest play, SUDDENLY THE STORM (produced by the Market Theatre), is currently on a National Tour.

Paul has had six World Premieres at the Market Theatre in Johannesburg. SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE PALACE went on to perform at London's OLD VIC THEATRE in 1984. THE EYES OF THEIR WHITES (co-written and co-performed with David Kramer, directed by Bobby Heaney) received acclaim at the 1990 Edinburgh Festival, and MOOI STREET MOVES was invited to the Teater der Weld Festival in Germany and the Images of Africa Festival in Denmark, in 1993. The play won the Paper Boat Award at the Glasgow MayFest in 1994 and went on to the Edinburgh Festival in the same year. ONCE A PIRATE (starring Seputla Sebogodi) was part of the Lincoln Centre's WOZA AFRICA FESTIVAL in New York City in July, 1997.

SCREENPLAYS: 1986 - SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE PALACE (adapted/play) – Merit Award AFI FEST, Los Angeles 1987, TAORMINA Best Actor - John Kani; 1998 – HEEL AGAINST THE HEAD (adapted/play); 2006 - RUNNING RIOT (adapted/play); 2017 – RIDERS ON THE WIND (Anne-Linda du Toit).

For Leon Schuster, Paul wrote the screenplay OH, SHUCKS – HERE COMES UNTAG (1989), and contributed to SWEET & SHORT and MAMA JACK (2005); other co-written screenplays include VAN DER MERWE P.I. (Philo Pieterse), PRINCE VAN PRETORIA (Franz Marx) and TAXI TO SOWETO (Edgar Bold, Manie van Rensburg).

TELEVISION: SWANSONG FOR CHARLIE – an MNET Made-for-TV Movie, directed and produced by Bobby Heaney. With Bill Flynn, he co-wrote SENIOR SMITH (13-part series, SABC); wrote many episodes on various series' – among them SCOOP SCHOOMBIE (original concept – for Roberta Durrant); MADAM & EVE; PEOPLE LIKE US (with Gray Hofmeyr); In 2008 he was Head Writer on a SABC2 Drama Series (HILLSIDE), for Aubrey Sekhabi; In 2009 – he conceived, created and wrote KONSTERNASIE OPPIE STASIE (13 part Afrikaans/English sitcom for SABC2), directed and produced by Bobby Heaney.

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**RADIO:** Several of his plays have been adapted for radio and broadcast by SAfm (SABC), among them UNDER THE OAKS/OVER THE HILL, ART OF CHARF and WHOLE IN ONE. From 2009 to 2018 Paul was Head Writer on a daily serial on SAfm called RADIO VUKA. The series ran to a record 2,291 episodes.

As an actor, Paul has appeared in well over 100 STAGE and TV PLAYS, as well as fifteen FEATURE FILMS. Highlights include - Frederick Courtney Selous in RHODES (BBC) and Jan Christiaan Smuts, in THE APPRENTICESHIP OF A MAHATMA. Numerous Best Actor Awards for Stage include Biff in DEATH OF A SALESMAN, Chance Wayne in SWEET BIRD OF YOUTH; Kaspar in Pieter Handke's KASPAR, Smitty in FORTUNE AND MENS' EYES (where he won his first DALRO Best Actor Award in 1976); Mercutio in ROMEO & JULIET; Chandebise/Poche in A FLEA IN HER EAR. As Eddie, in his own play THE RETURN OF ELVIS DU PISANIE (directed by Lara Foot), he became the first actor in SA to win every Best Actor Award nationwide in a single year (Vita, Fleur du Cap and DALRO, 1993).

In March, 1993 Paul was invited on a study tour of American Theatres with a group of international drama practitioners as part of the USA International Visitor Program.

**PUBLISHED WORK:** Saturday Night at the Palace is published by Jonathan Ball and Wits University Press has recently published a six-play volume entitled MOOI STREET & OTHER MOVES, as well as SUDDENLY THE STORM.

Together with Ashleigh Harvey and Luntu Masiza, Paul is part of THE STORY TEAM, a Writers' Workshop focusing on Storytelling for Stage, Screen and Television.