

## **PAUL WALKER - Writer**

Paul is an Irish writer and actor. He studied voice and drama at the Dublin College of Music and began his apprenticeship as a professional actor in 1991 at various fringe venues. He subsequently played everything from a Celtic super hero to a nun to a petty criminal. His first stage play **THE TABLOID MAN**, a dark comedy about two men in an underground station, in which he also performed, had successful runs in Dublin and in London. Paul began writing for television in 1996 on RTE's national soap **FAIR CITY** and was a core member of the writing team until 2009. He is one of Ireland's most highly regarded tv writers while at the same time continuing his work in theatre and film.

**STARDUST** a controversial two-part tv film based around the real-life events of the 1981 Stardust disco fire in Dublin (Merlin Films/RTE) aired to coincide with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in February 2006. It had huge repercussions in Ireland and won the *Best Drama Award* at the Irish Film & Television Awards 2007.

Paul is currently working on two original full length feature films: **SYNCHRONICITY** for Parallel Films and **MS. MANSFIELD AND ME**, both supported with development funding from the Irish Film Board.

He recently wrote and directed his first short film called **PREJUDICE** for the Darklight Film Festival.

Paul's most recent transmitted work is a radio play for RTE1's Sunday Playhouse slot **2.36 pm**, a bittersweet tale of love, cancer and Thierry Henri, broadcast during the World Cup (June 2010).

Current development work in television includes **TAILOR'S HILL** for Tyrone Productions/TV3 and **THE GIFT** for De Facto Films/TG4, Ireland. Previous development projects include: a drama serial about a neuro-surgeon **DO NO HARM** with ITV Productions and original drama projects developed with RTE: four-parter **A.R.B.** (Parallel Films); two-parter **RICOCHE** about a group of people affected by tragedy (Espresso Films/Newgrange Pictures, director Hugh Farley); two-parter **SPIDER'S WEB** (Fair Play Films) about a father/daughter caught up at either end of the spectrum of the controversial rendition flights; **KITCHEN** a half-hour drama series (Tyrone Productions/RTE2); **SHELF LIFE** a drama series set in a shopping mall (Tyrone Productions) and **BRAVE NEW WORLD** a gritty and compassionate original drama series about a nun leaving an enclosed order after 20 years.

Paul remains committed to television series writing where his work includes Parallel Films' **THE CLINIC** and **FAIR CITY**, both for RTE.

Paul has a close association with Irish theatre production company Semper Fi who specialise in site-specific work. They achieved a degree of notoriety with **LADIES AND GENTS** a short, award-winning play about a 1950's sex scandal set in a public toilet. The play had a hugely successful North American premiere in New York City in March 2008, directed by Paul and has also been successfully produced in Mexico City (2008 and 2009).

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Credits to date include:

### **Television**

- 2006           **STARDUST** - two-part drama based around the 1981 disco fire (Merlin Films/RTE) *Best Drama, Irish Film & Television Awards, 2007, also Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress, Best Editing*
- 2003-2009   **THE CLINIC** - writer for Parallel Films/RTE medical drama (Series 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7)
- 1996-2009   **FAIR CITY** - writer (including specials) and senior storyline writer for RTE soap

### **Radio**

- 2010           **2.36 PM** - a bittersweet tale of love, cancer and Thierry Henri, RTE1 Sunday Playhouse

### **Stage**

- 2006           **GOD'S GRACE** - short play co-written with Eugene O'Brien/Semper Fi, The Sick and Indigent Innkeeper's House, Dublin
- 2005           **ADRENALIN** - short play/Semper Fi, Dublin Fringe Theatre Festival
- 2002-8       **LADIES AND GENTS** - short play/Semper Fi, Dublin Fringe Theatre Festival (2002), Edinburgh Fringe Festival (2003), Brighton Festival (2004), Nottingham Festival (2004), New York City (North American premiere) (2008), Mexico City (2008 + 2009)  
*Voted 'Sexiest Show on the Fringe', Dublin, 2002*  
*Nominated for Irish Times Best Theatre Production, 2003*  
*Edinburgh Festival Fringe First for Innovation and Outstanding Stage Writing, 2003*
- 2000/1       **DIDI'S BIG DAY** - full length comedy - a subversive look at "the biggest day of a girl's life", Andrews Lane Theatre, Dublin
- 1998/9       **COSTA LADS** - full length comedy featuring a group of young men on their first sun, sex and sangria holiday, Andrews Lane Theatre, Dublin, transferred to Tivoli Theatre, Dublin
- 1990           **THE TABLOID MAN** - short comedy, Andrews Lane Theatre, Dublin, transferred to Grove Theatre, London

May 2012