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# PAUL WATSON

BIOGRAPHY

**THEATRE DIRECTOR** | **THEATRE DESIGNER** | **ACTOR** | **SINGER** | **VOICE ARTIST** | **MUSICIAN**

Born in Melbourne's eastern suburbs, Paul began his interest in music and theatre at an early age when he discovered his Uncle had toured Australia as a supporting act for The Beatles. A predominantly self-taught musician (Drums, Guitar, Uke, Piano etc.) his work to date includes theatrical productions with various producers such as GFO, Disney, Dainty, Lifelike Touring, Ambassadors, Stage by Stage, MTC, New Theatricals, Essential Theatre, Magnormos, Melbourne Gang Show, The Chosen Few, The Living Room Floor and What's On? Production Company, and professional music industry projects that include: Pete Murray (Guide Drums, Guitar, Keys, Backing Vocals and Touring Drummer/Backing Vocalist on the #1 Multi-Platinum Album "FEELER" & Australian and Thailand Tours), Dave Thomas (Guitar, Vocals), Planet Vox and Simple Folk (Guitar, Piano, Lead Vocals) Kalibrium, (Guitars, Vocals, Arrangements) and an ongoing role as front man for Melbourne's Crowded House/Split Enz tribute band Pineapplehead!

This interest in music is what led Paul to the musical theatre stage where he has portrayed varied roles on and off the stage. Some of these onstage roles include: The Baker, Orin Scrivello, Mark Cohen, Pontias Pilate, Frederic and more, which eventually led to a solid career as a professional actor, musician, entertainer and fueled his passion to be a theatrical director, producer and creator.

Paul most recently was seen on-stage professionally as an original cast member in the Tony Award winning musical Once, produced in Australia by GFO and MTC, and directed by Tony Award winner John Tiffany. Paul took on a mammoth workload swinging the roles of Emcee, Eamon, Andre and Svec and was 2nd Cover for the lead role, Guy. During the production, Paul was required to play more than 10 instruments with a music workload that required knowing over 150 different charts within the score.

One of the most valuable aspects to this production, however, was watching and learning from director Mr. John Tiffany.

After Once finished in Australia, Paul next won the mainstage role of Madonna in We Will Rock You when producers (GFO) attended a performance of Saturday Night Fever at Chapel off Chapel where Paul played the dual roles of Monty and Frank Snr. They asked him to come to a last-minute audition. Paul busily completed his next project, touring as a musician (guitar, uke) and singer for the Disney Under the Stars concerts, under the baton of the incredible Chong Lim, before eventually joining the We Will Rock You cast as Madonna and covering the roles of Kashoggi and Buddy for Brian Mannix in which he took over the role for Brian whilst Mr. Mannix had a pre-booked tour during the Melbourne season. After completing the We Will Rock You tour, Paul joined the cast of Paw Patrol for Nickelodeon and toured Australia as the villain, Mayor Humdinger.

Prior to Once Paul was employed to play the energetic rock tenor role of Judas Iscariot in Jesus Christ Superstar at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Brisbane, produced by Harvest Rain Theatre Company and directed by Tim O'Connor, and then played the role of Dan Goodman in Next to Normal in Melbourne. Next was a tour to South Australia in the role of Thomas B. Collins in RENT.

Before this Paul was an original Australian Jersey Boys cast member in the role of Norm Waxman and "others" playing 16 characters across each performance. Using his instrumental skills during each performance to play both live kit and live guitar. This production was directed by Tony Award winning director Des Macanuff, Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse. Working with the incredible creator of Jersey Boys remains one of Paul's most cherished learning experiences.

Before Jersey Boys, Paul was cast as Society Max/Joey Biltmore in the Ambassadors, Australian production of Guys & Dolls at the Princess Theatre. Working with Donmar Warehouse London Director, Mr. Jamie Lloyd, was another incredibly valuable experience.

Other professional theatre credits include the roles of Yussel and Perchik (cover) in the Australian and New Zealand tour of Topol in Fiddler on the Roof (TML) Directed by Sammy Dallas-Bayes. Paul originated the role of Denny Doherty in Flowerchildren, directed and written by AFI award winning writer Prof. Peter Fitzpatrick. Other credits include: Jim in Wentworthville at the Victorian Arts Centre, Mark Cohen in RENT at the National Theatre, Sebastian/Valentine in 12th Night for Essential Theatre's Australian Tour, Willy/Narrator in Flora the Red Menace for Magnormos and Luke in Suddenly Single for Oz Made Musical Showcase at the Athenaeum Theatre and Roger Davis in RENT for Next Step Productions sold out season at Chapel off Chapel Melbourne.

Paul premiered the role of Alan in I Sing, at Chapel off Chapel and appeared in Nostradamus at the MTC workshop, produced by Stage by Stage and directed by Rodger Hodgman.

Paul's acting for film credits include: ATO corporate film, Pete Murray, Sony Music Australia, Jersey Boys Publicity and the "A Life In Stages" documentary for Des Macanuff, "The Doors" short film for Living Room Floor Productions, "Ned Kelly" short film for Living Room Floor Productions and "Friends" also a short film for Living Room Floor Productions and Great Southern Films.

Television credits include national commercials (100%) for Mimosa Furniture, Bunnings, ANZ Bank, Gold 104FM and AHM Insurance (Greg's Boring Body!) We Will Rock You publicity and media performances, Open Universities, Mantra Hotels, Ski

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Yoghurt, Channel 11 and Neighbours (including singing the Neighbours jingle) Beaurepairs, Always Fresh, 1st Choice Liquor Stores, Metlink "Get on the Bus", Guys and Dolls publicity for Ambassador Theatre Group including a studio recording of production numbers for live television. T.A.C, Ashes Pin Collection, Jersey Boys national publicity campaign and web material and a commercial for Herald Sun. Paul has also appeared on The Today Show (Ch9), Mornings with Kerri-Anne (Ch9), The Helpmann Awards (Foxtel), It Takes Two (Ch7), Dancing With The Stars (Ch7) and The Channel Nine Footy Show - Grand Final, and can be seen on the Pete Murray - Lines DVD and on sketch comedy shorts for The Living Room Floor and FF3P for Melbourne International Comedy and Fringe Festivals. Paul recently played recurring Guest Role, Simon on Winners and Losers, Guest Role Jonas Page on Neighbours and Dr. Madden in the world's first crowd funded sitcom, The Weatherman commissioned by Fox USA.

Voice Over credits include to-air projects for Gold 104, S.E.N and 3AW as well as several projects for Melbourne animation house XYZ, including impersonations of Stephen Fry, Richie Benaud and Ray Warren. Paul's voice appeared on several commercials for Jefferson Ford, including singing the iconic Jefferson Ford Jingle, and has also been the voice of several Sustainable Living Festival commercials and was used as a voice for The Melbourne International Film Festival.

As a Director, Paul has a wealth of direction and design credits to his name which include professional, international, independent, community, education, musical theatre, straight theatre, new works development, world premieres, workshops, comedy festivals and short films. Credits include: concept and artistic direction for Songs for a New World (Theatrespot UK) in London's West End before touring to Edinburgh Festival, 2007. Direction and Concept Design for Honk! The Musical, Clue! The Musical, A Slice of Saturday Night, Big the Musical, The Pirates of Penzance and How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying for which he won Direction, Design and Production Awards. Paul has also directed productions of Singing in the Rain, Fame, Barnum, Anything Goes, Hot Mikado, Oklahoma and Calamity Jane. In 2011, Paul directed a critically acclaimed independent production of West Side Story which went on to win several awards and received standing ovations by sold-out houses. Paul turned his attention to staging an incredibly technical production of The Wizard of Oz before attacking another two critically acclaimed productions of RENT and Chicago which both also won several awards. He has co-directed the professional production of Is There Life After High School at Chapel off Chapel, with Peter Fitzpatrick, and was then employed to direct workshop productions of Pink! and new musical Partners, by Magnormos, for Oz-Made Musical Showcase at the Athenaeum Theatre and Comedy Theatre Melbourne, working with actors such as Jane Badler, Don Bridges, David Rogers-Smith and Sally Bourne. In 2013 Paul began his own company, What's On? Production Company, to produce a brand-new work he was directing and co-creating, and in May of 2013 the world premiere production of Swan Dive written by Julia Sutherland and directed by Paul Watson was produced. After Swan Dive Paul directed productions of Fiddler on the Roof, The Wedding Singer and was the Artistic Director for StageArtXposed a New Works Festival held at Chapel off Chapel which presented 9 new works over 2 weeks. Some of these varied works were written by Australia's finest writers, Anthony Costanzo, Nick Christo, Peter Fitzpatrick etc. and Paul worked alongside wonderful directors such as Stuart Maunder and Neil Gooding to bring these new works to the stage. Paul then directed a critically acclaimed sold out professional season of RENT for Next Step Productions at Chapel off Chapel and was subsequently hired directly after by another Indy company to bring RENT to the Geelong stage. Paul recently completed a production of Little Shop of Horrors for Westbourne Grammar before turning his attention to The Road to Woodstock and Black Diva Power which both played Chapel off Chapel simultaneously. Black Diva Power was commissioned by Edinburgh Festival producers and enjoyed huge success in Edinburgh in 2015 receiving 4 stars. Paul then returned home to direct the critically acclaimed production of Tick Tick Boom! at Chapel off Chapel, that went on to score Green Room Award Nominations including a Best Direction nomination for Paul, which he was up against some of the most elite and prolific directors, and the production was then asked to join the Hayes 2017 programmed season. Heading into 2018 and 2019, Paul was busy directing Evita and Matilda for Westbourne Grammar and his critically acclaimed production of Last Five Years in Geelong. His production of Wicked in Bendigo broke all records, box office and awards, including a Best Direction for Paul. During Covid, Paul directed We Will Rock You for Bendigo Theatre Company which again earned the company 13 award nominations.

In a Theatre Director or Theatre Creative role Paul has been employed as a consultant, teacher or mentor by Melbourne University, Trinity College, Whitefriars College, Centrestage, ShowFit, Westbourne Grammar, Melbourne Dance Exchange, Swinburne University, Luther College and What's on Production Company.

Paul's theatrical and musical education has come predominantly in the form of a hands-on approach. Watching, listening and learning and getting practical experience are his favorite elements to this industry and the most rewarding... Paul considers his greatest asset is a desire to learn all aspects of theatre, and his understanding therefor, by accessing his skills as a musician, actor, designer, creator, educator and patron is very strong. His education has come from working alongside some formidable artistic minds and his unique style is important. Developed with the assistance of... John Tiffany (Tony Award Winner for "Once"), Des Macanuff (Tony Award Winner for "Jersey Boys"), Jamie Lloyd (Resident Director, Donmar Warehouse), Rodger Hodgman (MTC), Peter Fitzpatrick (AFI Awarded Winning Writer), Sammy Dallas Bayes (Fiddler on the Roof worldwide), Peter Casey (TML), Martin Lowe (Musical Supervisor, "Once") Michael Rafter (Musical Supervisor, "Jersey Boys"), Ron Melrose ("Jersey Boys"), Danny Austin ("Jersey Boys") and more.

Paul is a resident of Melbourne, Australia, with British (naturalized) Parents.

Paul is represented by Ian White Management in Australia. To get in touch with him, contact Ian White on 039380-8444 or at [www.ianwhitemanagement.com.au](http://www.ianwhitemanagement.com.au) or check out Paul's page at <https://pauldavidwatson.wixsite.com/paulwatson>

**“Paul Watson has directed several highly successful and diverse productions here at Chapel Off Chapel. He is an extraordinarily talented Director, thorough in his attention to detail and completely professional in all dealings. He is a pleasure to have working within the venue. His previous directorial works have been engaging, successful and well received by a wide and diverse range of audiences. Paul takes great delight in ensuring his vision is clear, raises the bar high and manages to get all members of the production team on board striving towards a high-quality production.”**

Gary McMahon – Chapel Off Chapel

**“But it is a Director that Watson brings his most innovative and passionate vision. He takes a tired and overworked score and makes it soar and feel fresh again in his quest for excellence. If only we saw such originality in most of the large main stage musicals. They are sorely in need of a Director like Watson.”**

Coral Drouyn: Australian Television Writer / Stage Whispers

**“40 years work in Film, Television and Theatre... From ‘The Sullivan’s’ to ‘All the Rivers Run’ and ‘Neighbours’, to over 30 Melbourne Theatre Company productions... Paul is in the top level of directors I’ve worked with. A guiding light in the new wave of theatre directors.”**

Don Bridges: Australian Actor / Theatre Director

**“He’s an exceptional man of the theatre. I would work with him again, anytime, anywhere, in a flash.”**

Professor Peter Fitzpatrick: AFI Award Winning Writer

**“I have found Paul to be a very generous director, whose passion and commitment inspires those around him to push themselves to create a show that is highly energized and done with love and truth.”**

Zulieka Khan: Flowerchildren, Avenue Q

**“A very serious dramaturg, with a very clear direction in mind at all times. We should all be so lucky to be surrounded with theatre people of his caliber.”**

Dan Humphries: We Will Rock You, Flowerchildren, Sound of Music

**“With a rare and brilliant combination of talents as a “triple threat” in directing, music and acting, he is able to weave and communicate his ideas to create beautiful pieces of theatre, staying true to the text yet discovering deeper truths and bringing out the best in his peers.”**

Evan Englezos: Musical Associate to Tony Award Winning Composer, Jason Robert Brown

**“Paul possesses and communicates such a strong creative vision, which he delivers with the drive that is essential in pushing a performer to confidently step well outside of their comfort zones and explore new territories. Under his direction, I was provided creative freedom and an emotionally safe working environment in which I was able to explore and play with parts of my own persona, both the light and dark that eventually evolved into Tony.”**

Daniel Mottau: Lead Tenor for the Victorian Concert Orchestra, Jesus Christ Superstar

**“Paul approaches every scene with a different and unique way of thinking. He strives to produce something original and different yet still keeps the true essence of the show and the meaning behind it. A wonderfully talented Director, with enormous patience and focus.”**

Erin Cooke: Federation University Graduate

**“Our Director, Paul Watson... Oh God! He is so talented and so positive. He has really presented all of the elements in such a nice and colorful way.”**

Vishwajeet Pradhan: Bollywood Film Legend



# PAUL WATSON

CURRICULUM VITAE

THEATRE DIRECTOR

03 9380 8444 | [ianwhitemanagement.com.au](http://ianwhitemanagement.com.au)

## TRAINING:

**ACTING:** - Peter Fitzpatrick - Monash | Sammy Bayes US | Des Macanuff US | Jamie Lloyd UK | John Tiffany UK

**SINGING:** - Shaun Critten UK | Kelly Dickerson | Michael Rafter US | Andrew Leach | Marty Lowe UK | Guy Simpson

**DANCING:** - Dance Connection (Tap/Jazz) | MDX | Roman Berry UK | Vanessa Paech

**TECHNICAL:** Matt Howe (Rod Laver Arena) | Jason Bovaird (Moving Light) | Brad Alcock (BAAC Light)

**DESIGN:** Brenton Staples (Cloc-Works) | Jeremy Bailey-Smith (VCA) | Mark Setford (Dec.) | Chris White | Michael Coe

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## DIRECTION EXPERIENCE:

- 2021 WE WILL ROCK YOU – **BENDIGO** – Ulumbarra – BTC | Role – Director – (Guild Nomination – Best Show)
- 2021 MATILDA – **MELBOURNE** – Wyndhams – Westbourne Grammar | Role – Director / Designer
- 2020 EVITA – **MELBOURNE** – Wyndhams – Westbourne Grammar | Role – Director / Designer
- 2019 WICKED – **BENDIGO** – Ulumbarra – BTC | Role – Director (Guild Awarded – Best Direction and Best Show)
- 2019 THE LAST FIVE YEARS – **GEELONG** – Geelong Lyric Theatre – Role - Director
- 2019 WICKED – **MELBOURNE** – Wyndhams – Westbourne Grammar | Role – Director / Designer
- 2018 THE DUMB WAITER with John Wood – **MELBOURNE** - Chapel off Chapel – What's On? | Role - Director
- 2018 CARLY – **MELBOURNE** – Chapel off Chapel – Melbourne Music Theatre | Role - Director
- 2018 WE WILL ROCK YOU – **GEELONG** – GPAC – CenterStage | Role – Director (Guild Nominated – Direction)
- 2018 ANYTHING GOES – **MELBOURNE** – Wyndhams – Westbourne Grammar | Role – Director / Set Designer
- 2017 THE PERFUME GARDEN – **MELBOURNE** – Chapel Off Chapel – ABP | **Role** – Director
- 2016 TICK TICK BOOM! – **MELBOURNE** – Chapel Off Chapel – PBB | **Role** – Director (Green Room Nomination)
- 2015 NINA SIMONE - *BLACK DIVA* – **MELBOURNE & EDINBURGH FRINGE FESTIVAL** | **Role** – Director
- 2015 *THE ROAD TO WOODSTOCK* – **MELBOURNE** | **Role** – Director / Musical Director
- 2014 *RENT* – **GEELONG** – GPAC - CentreStage | **Role** – Director / Designer
- 2014 *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS* – **MELBOURNE** – Wyndhams – Westbourne Grammar | **Role** – Director.
- 2014 *RENT* – **MELBOURNE** – Chapel Off Chapel – Next Step Productions | **Role** – Director / Designer.
- 2013 *THE WEDDING SINGER* – **GEELONG** – GPAC - CentreStage | **Role** – Director (Guild Nominated - Direction)
- 2013 *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF* – **MELBOURNE** – Karalyka - MDMS | **Role** – Director (Guild Nominated – Direction)
- 2013 *STAGEART XPOSED* – **MELBOURNE** – Chapel Off Chapel - New-Works Festival | **Role** – Artistic Director
- 2013 *SWAN DIVE* – **MELBOURNE** – World Premiere – Theatre Works – What's On? Prod Co. | **Role** – Director.
- 2012 *PARTNERS* – **MELBOURNE** – Comedy Theatre – Oz Made Musical Showcase | **Role** – Director.

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2011 *CHICAGO* – MELBOURNE – Williamstown Mech. – WMTTC | **Role** – Director (Guild Nominated – Direction)

2011 *WEST SIDE STORY* – MELBOURNE – Whitehorse – Babirra | **Role** – Director (Guild Nominated – Direction)

2010 *CARNIVAL DISTORIUM* – MELBOURNE – Swinburne University | **Role** – Director.

2010 *RENT* – MELBOURNE – Besen Centre – WMT | **Role** – Director (Lyrebird Award – Best Production)

2009 *OKLAHOMA* – MELBOURNE – Karalyka Centre – MDMS | **Role** – Director.

2008 *PINK!* – MELBOURNE – Athenaeum Theatre – Oz-Made Musical Showcase / Magnormos | **Role** – Director.

2008 *IS THERE LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?* – MELBOURNE – Chapel Off Chapel - Stella | **Role** – Director.

2008 *CALAMITY JANE* – MELBOURNE – Whitehorse - Babirra | **Role** – Director (Guild Nomination – Direction)

2007 *THE WIZARD OF OZ* – MELBOURNE – Darebin - Catchment | **Role** – Director (Guild Nomination – Direction).

2007 *SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD* – LONDON WEST END - Leicester Sq. - Theatrespot UK | **Role** – Director

2007 *SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD* – EDINBURGH FESTIVAL - Roxy - Theatrespot UK – | **Role** – Director

2007 *HOT MIKADO* – MELBOURNE – Karalyka Centre - MDMS | **Role** – Director (Guild Nomination – Direction)

2006 *HONK!* – MELBOURNE – Fab Factory - Fab Nobs Theatre Inc. | **Role** – Director / Set and Concept Design.

2006 *SINGIN' IN THE RAIN* – MORNINGTON – Panorama Theatre Company | **Role** – Director / Set Design.

2005 *FAME THE MUSICAL* – MELBOURNE – Dandenong Theatre Company | **Role** – Director.

2005 *ANYTHING GOES* – MELBOURNE – Karalyka Centre - MDMS | **Role** – Director.

2005 *BARNUM* – MELBOURNE – Dandenong Theatre Company | **Role** – Director / Set and Concept Design.

2005 *CLUE THE MUSICAL* – MELBOURNE – Fab Nobs Theatre Inc | **Role** – Director / Set and Concept Design.

2004 *THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE* – MELBOURNE – Babirra Music Theatre | **Role** – Director / Set Design.

2003 *FAME THE MUSICAL* – MELBOURNE - C.U.B Malthouse - Trinity College | **Role** – Director / Set Design.

2003 *F.F.3.P* – MELBOURNE INT. COMEDY FESTIVAL - Athenaeum Theatre – LRF | **Role** – Director.

2003 *A SLICE OF SATURDAY NIGHT* – MELBOURNE – Fab Factory - Fab Nobs Theatre Inc | **Role** – Director.

2002 *BIG THE MUSICAL* - MELBOURNE – The Fabulous Nobodies | **Role** – Director / Set and Concept Design.

2002 *HOW TO SUCCEED...* – MELBOURNE - Whitehorse - Fab Nobs | **Role** – Director (Lyrebird – Best Direction)

2001 *THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE* – MELBOURNE – The Fabulous Nobodies | **Role** – Co-Director

2001 *THE LIVING ROOM FLOOR* – MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL - Purple Turtle - LRF | **Role** – Director.

2001 *THE IMAGINATION FACTORY* – MELBOURNE – Catchment Players of Darebin | **Role** – Director / Writer.

2000 *LIFE IS A CABERNET* – MELBOURNE - Fab Factory - Jokesalot Productions | **Role** – Director.

2000 *PRINCESS & THE PEA* – VIC REGIONAL TOUR – Jokesalot Productions | **Role** – Director / Writer

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#### **VARIOUS OTHER USEFUL SKILLS:**

**ACCENTS:** US (Various) | UK (Various) | Australian | New Zealand | South African | Spanish | European (Various)

**MUSICAL INSTRUMENT:** Guitar | Piano (Basic) | Drums/Percussion | Bass | Banjo/Mandolin (Basic) | Uke

**DESIGN:** Photoshop | Set Design (Awarded) | Theatrical Concepts | Marketing | Events | Advertising | Promotion | Logo

**SPORT:** Cricket | Basketball | Go-Kart / Driving | Pool/Snooker/Billiards | Darts | Golf

**FOOD:** Cooking | Kitchen Design | Food Preparation | HACCP | Food Presentation | Classes | Cookware Knowledge

**DRIVING:** Manual Australian License | Automatic | Trailer | Forklift | Small Truck

**MANAGEMENT:** People Management | Group Management | Business Management | Producer | Motivator | Educator



Paul Watson