

THE FALL

After seeing this production I realise that in Paul Sellar we have discovered a potentially innovative new playwright, with a brilliant gift for perceptive dialogue, reminiscent – at various times – of Ayckbourn, Bond, Orton and Pinter. The problem is that this mixture of styles sits rather uncomfortably on the situation of two homeless vagrants who introduce and round off Mr Sellar's play.

The story concerns two tramps who encounter a young man about to throw himself into the river and, after showing us the dismal hovel where they now exist, introduce us to other characters who wander into the story – the yuppie-type business man, his disillusioned wife, a maltreated young girl and her psychotic lover. There is no deep structure to the

VICTORIA PARRIS

AT THE CHELSEA ARTS CENTRE

narrative, but the wit and pith of Mr Sellar's dialogue is impressive and overrides the lack of coherence in the story.

A skilled director might have helped by strengthening the plotline, but Mr Sellar is well served by his cast, particularly by Andrew Maclean as the psychopath and by Jonathan Elsom's Hector, the tramp, the only likeable character in the play. The set is suitably dark and foreboding and the play is well lit by the director, Michael C Froiend. Hurtwood Theatre Productions – unknown to me – are to be congratulated on recognising the inherent talent of Paul Sellar, but Mr Sellar now needs a commission from somewhere like Hampstead, the Bush or the Royal Court where an experienced Literary Manager could work with him and strengthen his sense of storytelling so it matches his ear for dialogue. □

BY PAUL SELLAR

DIRECTOR	MICHAEL C FROIEND
DESIGNER	CLAIRE LYTH
COSTUME DESIGNER	VEE LAYTON
FREDDIE	DAVID SPINX

HECTOR
HIPPO
FLEA
VERITY
CLED
EDMUND

JONATHAN ELSOM
JOHN VERNON
EMMA RYDAL
NADINE SHENTON
ANDREW MACLEAN
NICK FLETCHER