

THE STAGE

by [Maira Petty](#) - *Jan 30, 2014*

An ingenious riff on recession-fuelled crime unfolds in **The Moonflask**, as a motley crew on a back-to-work course pool their diverse skills to carry off an audacious theft. The drama's GF Newman-style gangster action is allied with a good-natured caper in the mould of *The Lavender Hill Mob*.

There is no mistaking the signature of writer Paul Sellar – the master of deception layered upon deception – as the audience become as deliciously duped as the characters. The smoke-and-mirrors snatch of an antique vase mid-auction gives way to the thrilling ride of the getaway and yet more astonishing twists, with a slick cast including Lee Ross, Ken Bones, Michael Bertenshaw, Tony Jayawardena and Laura Molyneux.