

# The Fastest Clock in the Universe

Philip Ridley



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**Philip Ridley** was born in the East End of London, where he still lives and works. He studied painting at St Martin's School of Art. Besides his stage plays, he has directed three films from his own screenplays: *The Reflecting Skin* (winner of eleven international awards), *The Passion of Darkly Noon* (winner of the Best Director Prize at the Porto Film Festival) and *Heartless*, starring Jim Sturgess and Timothy Spall. He has also written five plays for young people: *Karamazoo*, *Fairytaleheart*, *Sparkleshark*, *Moonfleece* and *Brokenville*. His many novels for children include *Scribbleboy* (shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal), *Kasper in the Glitter* (nominated for the Whitbread Prize), *Mighty Fizz Chilla* (shortlisted for the *Blue Peter* Book of the Year Award), *ZinderZunder*, *Vinegar Street*, *Zip's Apollo* and *Krindlekrax* (winner of both Smarties Prize and WH Smith's Mind-Boggling Award). His stage adaptation of *Krindlekrax* premiered at the Birmingham Rep Theatre in 2002. He has won both the *Evening Standard's* Most Promising Newcomer to British Film and Most Promising Playwright awards.

*by the same author*

*Stage Plays*

The Pitchfork Disney  
Ghost from a Perfect Place\*  
Vincent River\*  
Mercury Fur\*  
Leaves of Glass\*  
Piranha Heights\*

*The Storyteller Sequence*

Karamazoo  
Fairytaleheart  
Sparkleshark  
Moonfleece  
Brokenville

PHILIP RIDLEY: PLAYS 2  
(Vincent River, Mercury Fur,  
Leaves of Glass, Piranha Heights)

*screenplays*

The Krays\*  
The Reflecting Skin\*  
The Passion of Darkly Noon\*

\* *published by Methuen Drama*

**Philip Ridley**

**The Fastest Clock in the Universe**

**Methuen Drama**

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# **The Fastest Clock in the Universe**

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For Dominic Vianney Murphy –  
who wears the moon on his skin

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*Your ideas are shocking and your hearts are faint.  
Your acts of pity and cruelty are absurd,  
committed casually, as if they were irresistible.  
Finally, you fear blood more and more.  
Blood and time.*

**Paul Valéry**

*There is nothing to be said for you. Guard  
Your secret. Conceal it under your hard  
plumage, necromancer.*

**Marianne Moore**

*I have felt the wind of the wing of madness.*

**Charles Baudelaire**

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*The Fastest Clock in the Universe* premiered at the Hampstead Theatre, London on 14 May 1992, with the following cast:

**Cougar Glass**  
**Captain Tock**  
**Foxtrot Darling**  
**Sherbet Gravel**  
**Cheetah Bee**

Con O'Neill  
Jonathan Coy  
Jude Law  
Emma Amos  
Elizabeth Bradley

*Director* Matthew Lloyd  
*Designer* Moggie Douglas  
*Lighting* Michael Calf  
*Sound* John A. Leonard

This major revival opened at the Hampstead Theatre, London, on 17 September 2009, with the following cast:

**Cougar Glass**  
**Captain Tock**  
**Foxtrot Darling**  
**Sherbet Gravel**  
**Cheetah Bee**

Alec Newman  
Finbar Lynch  
Neet Mohan  
Jaime Winstone  
Eileen Page

*Director* Edward Dick  
*Designer* Mark Thompson  
*Lighting* Rick Fisher  
*Sound* Adrienne Quartly