

Wonderful Wednesdays
Audience Feedback &
Discussion

*Recorded by Charlie Davison (volunteer)
immediately after:-*

ONCE UPON A TIME

Colchester Arts Centre, 7th October 2015

Charlie

*We've just come out about a minute ago -
what's your instant reaction to the show?*

Audience Member
Female 1.

*I think they are incredibly fit, they are all
my age and... ummm.. yeah, it was quite
enlightening. It's err... as I say they are
incredibly fit, and I liked their different
perspectives and different histories... and...
umm... yeah!*

Charlie

*Did you think there was a sort of message in
it - or is it not as simple as that?*

Audience Member
female 1.

*Umm I suppose there was..... there was a mixture
of messages about being old. And I could
relate to a lot of it - especially Morton's
Neuroma! (laughs)*

Charlie

Really? - I had never heard of that...

Audience Member
Female 1.

*It's just a foot thing..so I could relate to a
lot of that aspect... the age... It was quite
thought provoking. It was quite an original
little piece.*

Charlie

Thanks very much!

Charlie

*We've just come out... what's your immediate
reaction?*

Audience Member
Male 1.

*Very thought provoking. Massively impressive!
I thought the ballerina has still got it. Very
graceful.*

Charlie *uh.huh...*

Audience Member
Male 1. *I was nervous about the trapeze artist, to be honest with you! But he was fantastic! And the whole piece was just really a very positive piece about, err, age and the ageing process. And it was entertaining as well!*

Charlie *You are, obviously, a different generation to the performers...*

Audience Member
Male 1. *(Laugh) I'm not! I'm 51! (general laughter)... younger-ish!! I couldn't do that!! (laughter) I wouldn't take my shirt off in public anyway! (laughter)*

Charlie *Well you're 15 or 16 years younger than them anyway! So... Do you think they had a message kind of for you?*

Audience Member
Male 1. *It worked on a lot of levels and what I liked about it was that they had left their careers... and their ambitions and their passions behind.... But they were still doing it. And they could still do it! And the Ballerina said that thing about old people smelling of urine and being in unfashionable clothes. You haven't really got to! We're seeing a very positive message.*

Charlie *Thanks very much. And (turning to female 2) what about you? Has it make an impression on you in any way?*

Audience Member
Female 2 *Oh I think it was very impressive. And very genuine. Very realistic about ageing and about fighting ageing really and making the most of it. I was extremely impressed with the whole performance and, as my friend says, they were so gracious and so genuine.*

Charlie *They had quite an antagonistic relationship. Not with each other! But with the whole process of ageing. Because although I agree with you that it was a sort of positive message but in some ways it was also about a battle... About something that they were going to lose maybe?*

Audience Member Female 2. *That's why I think it was a very realistic approach about ageing. Which you have to admit – but you have to make the most of it.*

Charlie *Thanks very much!*

Audience Member Female 3. *Look. I am quite old. And I've seen that sort of stuff, you know, back in the 70s. In Edinburgh. So it was like, what have we got? We've got three old people. What will we do? I'll just write a story and we can strut our stuff. (pause) I really liked the out of breath sequences. But I think they could've made more of it. You know.. Like Mark E Smith in the Fall? You know, more interesting – like an opera.*

Charlie *Other people I've spoken to have said "oh yeah yeah" and how much they liked it...*

Audience Member Female 3 *Really? How old were they?*

Charlie *They were in their 50's and 60's...*

Audience Member Female 3 *Well I'm even older! And I would say that Laurie Anderson in the 70s did it and did it better! But I don't know if my memory...*

Charlie *One of the things that I didn't like about it was that they had all had these nice careers earlier on in their lives. And kind of by definition, there was the idea that ... "We can still do it, that there is still life in us". But the general idea was of everything being on the downward trajectory...*

Audience Member Female 3 *Well I think that you go up the older you get!*

Charlie *...and they didn't seem to leave any space for people who actually get better at things in their 50s and 60s.*

Audience Member Female 3 *Well yes! I think you get more mature and improve like wine... Or whisky!*

Charlie *They should've had that line in it!*

Audience Member Female 3 *The other thing I was going to say was... err... what was I going to say... Oh, yes!...How do you get from being a ballet dancer to being a trapeze artist? It was like "I've learnt this at a course and I want to show off. It's quite sexy." And they used the word sexy. And they thought it was sexy....*
