

Wonderful Wednesdays
Audience Feedback &
Discussion

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

**TIM JEEVES: THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS
Colchester Arts Centre, 21st October 2015**

Charlie

Right. We've all just come out. What's your instant reaction?

Audience Member
Female 1.

I, err, usually go to these things without any expectation and I was thoroughly impressed actually. Yeah. I really really enjoyed it. Obviously, it's a "pay what you can" night, Every little helps! So... I've put in a pound tonight. But I might put in a bit more now. Because it was really really good! Yes really happy with it.

Charlie

(Turning to her friend) what did you think?

Audience Member
Female 2

I think he was so adorable! I was confused at first. I didn't know what he was on about. But at the end, you know, it was like a real nice thank you to the donors. Like thank you for my life.

Charlie

Did you know much about what he was talking about, before? You know, about the world of transplants and bone marrow ?

Audience Member
Female 2

I think I could see what he was getting at. But I didn't know it would be a full and open thank you to the donor. Yeah... Nice twist,... Nice twist!

Charlie

Do you think that he kind of had a message for us in any way?

Audience Member
Female 2

Just be grateful. Thankful for what you've got. Even to people you don't know. Yeah... You know because he says thank you to people at the Tesco's, or like the supermarket that the donor goes to.

Charlie *Yeah! That was interesting wasn't it?*

Audience Member
Female 1. *It all adds up. Everything links. At the beginning, he was like saying to every single person that is here. "You are essential". Yeah, at first you're kind of a bit confused when he says that. But by the end you are thinking "yeah! I absolutely understand what he's saying".*

Charlie *Yeah, it's something about that donor being anonymous. It kind of seems to me that that makes him want to thank everyone. Because it wouldn't have been possible without...*

Audience Member
Female 1 *Yeah, like a kind of chain reaction!*

Charlie *Did you notice what he was doing with the balloon at the end? Because when we all had things to do, it was my job to blow those three balloons up. So he was breathing in the air that I put in there.*

Audience Member
Female 1. *(Surprised) oh... Really... Oh,... Okay! Yeah...*

Charlie *(Laughs) So it was quite a strange feeling! So what did you have to do in that bit where we had to open our envelope?*

Audience Member
Female 1. *I had to... Do you remember there was a bunch of flowers? Well I had to take the bunch of flowers and put them in different places around the room and think about people that I had lost.*

Charlie *Oh right!*

Audience Member
Female 1. *Yeah which was quite powerful, actually. It kind of really make me think.*

Audience Member
Female 2

Quite hard to do!

Audience Member
Female 1.

Yeah, but I did it it was really quite powerful.

Charlie

Wow, that was quite a thing to ask you to do.

Audience Member
Female 1.

Yeah – and in front of strangers, kind of, too.

Charlie

But it doesn't seem to have affected you too badly!

Audience Member
Female 1.

No! It was quite a nice thing to do. With everyone. Even though I didn't know them. It was nice.

Audience Member
Female 2

I'll tell you what I had to do. I opened the envelope and it said "see this Tom Cruise mask – put it on!" And then there was a little monologue to read. It like it was like he was inside a hospital room. And he had been watching Mission Impossible. And it got to the bit where Tom Cruise rips his face off. And it sort of ripped something inside him, kind of.

Charlie

Oh, I wondered what the whole Tom Cruise thing was about! It's interesting. Because what he seem to do was to kind of put together a special thing for all of us, individually. So in it there was a personal thing for me and a personal thing for you. So like a personal show for each of the people here...

Audience Member
Female 1

Yeah! So it was all relatable – without us even knowing it. Yeah.

Charlie

Have you ever seen that before?

Audience Member
Female 1

No, no – I haven't.

Charlie *What did you think?*

Audience Member
Female 3. *I enjoyed it. – For the most part.*

Charlie *For the most part?*

Audience Member
Female 2. *I found my mind wandering at times. And I wasn't crazy with all of the moving around. Some parts I really loved and I think will stick with me.*

Charlie *Like what parts?*

Audience Member
Female 3. *When we had to go off, and do our own tasks and we were given the map of where to find it. I thought that that was, like, it was a really nice moment. With everyone doing their own thing around the stage. So I really liked that part. And I really liked his poem. Oh it was like a poem speech about being horizontal and being sick. Those were the two bits that really stick out for me. I think that in a years time, it will be those bits that I really remember.*

Charlie *What did you think of the 'Streetcar Named Desire' theme?*

Audience Member
Female 3. *Umm... I know that play really well. Because I've had to study it three times. And once for a degree essay. I thought that his connection with it was really interesting... Really interesting... But... For me, I didn't really need it! Like I say, it wasn't one of the things that stuck out for me at all. I think it is interesting, on reflection. But at the time I was more like, kind of "hey... I'd like to see a bit more, a bit more theatre!" but if I was reading about the show I think it would sound really interesting about his thing about identification with Blanche. But when you're watching the show, I think that the thing that is by far the most interesting is his journey.*

Charlie

Do you think that he wants you to kind of think differently after the show. Do you think that's what he'd like? Like that he had a message in mind?

Audience Member
Female 3.

No... when I've been to other shows before. And I've actually felt uncomfortable, you know having to be forced to do something or think something. Whereas that show, it wasn't like that at all. No- I don't think he did. No. Because he didn't really know what to think himself. Like with the donor. He really didn't know whether he should contact them or not. And whether or not he was going to go and find the donor or not. And then he had all the different people he needed to thank. And you know,is it really such a good thing to be that grateful for life? And he didn't really know what to think. He was bringing it up ...for debate .

Charlie

So he didn't have a strong opinion himself?

Audience Member
Female 3.

No.