

Wonderful Wednesdays
Audience Feedback &
Discussion

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

PIP UTTON: CASANOVA IN LOVE

Colchester Arts Centre, 13th May 2015

Charlie *Ok, I've seen it as well, we've just come out
What did you think?*

Audience Member
Female 1. *I really enjoyed it, yeah. It was really good!*

Charlie *Did you know about this guy already?*

Audience Member
Female 1. *Yeah, we've seen him here before, when he did
Churchill. I think we've also seen him before,
doing something in Edinburgh.*

Audience Member
Male 1. *Yeah, I'm sure we've seen him in Edinburgh—
that's the first time we came across him.*

Audience Member
Female 1. *so yes we kind of came to see him because we
had heard of him.*

Charlie *Yeah, because I was going to ask. Whether you
came here because you're a Casanova fan?*

Audience Member
Female 1. *No - 'cos we're Pip Utton fans! (laughs)*

Audience Member
Male 1. *and I actually forgotten what the show was
about. Until I saw the posters! (Laughter)*

Charlie *And what about tonight's show? I mean it
literally only finished about a minute or two
minutes ago. How has it left you feeling?*

Audience Member
Female 1. *A bit sad at the end. You know, like, growing
older and stuff?*

Audience Member
Male 1.

it was, yes. I mean it's very interesting - it's a tale that has been told quite a few times. Not so much, through the medium of dance. So that was an interesting interpretation of it. And how the women in his life, kind of, came and went. And I thought it was a very enjoyable performance.

Audience Member
Female 1.

I kind of lurched from feeling, you know, kind of "what a complete bastard!" ..to, you know, feeling quite sorry for him! (laughter)

Audience Member
Male 1.

And I think, you know, it was that thing of, kind of, different times and of the different circles that people used to move in.. That you look at through a kind of modern lens. And think- that's horrific! But potentially that was something that was more passable... and understanding how, the, "Get thee to a Nunnery" thing that you get from Hamlet that there is always a double meaning in that. And that's kind of explored a bit more and understanding that that was something that different societies did. And went to not just for religious reasons.

Charlie

Some of it was quite shocking, wasn't it?

Audience Member
Male 1.

Yeah!

Charlie

You know, like, in the sense of what he got up to...

Audience Member
Male 1.

(Yeah - there's that bit that is "that's not my niece, that's my daughter!" (laughter)

Charlie

Yeah... for example!! (laughter). But other things that he's talking about are instantly recognisable from modern culture, aren't they? You know - from kind of 'bloke', 'laddish' banter about..

Audience Member
Male 1

Yeah, about the objectification of women and how people are sort of passed round. That still happens. That still happens..

Charlie *Yeah and how he was kind of sharing it with us. Like - "This is what works for me, mate!"*

Audience Member Female 1. *But then he kind of met his match and got his heart broken, so, you know... which was, kind of, his just desserts really, wasn't it? (laughter)*

Charlie *We've just come out - what did you think?*

Audience Member Female 2. *It was awesome. Except!... It was absolutely amazing, like the dancing. I've never really been into ballet and all that kind of stuff but that was, you know, just so cool!*

Charlie *It was beautiful wasn't it?*

Audience Member Female 2. *Yeah - but it was the incest I couldn't swallow - at the end. But then, it's a play, and, you know...*

Charlie *It was a very very shocking story to a modern audience, wasn't it?*

Audience Member Female 2 *Yeah... Yeah...(Pause)... it...(Pause)..*

Charlie *Has it upset you?*

Audience Member Female 2 *Yeah - a bit, yeah. It was the only bit that did though. I mean, I thought, like he is the writer, "I wonder if those are his real thoughts?" And just like - "I hope not!"*

Charlie *Hmmm... yeah... I hope not!!*

Audience Member Female 2 *It was sort of on the cusp. I think he could've knocked that bit out.*

Charlie *Yeah... I was thinking exactly the same as you. But I was wondering, if, for the writer, it's a very important part. Because he's brought us to that point. And then he really did shock us, didn't he? With that one liner. When he says... "I'm not her uncle - I'm er father."*

Audience Member Female 2 *"I'm her Dad!!" - Urghhhhhh....*

Charlie *It's chilling, isn't it? Almost...*

Audience Member Female 2 *It made me feel sick.*

Charlie

What about his excuses— his rationale, after that? Like saying, "ahh - well look, in my day, that was really normal"

Audience Member
Female 2.

Well, that was obviously the way they felt and thought. But today, obviously, he would be hung and quartered - hopefully!! . But also, with incest and all that, and she had a baby and all that. And how many deformities went ahead... But the lady was beautiful as well! The dancing was amazing! So captivating! So, like, I'm just so glad I came tonight. Because it was much better than my opinion of last week!

Charlie

So tell me, apart from that shocking bit that we would just talking about, there were lots of other things about how Casanova was carrying on. About how...

Audience Member
Female 2.

Sexist!!

Charlie

But they are from now! You could almost hear some of those things now.

Audience Member
Female 2

And bearing in mind that I'm a gay female. I just thought well, "typical bloke!" - It's enough to turn you gay, innit? (laughter)... But I kind of felt sorry for him as well, because when he actually did fall in love he began to realise what he had done. All his life he had been doing wrong. What that girl had done to him. So...

Charlie

It's quite interesting isn't it? Because one of the things that you see from the 21st-century perspective. The sort of thing that I would say. Is, you know, he's got a "sex addiction".

Audience Member
Female 2

Oh - he's a... umm.. nympho-phon-ia. Err, what's that thing? A nymphomaniac!

Charlie *And basically that's talked about as an ailment. You know, there's basically something wrong with the guy!*

Audience Member
Female 2 *Oh yeah! He needs counselling – yeah. Yeah, there is actually that going on, isn't there?!*

Charlie *He is literally only interested in the one thing.*

Audience Member
Female 2 *Except for ... that one person. That one person that he actually fell in love with. That's why I felt sorry for him. I thought, well, she only turned the tables on him, innit?*

Charlie *So it's a thought-provoking show really...?*

Audience Member
Female 2 *Yeah, yeah. I liked it.*

