

Wonderful Wednesdays
Audience Feedback &
Discussion

Recorded by Charlie Davison (volunteer)
immediately after:-

'THE CHOP – HOW TO DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY' - Itai Erdal

Colchester Arts Centre, 20th May 2015

Charlie

It's just finished - what did you think?

Audience Member
Male 1.

I thought it was great - yeah, I really loved it. I think it was totally unexpected to be honest. Umm.. I'm not used to seeing these sorts of things so I didn't know what to expect. Didn't really know much about it, but err... I thought it was moving, well done, well constructed - yeah! I was blown away by it, really.

Charlie

With those issues he was talking about - are they things you have come across in your own life at all?

Audience Member
Male 1.

I haven't physically been involved with it - but it's definitely something that I bang on about a lot. About why can't we... you know, his opinion about why can't we make that decision ourselves? You know - why can't we be trusted to do that? It's our lives - why are we so frantic to ..(pause).. to.. to.. not grasp that nettle? And what are we going to do with that? As we eternally try and make people live longer and longer. So yes - I do ponder on that and it struck a chord with the thoughts I have.

Charlie

Did you find yourself agreeing with him? That when your time comes you'd like there to be someone like that?

Audience Member
Male 1.

Yes, yes! Absolutely... that fits with exactly how I feel. Whether that's the way you would feel at that particular moment.. - but then he addressed that in his particular.. he broached that in an oblique way. For me, he approached it through his mother - so I sort of got that completely really.

Charlie

How did you like it as a piece of theatre - well, as a piece of entertainment, if you like?

Audience Member
Male 1.

I liked that as well. He's aware that it's a show. It's a show! It feels slightly guilty saying it's a show. It's a show and he's doing it every night - or he's doing it several times. It's a performance that he's doing. And obviously.. like when the cue lights didn't come on - it reminds you it's a show. And that did remind you it was a show. Because it's obviously a bit of very personal message giving. So, yeah...

Charlie

Finally... He is a hell of a funny guy, isn't he?

Audience Member
Male 1.

He made me laugh. And I'm not easy to make laugh - it has to be.. It was spontaneous the way he made us laugh, yes!

Charlie

And some of his delivery... it's like some of the classic Jewish comics, you know?

Audience Member
Male 1.

Yes, yes. Very dry - my kind of humour really. Not in your face stuff, but he made me laugh, yes. Very good.

Charlie

That's lovely, thank you.

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Charlie *So... We've just come out. What did you think?*

Audience Member Male 2. *I thought it was very different. I love live art. I've seen quite a few – this is unique. In the sense of... all the other live art I've seen has involved nudity, blood or fish. And this one didn't incorporate any of those three elements! Yeah, it's an experience.*

Charlie *And what about the issues that it raises? I was just talking to a guy who was leaving, and he is much, much older than you. I mean like by miles. And he was really engaged with the main issue. It was obviously something that he had thought about a lot . What about you? I mean you are seriously young guy. Are these things that you think about?*

Audience Member Male 2. *These are things that I have had kind of passing thoughts about. Like when you find out about people who have got like terminal diseases. You kind of think, oh well, that might happen to me kind of thing. But that's far enough away to not have to worry about it yet. But it's still, err (pause) ..umm (pause) interesting to find out about how different people cope. About different experiences and how they react confronting death.*

Charlie *(turning to Male 3 who has been listening) What about as a piece of theatre – as a piece of entertainment? How did it grab you tonight?*

Audience Member Male 3. *Umm.. I thought it worked very well. It was basically a story, wasn't it? Almost like someone telling you a story in a pub. It wasn't one continuous narrative. But it kept your attention... (Pause)... And the theatre lighting bits seem to fit well into the whole story as it went along. Umm.. And I think it's one of those things that you will think a little bit more about, I think. Like the symbolism of losing most of the film at the end. You know, to tell you that at the end of the story, and that what you're watching is actually only the trailer.*

Charlie *Yeah, it's fascinating isn't it? Because it's almost like the loss of the person all over again, sort of thing.*

Audience Member Male 3. *Also there is something that I'd like to ask him in a minute. You know..... why would you do that show now?*

Charlie *One final thing that I'd like to ask you. I mean obviously it's a political thing. It's a hot political issue right now. Before you came tonight, did you stand on one side of that debate? You know the right to die debate? Or the other side? Or is it something that you've not come down firmly on one side or the other?*

Audience Member Male 3. *Umm... I guess.. if you pushed me to say, and you are, to say one thing or the other. I have to be on the side of saying that if an individual chooses to do that and if the right safeguards are in place, then that's appropriate. But again, it's one of those sort of things that you don't necessarily engage with unless it impacts on you.*

Charlie *Have any of those issues ever arisen in those people that you know very closely?*

Audience Member Male 3. *Luckily not for me, no.*