

THIS IS HOW WE DIE

CHRISTOPHER BRETT BAILEY

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

Audience Member Feale 1. *I thought it was so different from anything that I have ever seen before but... umm umm I feel like there were a lot of influences that were all merging together that have worked in a way which is so different from anything else. Umm, there are things that I sort of recognise from a broad spectrum of things , but it all kind of comes together.*

Charlie *When you get in tonight and if someone says to you 'Oh - how did you enjoy the show?' What's your answer going to be?*

Audience Member Female 1. *Definitely - yeah! I mean, I can't hear anything now! (laughter) - but yeah, (laughs) I did enjoy it - yeah!*

Charlie *But what about if they said "What was it? Like.. What was it? Was it a play? Or was it a, was it err, a comedian? Or whatever" - err, I mean, what are you going to tell them?*

Audience Member Female 1. *Umm - It was a torrent of spoken words... that, err, means to be listened to - cos it's a story, it's storytelling and umm, err - yeah, you'll never be bored! (laughs)*

Charlie *We've just come out... err, I was in there as well...*

Audience Member Female 2. *Never seen anything like it in my life - that was (pause) phenomenal (laughter)*

Audience Member Male 1. *It was certainly an assault on the senses! (laughter) Hmm - and it took you to a sort of place that, err, well, I've, umm, never been before, yeah! (laughter)*

Audience Member Female 2. *That was fantastic! I mean, how, how does he keep talking like that?.*

Charlie *Let's say when you get in tonight and a friend of yours says '- how did you enjoy the show?'*

Audience Member Female 2. *Oh... I would have to explain it .. but....*

Audience Member Male 1. *I, umm, wouldn't know the first thing as to how to describe it, really. But, you know, you have just got to experience it to err, so it's not the sort of thing that you can really... err..convey to anybody else.*

Audience Member Female 2. *It was genius quite honestly - because I mean how that man kept talking and talking... You know, I don't know if they've got it written down - he must be exhausted! I mean - how do they do that?*

Charlie *I've no idea! ...*

Audience Member Female 2. *Did he write that?*

Charlie *Likewise.. I don't know.. I'm in the same position as you...*

Audience Member Female 2. *Oh are you not connected with them then?*

Charlie *No - not at all! If it was you asking me... I think I'd say: "I'm reeling, slightly!"*

Audience Member Female 2. *Yeah! Exhausted! Yeah!*

Audience Member
Male 1. *I can't imagine... how ...he must be doing this quite frequently - probably every few nights he's probably doing the same thing. And I mean it must be physically totally draining.*

Charlie *Do you think it was about anything? Do you think it had meaning? I mean.. were we meant to take a message from it?*

Audience Member
Female 2. *I think so, yeah. I think so. I think there was .. that he's obviously a thinker, isn't he. The thought processes...*

Audience Member
Male 1. *Well yes - there's so many visual err, stories that he was telling right the way through. I suppose, you know, that people visualise what he was talking about. And you... yeah...*

Audience Member
Female 2. *Yeah - and it's just that... you know.. he's obviously a very intelligent person - that's all I can say about it..*

Charlie *Yeah... There was quite a lot of laughter in there.. I think. There was quite a bit of laughter going on about the place.*

Audience Member
Male 1. *(laughs)*

Audience Member
Female 2. *(laughs) Well, I've got a bit of a black sense of humour, so I kind of did laugh a little bit... yeah*

Audience Member
Male 1. *I think you laughed when other people didn't!
(laughs)*

Audience Member
Female 2. *I know.. I'm a bit naughty like that!... but yeah... but no....*

Charlie *One last question.. what was it that brought you here tonight? Had you heard about the show or....*

Audience Member Male 1. *No - not particularly. We have in the past been to the Arts Centre quite a lot. And we've had a bit of a break... but we've started coming again and we really like this kind of format in these evenings - it's nice to see different things. We have been to Edinburgh once...*

Audience Member Female 2. *Last night we was at Swan Lake - at the Royal Opera House! (laughs) So that's a bit of a contrast!*

Audience Member Male 1. *Yeah - quite a contrast!*

Charlie *From one end of the Arts spectrum to the other!*

Charlie *We've just come out - literally a couple of minutes ago. So first off... what's your instant reaction?*

Audience Member Female 3. *I thought it was really cool, yeah... I don't know... I've just come straight from work... so it's always good to see something interesting in Colchester! (then to friend) You looked at the stuff and I just came to see it... so... (laughter) Good!*

Charlie *When you get in tonight and someone says: "Did you enjoy the show?" What's your immediate answer gonna be?*

Audience Member Female 3. *Yes! (laughs) - pause - Yes - definitely! And, umm, I think that sort of, the scheme what you're doing, of sort of, "pay what you can"... I mean I've never been here before... I always mean to come, but I never quite make it. But, umm, it's kind of enabled us to come and I think that definitely we'll be coming again and we'll be seeing things that we might not have instantly picked to see before - but sort of taking a punt on new things. Cos you can p'raps be a little bit cheeky and pay a little bit less than you might have before - so*

Audience Member Female 4 *Cos we're incredibly poor! (both laugh)*

Audience Member Female 3 *We're incredibly poor young people! (laughs) - umm - coming to see nice new up-coming contemporary theatre - so...*

Charlie *So if someone asks you "what was the show about?" - what are you going to tell 'em?*

Audience Member Female 3 *(both laugh loudly) I have ummm - to sum up... I think in just a couple of words... I think that for me it was probably more about the experience than the content, perhaps? Umm - so it was sort of the spoken word and the rhythms of the stuff he was saying that sort of hit me and then obviously the ending with the music and the level of that - and how it gets inside of you..*

Charlie *It was almost physical wasn't it?*

Audience Member Female 3 *Yeah - the chairs almost seemed to be shaking and everything was so frantic and just sort of four musicians making that noise. So that's probably what I'd take away from it.*

Charlie *Yeah, yeah, yeah... There was little bit of laughter in there, going on... I mean there wasn't people rolling about laughing I don't think. But what did you think about the humour in it?*

Audience Member Female 3 *Umm I though it was interesting.. I thought it was good humour. I found it funny - I was laughing! (laughs) And I don't know. I suppose with those kind of things - 'cos it's a small space and it's intimate and it's just one guy talking to you I think that p'raps it took people a little bit to warm into it and to realise that laughing was OK.*

Charlie *You don't sound as if you liked that show much, Charlie?*

Charlie *No, I didn't really. I thought there were some brilliant bits in it.. some of the writing..*

Charlie *Which bits ...?*

Charlie *I think for me the best section by far was the 'date with myself' - you know, the "go fuck yourself" routine. Genius! Funny and really well delivered... I thought the rest of it was way too over the top for my tastes.. sort of too American!*

Charlie *What do you mean.. exactly?*

Charlie *Well I know that he is American.. isn't he? Actually I don't know that! But let's say... I don't know... I found that it had that Hunter S Thompson "gonzo" voice all the way through. Relentless - very little variation. And some of it reminded me of a writer that I'd almost forgotten about that I read in the 70's when I went to the States - Richard Brautigan? There was a book called Trout Fishing in America and one called a Confederate General. And it made me think of them - as well as Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, of course. And then a whole Thelma and Louise vibe and a dash of Even Cowgirls Get the Blues - So it seemed a bit derivative really - I s'pose "homage" would be kinder! But ... "derivative" is what I want to say!*

Charlie *Wow - you really didn't like it, did you?!*

Charlie *Look I don't want to be too negative, 'cos I did laugh quite a few times and the wording, the turn of phrase was often great... And that guy was certainly working bloody hard. Too hard possibly! But no - I thought it was basically one paced and not much fun. Someone said "an assault on the senses" and I agree with that - but then I am an older geezer with dodgy hearing!.. so..*
