

Metro, 15.10.2007



THEATRE REVIEW

Rider Spoke ★★★★★

Each participant in Blast Theory's portable theatre project is given a bike, a helmet and a video console with earpiece and mic, and invited to cycle off at random from the Barbican. Come rain, come bendy buses and the general Luddite tendencies of most theatre-goers, the show is in your handlebars.

The console then prompts you to find a place you like, and record answers to open-ended questions such as 'describe your father'. Your answers are stored remotely around these hiding places, and other cyclists can listen to them instead of recording their own.

Finding a place I like around the Barbican was my first dilemma. But the fact that I discovered so very many is just one reason why Rider Spoke is such a gloriously enlivening piece of theatre. It's also flawlessly designed, with artist Ju Row Farr sounding miraculously unirritating in your ear, and the graphic design of Matt



Adams sweetening the technology in ways Apple can only dream of.

The show's greatest gift is that it manages to embrace the remorseless urban rush of the City while insisting on the individual's ability to pierce it with quiet reflection.

The technology could feel sharper and it would be nice to have more contact with the other cyclists. But throw your reserve, if not your road sense, to the wind, and this is an enriching, eye-opening experience.

Lucy Powell
Thu to Sun, Barbican, Silk Street EC2, various times, £10, £5 if you bring your own bike (limited availability).

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www.barbican.org.uk
Tube: Barbican/Moorgate