



WEST END FINAL

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Incorporating THE EVENING NEWS

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## Secret journey through cyberspace

I FELT naked and confused — and all they had done at that stage was take away my purse and my mobile phone.

I didn't know whether to feel like a technically dazzling Alice-in-Wonderland or a squirming Kafkaesque pawn as a tiny handheld computer was thrust into my hand, and I was told to march out into the Mall and follow whichever instructions sprang up on to the screen.

Uncle Roy All Around You could be described as a three-dimensional computer game, but for the company behind it — Blast Theory — it creates a form

### THEATRE

Uncle Roy All Around

ICA

Rachel Halliburton

of theatre where the audience collaborates to reach the dramatic conclusion. Clues are fed into the handheld computer — which has global positioning technology — so participants are taken on a technological walkabout until they reach a secret West End destination. Multi-award-winning Blast

Theory became notorious in 1998 with Kidnap, where they abducted compliant members of the public, broadcasting their imprisonment on the internet. Uncle Roy All Around You allows virtual players on the internet to send help to players on the streets, but as I set off across the Mall into St James's Park, I was uncertain whether to be more irritated by the vagueness of the instructions, or because they made me feel that my visual-spatial abilities temporarily compared with those of a mole during a total eclipse of the sun.

After a computer breakdown, it was tempting to storm off to Fortnum & Mason for tea, but the lack of purse, and Blast Theory's knight in shining armour soon had me redirected to a Cold-War espionage-style conclusion that would have tickled Michael Caine's imagination. Not so much a cultural revelation as an hour of occasional entertainment, more organisation is needed to transform this into a meaningful multi-media experience.

● Until 7 June, between 3pm and 9pm. Box office: 020 7930 3647.