

EVENT: UNCLE ROY ALL AROUND YOU

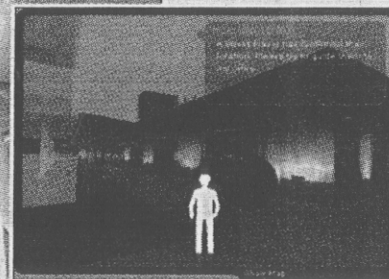
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METROLIFE



The art of avoidance: Members of the public can join in Blast Theory's search for the elusive Uncle Roy, with questionable help from palm computers (above)

Pleasure hunt across the city

ART EVENT

Blast Theory: Uncle Roy All Around You

Bringing together mobile phones, webcams, state-of-the-art hand-held computers and a man known only as Uncle Roy in one unique visual-arts enterprise, Blast Theory's Uncle Roy All.Around You is an interactive show like no other.

An opportunity for members of the public to partake in a real-life espionage mission, it's a live event that invites visitors to

traverse the city (or at least, between the two game bases of Cornerhouse and Urbis) and attempt to locate the mysterious Uncle Roy using only the provided palm computers and the advice of on-line participants. Oh, and you've only got 60 minutes in which to do so and there's a fair chance your online team mates are lying.

The theatre/live art company responsible for all this are London's Blast Theory – whose previous projects include the Bafta-nominated Can You See Me Now? and the controversial Kidnap, where they famously

abducted two willing volunteers and webcast the 48-hour ordeal. Uncle Roy All Around You has also provoked some fierce debate in regard to its status as performance art or merely an elaborate prank. But, regardless of its artistic credentials, Blast Theory's latest endeavour undoubtedly looks like being as baffling as it is innovative. Plug in.

Richard Smirke

Today until May 8, Cornerhouse, Oxford Street, Central Manchester, Tue to Sat 11am to 6pm, Sun 2pm to 6pm, £3, £2 conc. Tel: 200 1500. www.cornerhouse.org