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"Uncle Roy All Around you" - Blast Theory, and other incursions of UK theater into the realm of SMS, PDAs and GPSs...

Blast Theory has just done another great "Uncle Roy all around you" performance, this time in Manchester, UK. The program read "28 April - 2 May and 5 - 8 May (last entry for Street Players at 8pm)"...

Why that last note? Because Uncle Roy All Around you has some of Howard Rheingold's "smart mobs" but with a "twist", that being the game-like script (storyline) that makes the piece something between a MMORPG (Massive Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game), a novel and your worst nightmare.

UK is definitely the place bubbling with these creative theater groups that some call alternative theater, and that involve wireless, PDAs and people both on the street and online... and on the street/online.

Tim Etchell (read below) is another name to keep in mind. Titles like "Forced Entertainment" (the company he directs) or Surrender Control (one of the theatrical pieces) are self-explanatory.

Etchells:

"It's a very liberating moment when you admit that you aren't even tied to particular forms or strategies: that the next thing you do might be a publication, or a twenty-four hour performance or CD ROM or, indeed, a completely text-based performance, that you're tied to ideas, nothing more." (in interview to Caridad Svich for alternativetheater.com)

"Uncle Roy all around you"- <http://www.uncleroyalaroundyou.co.uk/>

Blast Theory- <http://www.blasttheory.co.uk/>

Forced Entertainment- <http://www.forced.co.uk/>

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