



LONDON'S QUALITY NEWSPAPER

WEST END FINAL

Evening Standard

FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER 2007 EVENING STANDARD

WHAT ELSE IS NEW...

THEATRE

Rider Spoke

Barbican

★★☆☆☆

FIONA MOUNTFORD

IF, ON passing through the city around 7pm yesterday, any reader saw a woman in a green cardigan cycling precariously and repeatedly the wrong way up one way streets, I apologise.

Bike-borne for the first time since university, I was stopping London's traffic but not in a good way. You see, theatre's latest interactive wheeze is to send audience members off on two wheels with only an earpiece and on inquisitive handlebar games console for company.

Despite the fact that right turns and, largely, any sort of junction were out for me, it soon became clear that the cycling was going to be the fun part. The aim of all this whizzing about — and you're free to go wherever you choose during the hour duration — is to find places to pause and

record answers to a series of personal questions. The point of this aim, however, remains unclear.

I suspect that Blast Theory, Bafta-nominated originators of the project, hope this will lead to a thrilling re-evaluation of both self and city. I, however, begrudged telling the console's mooney female voice anything about my father or the reasons why the police broke up my 18th birthday party.

It didn't help that the touch-screen function took an age to work. I loitered for so long in back alleys that attack or arrest became very real possibilities. Perhaps others passed this time in profound reflections on urban alienation; I preferred profound reflections on dinner. Other participants' recorded answers are also accessible but there's a limit to how much unstructured introspection one can take. "Return to the Barbican" was a welcome command.

■ **Until 21 October.**
(0845 120 7550,
www.barbican.org.uk).