

RIDER SPOKE

My last attempt to ride a bike happened a couple of years ago and resulted in me having half a leg of a scary shade of aubergine. Nevertheless, when the art group *Blast Theory* were said to be visiting Adelaide with a cycling art project, I decided to try that suicidal means of transport again.

URBAN GAMERS *Blast Theory* are far-famed for their innovative city art projects, such as *Day Of The Figurines* (Honorary Mention, Prix Ars Electronica in 2007), *Uncle Roy All Around You* (two BAFTA Awards nominations in 2004), *Can You See Me Now?* (Golden Nica, Prix Ars Electronica in 2003), and many more, as the collective has been performing since 1991. Back in 2004, *Blast Theory* visited Adelaide as Thinkers In Residence, and effected a new media performance *I Like Frank*. That would make the aforementioned cycling art project their second in our city.

The art project is called *Rider Spoke*, and has been performed in London, Athens, Brighton, Budapest and Sydney. As described by *Blast Theory*, *Rider Spoke* is a game of hide and seek. But if you thought you had to gather about a dozen of your mates and start cycling around the city frantically trying to find each other, you would be wrong. *Rider Spoke* is a truly innovative and topical version of hide and seek – you play alone. You are given a bike and a computer device.. The device, complete with the hypnotising voice of Ju Row Farr and some neo-romantic imagery by Matt Adams, leads you through a trip (the guidance much needed for people with bad riding skills), and asks you to answer questions of a deeply personal nature while cycling around the city. The line is not difficult to toe, and sooner or later you catch yourself standing in the middle of the street recording phrases like “My biggest secret is...” or “... is what I fear most”. If you are not in the mood for confessions, you can listen to the answers other people left before. Altogether it adds up to approximately one hour of a theatrical and environmentally friendly game complete with the elements of self-reflection, voyeurism and fitness.

Rider Spoke took place from 20 to 22 of February as a part of Fringe and Adelaide Film Festivals, and if you missed it, that L-plate on your car stands not only for ‘learner’. All of those, who took part in *Rider Spoke*, have left their mark on the map of the city with their virtual secrets hanging by the Torrens Lake or in the yards behind Chinatown.

