

## Chris Goode notes

### Monkey bars

- One of his most famous works is Monkey bars I have chosen to focus on this first.
- The staging – the whole space is used. Blocks were scattered across the stage for actors to use.
- It was simple and affective staging. Also on stage was a microphone. As we've seen in previous shows a mic can be used to adjust a mood or show change of character.
- The show was focused on storytelling.
- From the website - "Chris Goode asked thirty 8–10 year olds to talk about their lives, their thoughts, their world. In Monkey Bars their words are spoken by adults. Not adults playing children, but adults playing adults, in adult situations."
- I found this interesting because the show was based on real stories.
- Talking about children's favourite sweets in the style of job interview, Nightmare about being chased by a blue bee over wine.
- 'Highly entertaining... Hilarious and poignant by turns... Displays a powerful imagination that so many of us have lost as grown-ups'.
- Translated into adult situations, the words of children take on a new gravity.
- I don't know why but when reading the bios, it made me think of the hairdo adverts where they put kid's feelings on adults
- The costume they are wearing reassures this. We are watching adults being adults as they are all wearing suits.
- But I think its main message is how as adults we lose our imagination.
- Good say "I wondered whether we would listen differently to the words if they were delivered by a body with more gravity, more substantiality: an adult,".

## Adaptation

- Chris Goode also is an example of someone exploring with adapting books and film.
- Jubilee which he directed for the royal exchange theatre in Manchester was an adaptation of the film jubilee released in the 1970s. It kept the same themes and idea of the film but explored it in a 2017 setting. Use of punk songs and dancing.
- Mad man was an adaptation of the novel Diary of a madman.

## Video observations

- Tell a story in a theatrical way. Didn't want it to feel like a book put on stage.
- Dropped the diary format – which is why its only called madman – makes a distance between literature and theatricalities – expanded on this taking away from original text by making an ensemble
- Updates! - not completely contemporary however – its set in a new date of the 1920s.

## Men in the cities

- Set In the aftermath of the Lee Rigby murder and also explores suicide. Real focus on struggles in masculinity in this show.
- Guardian goes on to say it is beautifully yet vigorously written.
- It has harsh comparisons to his other solo work we will see. His usual work is soft in tone this is harsh and honest.
- Goode performs the piece alone, standing at a microphone in a small pool of light, backed by a bank of electric fans.
- We have discussed before how much a light can change the atmosphere in a scene. But likewise the use of microphone can be used to denote character change of power or lack of power. A skill of the microphone is something in much of pieces we've seen including monkey bars.
- His opening lines are welcoming. Luring the audience into a false sense of security. But also gives them security knowing how informal it is.

## Adventures

- Storytelling similar to that of Jackanory.
- The house lights go down and Chris Goode ambles through the audience and onto the stage = sense of relaxed performance. Entering with them similar to (Spalding grey).
- Narrative.
  - Relaxed and slow, creates an image = radios, people crying and playing in street. Splashing in puddles – creating images in your head.
  - Different accent for wound man.
  - Relaxed whilst he is performing but at the same time you seem relaxed watching it.
  - Creates image waves hand.
  - Jokes made musical chairs champion.
  - **THE PACING IS INSANE!**

## Men in the cities

- intro = he opens telling a story "this is a story called men in the cities" - sets up his purpose and objective straight away towards the audience that he is going to tell a story.
- But firstly he asks "hey how is everyone Doing" interaction between audience and performer forms a connection straight what ever that connection might be uncertainty or relaxed.

## Adventures of wound man

- storytelling approach shown.
- It's even set as a book with an introduction and chapters 2-7
- Similar to before starts with an informal thanks for being here
- Then explains what he is going to say. He is going to say a love poem.
- He sets the scene of his story what's it about who's in it.
- Introduced wound man "everyone meet wound man"
- Ends intro with "settle back and I'll begin"
- Goes back to say this is a story about wound man

End

Check his podcasts!

### **Solo shows**[\[edit\]](#)

- Men in the Cities (2014). Premiered at [Traverse Theatre](#), Edinburgh.<sup>[6]</sup>
- God/Head (2012). Premiered at [Oval house Theatre](#), London.<sup>[7]</sup>
- The Adventures of Wound Man and Shirley (2009). Premiered at [Contact Theatre](#), Manchester.<sup>[8]</sup>
- Hippo World Guest Book (2007). Premiered at Pleasance Dome, Edinburgh.<sup>[9]</sup>

### **As playwright**[\[edit\]](#)

- Mad Man (2014). Premiered at The Drum, [Theatre Royal Plymouth](#).<sup>[10]</sup>
- Infinite Lives (2014). Premiered at [Tobacco Factory Theatre](#), Bristol.<sup>[11]</sup>
- Monkey Bars (2012). Premiered at [Traverse Theatre](#), Edinburgh.<sup>[12]</sup>
- The Loss of All Things (2011). Part of the [Bush Theatre's \*Sixty-Six Books\*](#).<sup>[13]</sup>
- King Pelican (2009). Premiered at The Drum, [Theatre Royal Plymouth](#).<sup>[14]</sup>
- Speed Death of the Radiant Child (2007) Premiered at The Drum, [Theatre Royal Plymouth](#).<sup>[15]</sup> Revived at the [Warwick Arts Centre](#) (2017) <sup>[16]</sup>

### **As director**[\[edit\]](#)

- Jubilee (2017) adapted from Derek Jarmon. Premiered at [Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre](#).<sup>[17]</sup>
- Landscape and Monologue (2011) by [Harold Pinter](#). Premiered at the [Ustinov Studio, Theatre Royal Bath](#).<sup>[18]</sup>
- Glass House (2009). Premiered in the Clore Studio, [Royal Opera House](#).<sup>[3]</sup>