

Beast Market

Tour and Information Pack



**Chol Theatre
8 Queen Street
Huddersfield
West Yorkshire
HD1 2SP**

Tel: **+44 (0)1484 536008**
Email: **info@choltheatre.co.uk**
Web: **www.choltheatre.co.uk**

Co-Directors: **Susan Burns & Andrew Loretto**
Administrator: **Roohi Sarwar**
Projects Assistant: **Rebecca Legg**
Tour Booking and Marketing: **Suzanne Wynne - +44 (0)7749 502632**

Chol Theatre is a registered charity (1044256) - Limited company registration (3012433)

CONTENTS

About Chol Theatre	Page 3
About <i>Beast Market</i>	Page 4-5
Production Shots	Page 6
Residencies and Workshops	Page 7-10
What the Audience says	Page 11
What the Participants say	Page 12
Photography Exhibition	Page 13
Script Samples	Page 14
Marketing	Page 15
Summary	Page 16

ABOUT CHOL THEATRE

Chol is a pioneering intercultural theatre company based in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. For nearly twenty years Chol has made quality, innovative theatre and arts projects with young people, emerging artists and experienced professionals. The work offers a fresh perspective on contemporary local, national and international issues. Chol is an ever-evolving company with a strong legacy.

The aim of the company is to marry the developmental needs of communities with artistic vision, fun and excellence; connecting through creativity. The name 'Chol' is taken from the Bangladeshi word meaning "Come on, let's get going".

Chol Theatre is a Regularly Funded Organisation of Arts Council England, Yorkshire and a Creative Partner of Kirklees Council.

Recent productions

Space Circus

A touring show for Yorkshire schools, which looks at all aspects of outer-space exploration: both real and imagined. Set in 3 distinctive space 'pods' *Space Circus* takes on technology and the stars; poetry and astrophysics; aliens and alienation; maths, myths and magic and will take young people on an unforgettable mission that asks: what is it really like to be a scientist and are we really alone?

Not For All the Tea in China

A tea party with a difference! In this innovative piece of street theatre, audiences are invited to join an elegant Edwardian tea party in celebration of the 1908 Olympics in London. Along with their tea and cake, participants can expect lively debates surrounding worker's rights, the history of tea, the power of the empire and controversies in Olympic sport. Certainly more than you'd expect to get from your ordinary cuppa!

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ABOUT *BEAST MARKET*

Beast Market

Everybody's got something to sell

It's different every day, different characters every day. A few strange ones... had a bloke in a red mini-skirt, a red off-the-shoulder top, big bushy beard, big hairy legs, telling me how 'don't you think Blacks and Asians are weird?' I went 'excuse me?!'

Hilarious anecdotes, fascinating stories and profound points of view have been collected from the vibrant characters whose lives are embedded in the town centre community of the bustling Beast Market and open market areas of Huddersfield. Wonderful wisdom, gritty truths, juicy stories and new adventures uncover the true voice of Northern England.

The result is a slice of real northern comedy-drama; honest, entertaining, thought-provoking, dramatic and side-splitting all at once.

A quite brilliant expose of the diverse thoughts of an urban community, showing that what happens on our doorstep is a fascinating reflection of life in Britain today.

"...a flavour of the quirkier and sometimes challenging aspects of life... exploring how ordinary people are linked to extraordinary times."

Huddersfield Examiner

This is Chol's intriguing verbatim theatre project, an ambitious 2-year programme of work, including theatre pieces, exhibitions, workshops and residencies. It takes its name and inspiration from the area in the centre of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire – the Beast Market, which used to be a cattle market. It was here that Chol interviewed people and discovered that everyone has a quirky individuality.

Storytelling, image projection, movement and live music accompany this piece of ensemble theatre ideal for mid-scale proscenium arch or large studio spaces.

***Beast Market* received its main stage premiere to popular acclaim from audiences at the Lawrence Batley Theatre, Huddersfield, in March 2008:**

"I thought Beast Market was excellent. The character acting was superb and I thought the arrangement of stories was very cleverly done. The arrangement made it easy to follow the 'narrative' but also made it more interesting and not as dull as a Talking Heads convention."

Audience member

"I enjoyed Beast Market - particularly the movement language that was away from verbatim norms. It's very much a piece that speaks to an audience with stakes in the subject matter."

Audience member

ABOUT *BEAST MARKET* cont...

Themes

The production has evolved into a state of the nation piece with universal characters and themes that are politically and socially relevant to any UK urban area.

The title *Beast Market* not only refers to the area in Huddersfield but reflects the themes of the piece. The word 'market' can be seen as a literal term - the interviews were conducted in a market environment - but this can be interpreted further.

The main characters all have something to trade and the production asks – what value is placed on lives? **Value of life, value of labour, human traffic, the sex trade, cultural identity** and **how we perceive authority and associated roles within society** are all themes explored in *Beast Market*.

Verbatim Theatre Technique

Using verbatim interview material and a diverse cast of professional actors; Chol has created a fresh, funny and frank main stage theatre production that features the stories of ordinary people who could be from any town in the UK.

*"I was just overcome with joy when I sat and watched someone deliver my story, even better than I had done, but yet I could still see myself in her. How lovely to see the cast act real peoples' characters - their voices, their stories, their experiences and their journeys. I think I have learnt a lot from this production and would like to see *Beast Market* on tour, so that other places and people can relate to this wonderful production in their own way."*

- Angie Smith: interviewee featured in *Beast Market*

Beast Market Achievements

The project was nominated and subsequently shortlisted for a **Huddersfield Examiner Community Arts Award** and has inspired local students to make their own verbatim theatre project.

The project photography, featured heavily in the stage production and accompanying exhibitions, inspired a public writing competition, with bestselling author Joanne Harris as final judge. The winning writers performed their piece at a special *Beast Market* event.

Chol has also been invited to perform *Beast Market* at the **World Performing Arts Festival in Lahore, Pakistan**, during November 2009.

PRODUCTION SHOTS



RESIDENCIES AND WORKSHOPS

Chol is interested in participant-created work and the empowerment of authentic voices.

The company is renowned for their ability to inspire and be inspired by real lives, as this theatre project has so far proved. Students have been motivated to create their own verbatim pieces through *Beast Market* and the feedback from the workshops has been gratifying to say the least:

“One of the most interesting aspects of the workshop was seeing how the interviews were transformed into an interesting narrative, how disconnected voices became a cohesive story about individual lives.”

Workshop participant

“The workshop was very helpful in making the concept of verbatim theatre more understandable; it also helped to give a good insight into how to undertake a successful verbatim project.”

Workshop participant

Word has spread throughout the country and beyond regarding the work of Chol. So much so that *Beast Market* was nominated and shortlisted for a **Huddersfield Examiner Community Arts Award** and the full production has been invited to take part in the **World Performing Arts Festival in Pakistan**.

Now Chol is offering specially tailored residencies to venues throughout England to compliment the *Beast Market* production. The company will therefore engage with more communities and bring their skills, creativity and innovative theatre techniques to a wide variety of participants and audiences.

A Chol residency offers participants and organisations an opportunity to integrate personal experience with the wider community or historical concerns. The company’s work will offer a fresh perspective on local issues through work with highly skilled theatre practitioners. Using *Beast Market* as a starting point, we can offer a customised workshop residency based on the numbers and needs of a group or organisation.

How does it work?

Chol artists will work with a local group based at your venue for the duration of the residency. The themes explored in the *Beast Market* project would act as a starting point to use verbatim techniques to explore similar issues within local communities. That material would then be edited and showcased at the end of the residency – either as part of Chol’s *Beast Market* production or as a small-scale workshop showcase.

RESIDENCIES AND WORKSHOPS cont...

Residency options

There are several options to choose from when considering a Chol residency:

1. **Week-long workshop residency with full production incorporating local material**
2. **Week-long workshop residency with extracts from production and a mini-showcase of local material**
3. **Week-long workshop residency with a mini-showcase of local material**
4. **Intensive two-day workshop taster residency illustrating process using extracts from production**
5. **Intensive two-day workshop taster residency exploring process within local context**

These options give you an idea of what Chol can provide, but they can be altered according to your needs.

The workshops would explore a combination from the following list:

- **The verbatim process from interviewing/recording, through editing to the rehearsal and performance**
- **Photographic and/or video research and design to accompany the verbatim process**
- **Structuring verbatim stories into a script for performance**
- **The actor's approach to working with recorded verbatim material**
- **Voice, rhythm and physical approaches to performing verbatim material**

RESIDENCIES AND WORKSHOPS cont...

Facilitating Artists

Depending on your requirements for the residency, the workshops would be led by a combination of experienced artists on the *Beast Market* team from the following list:

Andrew Loretto – Director/Writer

Co-director of Chol Theatre; specialises in making diverse new theatre. Previously director of Theatre in the Mill, Bradford and National Student Drama Festival.

Susan Burns – Producer/Writer

Co-director of Chol Theatre; has produced a number of shows and directed films and education projects for Chol since 1999. She is also a Creative Agent for Creative Partnerships in West Yorkshire.

Giuliano Modarelli – Composer/Musician

Guitarist and composer; specialising in jazz, classical North Indian and World music.

Emma Wee – Designer

Designer and director in theatre, opera and site specific collaborations. Has worked for Vlaamse Opera – Ghent, Royal Opera House, Unicorn Theatre and Contact Theatre.

Shanaz Gulzar – Video Designer

Theatre, film and digital media artist. Has recently worked with Live Theatre, Swansea City Opera, Red Ladder and Sphere Arts Collective.

Amanda Crowther – Photographer

Freelance documentary photographer; works with theatre companies and arts organisations nationally.

Dominic Leclerc – Movement Director

Choreographer and director in theatre, film and television. Has recently worked for the RSC, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Donmar Warehouse and Scottish Opera.

Amanda Huxtable – Actor

Trained as an actor specialising in Theatre in Education and is currently Artistic Director of Yorkshire Women's Theatre Company based in Leeds.

Balvinder Sopal – Actor

Has worked as an actor with many different theatre companies nationally. Is one of the regular cast for *Silver Street*, a BBC Radio Asian Network soap.

Anne Larkin – Actor

Originally from Ireland, has worked with various companies as a performer, director and drama facilitator.

RESIDENCIES AND WORKSHOPS cont...

Participants

The residencies can be designed on a bespoke basis for participants from a range of backgrounds and are aimed at adults and anyone aged 14 and over. We can design a residency to suit all levels of artistic experience – from none whatsoever to seasoned professionals. The group would need to all be from the same level of experience for the project to work effectively.

All participants would be expected to attend for the full residency, including any end-of-residency staged reading or evening performance where applicable.

Ideally we would envisage working with a maximum of 20 participants per residency (based on two facilitators) – however this is negotiable depending on how many facilitating artists are leading the sessions.

Costs to your organisation

We are happy to discuss packages with partners. However, a rough guide to our costs is as follows:

Company in residence for £500 a day
Beast Market production £2,500
Week-long residency £2,500
Full production and week-long residency package £5,000

The number of *Beast Market* public performances is also negotiable.

For more information or to discuss possibilities contact Susan Burns at the Chol office on 01484 536008, mobile 07830 345007, email susan@choltheatre.co.uk or Suzanne Wynne on 07749 502632, email suzanne@choltheatre.co.uk

WHAT THE AUDIENCE SAYS

“Congratulations! I thought it was really interesting, it looked and sounded great.”

“Congratulations on your latest production. My wife and I enjoyed the performance very much and we have resolved to try and see more live theatre in the future!”

“I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed Beast Market on the opening Wednesday night. I loved the movement of the piece – the rushing, busy diverse feel of the streets... I loved the set – really effective projections to emulate a busy streetscape and so simple. Well done to everyone involved it was highly enjoyable – you had good actors there and the direction was great.”

“I really, really enjoyed Beast Market - thought it looked beautiful - set, costumes, images, music - fantastic, the cast were good - it was very funny - well done!”

“I enjoyed Beast Market - particularly the movement language that was away from verbatim norms. It's very much a piece that speaks to an audience with stakes in the subject matter.”

“Beast Market was superb! We loved it. Very good audience, too.”

“I thought Beast Market was excellent. The character acting was superb and I thought the arrangement of stories was very cleverly done. The arrangement made it easy to follow the 'narrative' but also made it more interesting and not as dull as Talking Heads convention.”

“I saw Beast Market on the first night and thoroughly enjoyed it. The character voices were very convincing and I'd love to have seen the reaction of the real people to the verbatim delivery... must have been strange for them! It's a very clear piece and I thought the actors put the story/issues across well. The dark bits were very moving. Loved the way the music fitted in too. A good job well done. Thanks for the pleasure”

“I really enjoyed Beast Market. Everyone was brilliant in it, great music and visuals and lovely writing.”

“We enjoyed last night very much - it was great to see something of that scale and ambition on the LBT stage and even better that it was done by CHOL!”

WHAT THE PARTICIPANTS SAY

Chol were approached by the Head of Drama at Greenhead College, who was inspired by the production to make a brand new verbatim theatre project with her students during the 2008/09 academic year. A team from Chol subsequently led a master class event at Greenhead College in September 2008, for students from a range of disciplines. The workshop included a live performance of extracts from the show by actors Amanda Huxtable and Anne Larkin. The resulting verbatim project is currently being developed by the students and will be performed in Easter 2009. We received the following comments from students attending the master class:

"The workshop was very helpful in making the concept of verbatim theatre more understandable; it also helped to give a good insight into how to undertake a successful verbatim project."

"One of the most interesting aspects of the workshop was seeing how the interviews were transformed into an interesting narrative, how disconnected voices became a cohesive story about individual lives."

"The progression from the scratch version to the performed piece was fascinating to witness."

"The live performance during the workshop was fantastic; it really made the project come alive."

"Seeing the DVD of the performance complete with set design made the play very exciting and inspired my ideas for our own project."

"The play was dynamic and thought-provoking."

"The session was a fantastic success: it was just the right length in giving an insight into the mechanics of verbatim theatre and some sense of how the project can be transformed from script to performance."

"The emphasis on how to interview and edit really helped me to understand how to develop our project, it made things a lot more straightforward. It was a great experience."

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

Alongside the development of the production, Chol worked with resident photographer Amanda Crowther who headed out into the Beast Market and took some amazing shots of the community. Her work provided the photographic elements of the project and she held two exhibitions; one at the LBT and the other at Huddersfield Media Centre.

There was a public writing competition in response to the *Beast Market* photography – with best-selling *Chocolate* author Joanne Harris as the final judge.

Some photographs from the *Beast Market* Exhibition by Amanda Crowther:



SCRIPT SAMPLES

Some samples from the script taken from interviews with the people around the Beast Market:



Barry: *I don't know why God has decided that I keep reappearing in Huddersfield... I think the Yorkshire persona, I think, that is glum (laughter). Here I think, that you know, you go from a scale from glum to morose... we all say about our customers, they're either mad, bad or sad, you know (laughter) glum...*

Jahmal: *... in Liverpool I'd always had to be perceived as like... a foreigner because of my skin colour or be called a 'Paki'. When I went to Huddersfield a lot of the Pakistani people would call me 'Gora'... like, honky, white person... the black people they didn't really accept me because... I had brown skin and a few black features, but really I was, I was a little white Irish Catholic boy.*



Lisa (Policewoman): *One of my training sergeants... said to me 'you will never make a policeman as long as I've got a hole in my arse'... and in 2002... I was awarded my Queen's Police Medal... and I... sent him a cork and I said 'this is for your arse because you never got a*

Catherine (Vicar): *I have been known to shout once or twice at men urinating against the wall. It drives me mad! (laughter) ... But when I do it, I think, Catherine, you're starting to lose it, sit down and have a cup of tea.*

Julie: *The thieves. I'll educate you in thieves... the little old ladies, oh... kleptomaniacs! Kleptomaniacs!*



Angie: *She says 'listen, I've got some money in the bank. I'm gonna close my account and you're gonna take that plane to England.'*

Barry: *My son-in-law came out of the army after 7 years service, he can't get a council house, just told no chance at all and that made us very angry, really when other people turn up here who haven't contributed, in my opinion, anything, are given a council house... he'd just come back from Iraq... we're losing our country and we're the most stupid country in the world, I think.*

Gian: *We didn't say anything wrong?*

Gindi: *No, no (laughter)*

Gian: *It's okay*

Gindi: *No, no (laughter)*

Gian: *It's okay...*

MARKETING

Target Audience

Adults	Local Authority Personnel
GCSE students	Community Workers
Further Education students	Politicians / Local Councillors
Higher Education students	Community Activists
Market traders	Ethnic groups
Theatre practitioners	Youth Theatre groups
Adult drama groups	

Who would like Beast Market?

Fans of contemporary drama – i.e. Out of Joint
Regular theatre audiences
Fans of John Godber/Alan Ayckbourn/Alan Bennett drama
Fans of urban drama
Those interested in theatre techniques
Frantic Assembly audience

Selling points

Politically and socially relevant	Humorous
Verbatim theatre	Engaging
Ensemble theatre	Participatory theatre
Local angle / interest	Talented and versatile cast
Gritty characters	Juicy stories
Intercultural	
Universal themes	
A snippet of life that echoes life throughout the nation and beyond	
Sympathetic characters	
Reputation of Chol Theatre	

What Chol will offer

- A fully comprehensive marketing pack available early in the New Year including sample media release and direct mail letters; brochure copy; Box Office information sheet; syndicated interview with Director Andrew Loretto; plenty of extra information to support the production and help market the show
- Posters and leaflets overprinted
- Constant marketing and PR support
- Production shots

SUMMARY

Show

Age range: **Adults and anyone 12+ - some references to sexual material and occasional mild swearing**

Technical requirements: **Mid-scale proscenium arch or large studio spaces**

Running time: **80 minutes (no interval)**

Available: **October - December 2009 (excluding w/c 16 November 2009)**

Touring Company: **6 actors, 1 musician, 1 Production Manager and 1 Stage Manager**

Music: **Guitar, percussion, vocals and sound effects played live on stage**

Director: **Andrew Loretto**

A DVD recording of the production is available

Residency

Participants: **Anyone and everyone! 20 participants max**

Age range: **Adults or anyone 14+**

Technical requirements: **Rehearsal or workshop space for up to 22 persons**

Residency options: **Bespoke according to venue requirements but can be from week-long workshop residency with full production incorporating local material to intensive two-day workshop taster exploring process within local context.**

Available: **October - December 2009 (excluding w/c 16 November 2009)**

Contact: Suzanne Wynne

Telephone: 07749 502632

Email: suzanne@choltheatre.co.uk