

“Just About Ready To Jump”

Kevin Metchear, Head of Box Office and Front of House, Chickenshed:

This one-man show is a tremendous piece of writing by AL Kennedy, and Mike Hayward delivers a powerhouse performance in the role of Jack Rees, a man with a tale to tell – and much like the Ancient Mariner, one has the impression of Jack as a man compelled to share his confessional story, perhaps partly in a bid to prevent the audience from making the same mistakes, but also because of an actor’s overwhelming desire to be loved. This is a man with a hole to fill, a terrible void that can only be filled by an audience – or a bottle. By turns hugely confident and grandiose, then painfully wracked by memories and regrets, it is never anything other than a truthful depiction of an entirely credible character. The piece is simply, but powerfully, staged with the minimal props and lighting used to great effect.

This is theatrical, dramatic and deserves to reach a wider audience. At Chickenshed, we presented the piece to an audience of students, staff and volunteers, and the reception was tremendous.

- ♦ “Powerful, personally relevant – food for thought”
- ♦ “Very powerful and moving, a great piece of theatre”
- ♦ “I found this piece and the ensuing discussion really interesting and thought provoking”

A highly recommended piece, not least because of the opportunity Mike Hayward offers for post-show discussions to enable the audience to discuss the themes and issues raised.

Jonny Morton, Education Manager, Chickenshed:

“We were delighted to have the chance to present this piece to our students, and will certainly continue to do so. Mike Hayward delivers a wonderful showcase of stagecraft and performance, and our students were captivated and inspired. The post-show discussion gave an even greater insight into the story and the man.”