

# 'A Remarkable Storyteller' Radio Times

'Outstanding Theatre' Award 2008

'Best Comedy' Award 2009

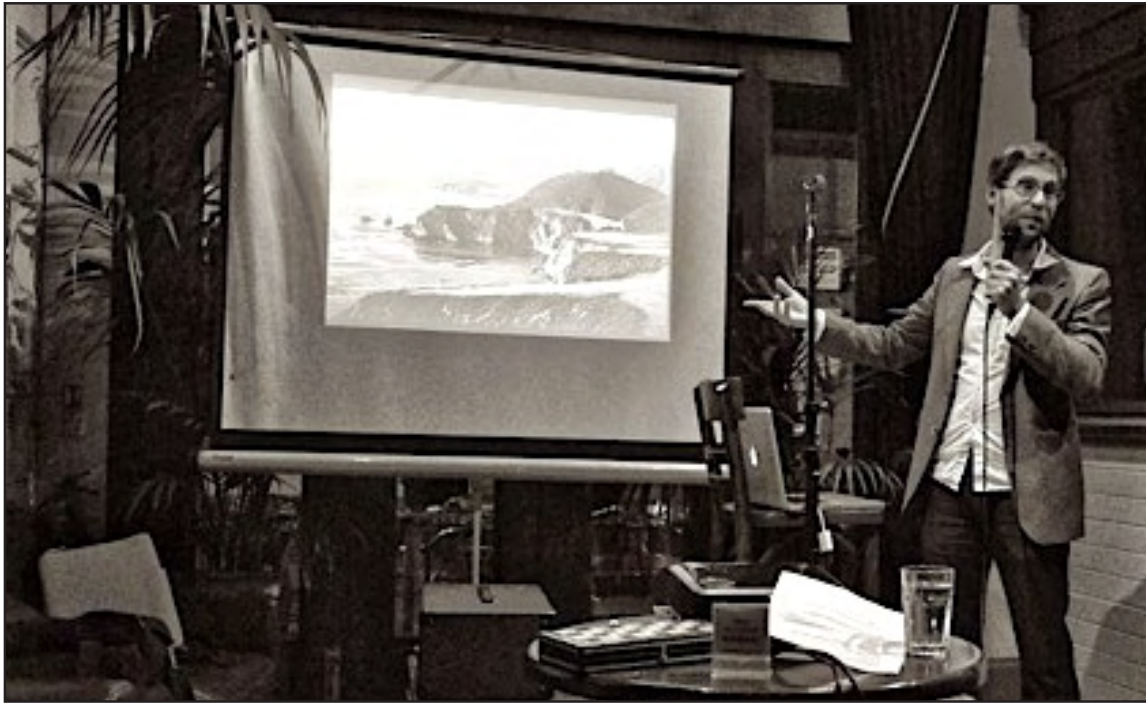
Italia Prix Award Nominee 2010

Sony Award Nominee 2011

by David Bramwell

Directed by Emma Kilbey

One Man's Real-life **odyssey** through the world's most  
**extraordinary** communities in search of a **better life!**



## ABOUT THE SHOW

Mixing storytelling, stand-up and theatre, *the No9 Bus to Utopia* is a roller-coaster ride through the most extraordinary communities in the 21st century, based around a series of projected images which help tell the story and provide visual anecdotes.

Packed with humour, mischief and wild stories about Bramwell's adventures, at the heart of *the No9 bus to Utopia* lies a genuine desire to inspire audiences with practical ideas for how they can transform their own lives for the better and re-connect with their neighbours and community. This is storytelling theatre at its very best; poignant, heartfelt, touching and relevant.

*The No9 Bus to Utopia* premiered at the Earth Ship in Stanmer Park as part of the Brighton Festival 2010. It ran for six evenings, sold out every night, and received a string of 5 star reviews. In Spring 2010 it was selected as the headline show for the Brighton Architecture Festival. In January 2011 David was one of 10 people chosen in Brighton to talk for the prestigious TED lectures; he chose utopia as his theme.

In 2011 he will be performing *the No9 bus to Utopia* at Alain de Botton's School of Life, The Idler Academy in London, The Independent Newspaper's *How the Light Gets in* Festival in Hay on Wye, The Lowry Theatre in Salford and Regents Park lecture series.

## PREVIOUS WORK

Bramwell's first solo show *the Haunted Moustache* won awards for comedy and theatre and was commissioned by Radio 3 in March 2010. This adaptation was nominated for an **Italia Prix Award in 2010** and **Sony Award in 2011**. The Haunted Moustache opened the Baldock Arts Festival and Oxfringe in 2008 & toured the UK in 2009; venues included the Rondo, Bath; Nuffield, Southampton, Hen and Chickens and Three & Ten, Brighton.



*Arcosanti, a new city in the Arizona Desert, designed with community in mind*

## BACKGROUND

In 2006, after being dumped by his long-term girlfriend, and amidst a growing realisation he had things to learn about sharing, Dr. Bramwell took a year off and decided to travel through Europe and America in search of utopia. On his travels he visited an anarchist community in the heart of Copenhagen, free love communities and a spiritual caravan park in Scotland.

In America he came to blows with the creator of an incredible futuristic city being built in the Arizona desert and thought he had found paradise in Big Sur's Esalen, a 'centre for human potentiality', dreamed up by Aldous Huxley.

Then there was Damanhur, a science fiction-style community in the Alps with an underground temple the size of St Paul's Cathedral, a village of tree houses and with claims to have built a 'fully-functioning time machine'

Bramwell returned from his travels a year later, inspired and entertained by his adventures. He decided to put into action some of the things he had learned by transforming his neighbourhood in Brighton into his own vision of utopia and in doing so changed the lives of thousands of people...



# REVIEWS

*A giant peach of a topic, taking him from sex communes to subterranean time machines to a land where fruit and veg once grew to abnormal proportions. Generous with its enthusiasm this is a show that makes you want to set out on your own adventure!*

**BELLA TODD, TIME OUT**

*A remarkable storyteller!*  
**RADIO TIMES**

*Inspiring, funny and poignant.*  
**PETER KAVANAGH, HEAD OF DRAMA, RADIO 4**

*An enthralling account by an adept storyteller. A truly inspiring evening*  
**3 WEEKS**

*Bramwell's tireless search for utopia sounds like a Boy's Own adventure. That he manages to convey his travel tales, thoughts and experiences and keep his audience engaged and entertained is quite a feat. He carries it off with natural charm, fluency and wit. It's lovely storytelling; not rambling and not patronising to the communities he visits (however easily parodied). It has the zeal of a real enthusiast for alternative ways of living.*

**LISA WOLFE, TOTAL THEATRE**

*After the first five minutes of his narrative I felt I'd known him all my life.*  
**FRINGE GURU**

*What can I say...I went to see the Doc not just once but twice he is THAT brilliant. Totally inspiring, interesting and interested, funny, charismatic and intelligent. A fantastic show which I still talk about and the best event I've seen at this year's fringe. I wish him all the best and continued success.*

**ANNA BUNTING, FACEBOOK**

# KEY SELLING POINTS & TARGET MARKETING

**AGE RANGE:** 14+ Nothing offensive beyond a spot of colourful cursing but quite wordy and intellectual content for an audience younger than 14.

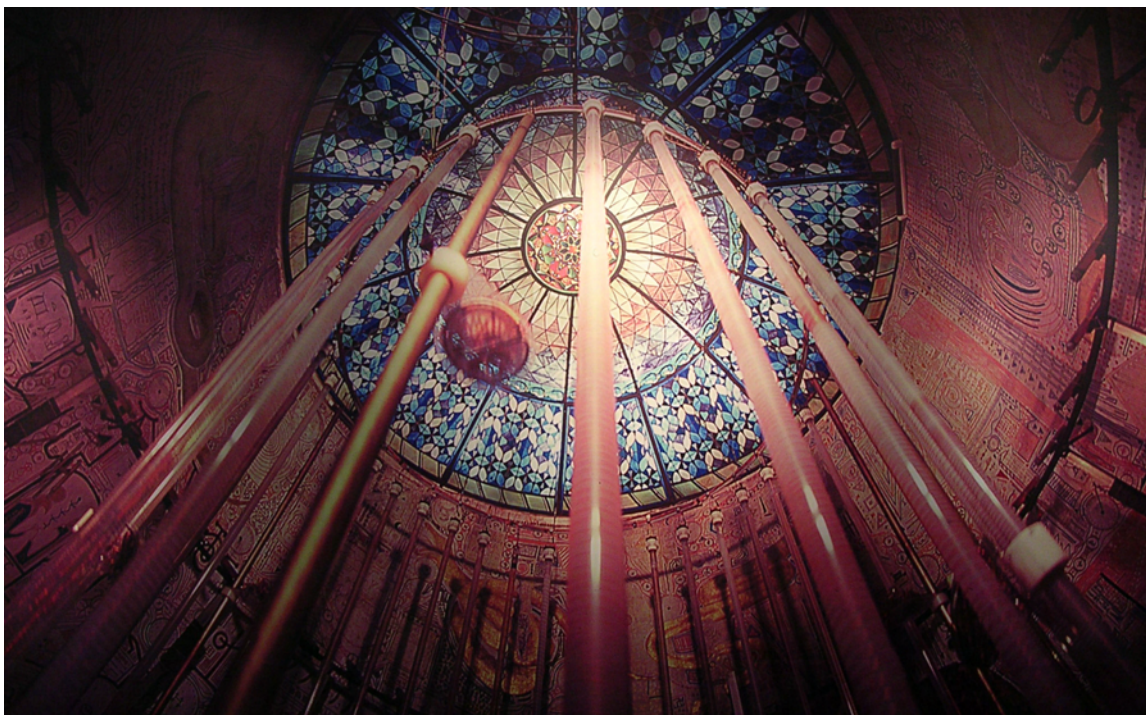
**LENGTH OF SHOW:** 2 hours including a 20 minute interval and optional Q&A at end.

**GET IN TIME:** Min 4 hours.

**STYLE:** Autobiographical storytelling in the tradition of Spalding Gray, Ken Campbell and Claire Dowie. David mixes comedy, theatre and slide-show style lecture to create shows packed with adventure, information, mischief and a personal journey that audiences can relate to.

**VENUES:** The No9 Bus is designed to work in any space, ranging from the back of a pub or village hall to a mid-large theatre. It would be ideal for rural touring and festivals as well as more traditional theatre and is available from September 2011.

**THEMES:** At the heart of the show lies the question: how can we live better lives? In the No9 Bus to Utopia, Bramwell does what many of us have dreamed of: taking a year out of life and going in search of answers to some of the big questions that bother him. The show explores themes of sexuality, town planning, communal living, architecture and even time travel and offers practical ideas for how audience can transform their own environment and neighborhood.



*The time machine at Damanhur*

*David is a natural performer – a storyteller for the 21st century – who takes you to new places both real and imaginary. He has a handle on his material that is very sure; and a wry perspective that makes you want to go on the journey with him. We think he's a real talent and are developing several projects with him.*

**EMMA WAKEFIELD (DIRECTOR, LAMBENT PRODUCTIONS TELEVISION)**

### **ABOUT DIRECTOR EMMA KILBEY**

*Emma Kilbey is one of Brighton's sharpest theatre minds. Her practice is characterised by a sure-footed intelligence, a vibrant theatricality and a provocative sense of fun. As a director, particularly, she displays a confident vision, a natural artistry and a highly successful talent in releasing and authorising actors into their material.'*

**PERFORMER, TIM CROUCH**

### **TECH DETAILS**

- Stage: Minimum 5m square
- Set: hat-stand & small hot tub (provided by the company) plus a suitable chair and table/desk provided by venue.
- Company can provide projector and screen but prefer to use the venue's where possible
- Get in time minimum 4 hours
- Technicians required: one
- Lighting – general wash, 2 specials (Red backlight and CS spot from FOH bar)
- Sound – PA required with input for MP3 or laptop
- Sound & Projection is operated from stage laptop which needs to be linked to projector & sound desk
- • A full press pack and photographs are available.

Tour booker: Joe Bates, Morton Bates Arts Services

Contact: Joe Bates, Morton Bates Arts Services, 020 7724 1616 [joe@mortonbates.com](mailto:joe@mortonbates.com)

