

MEDIA RELEASE

ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME UK TOUR

Chris Dobrowolski's new solo performance tours the UK this Spring

Chris Dobrowolski is an artist and maker who works from his garden shed in Colchester, Essex. He studied Fine Art in Hull but when he first got there he built a boat from driftwood to try to escape. Chris has since made a whole series of working vehicles in a similar vein – including a tank, a hovercraft and an aeroplane – each vehicle and escape attempt chartered with its own accompanying story.

Chris' latest project, *All Roads Lead to Rome*, follows a recent road trip from the heart of Essex to the Italian peninsula – a mirror image of the journey that his father took as a Polish soldier during the final months of the Second World War. In the style of a performance-lecture, it brings together storytelling, film, photography and sculpture to reveal the surprising connections between the Italian Campaign of World War II, family history, Cold War politics, the rise of consumerism, car mechanics, contemporary art and classical civilisation.

To make *All Roads Lead to Rome*, Chris spent a year repairing his father's ancient but beloved Triumph Herald Estate car. Purchased just before he was born, the car is a testament to "make do and mend", the antithesis of modern consumerism. Chris says:

"The car is of great personal significance because my father bought it when my mother found out she was pregnant with her second child – me. My father taught me how to repair and service it and we managed to keep it working for far longer than it was designed to last.

Driving my old car to Italy was a very real journey to an almost illusory place; a kind of modern "Grand Tour" to seek out some of the places my father would have encountered whilst in action, and an attempt to verify his stories which have, over the years, achieved mythological status."

Whilst in Italy, Chris gathered the material for *All Roads Lead to Rome*, including old photos, new film and some surprising mechanical objects. The Triumph Herald originally accompanied Chris for his showings of *All Roads Lead to Rome*, before the car was tragically stolen and burnt out on the last night of his Edinburgh Festival run. The only lasting remnant of the car, the passenger seat, will still escort Chris across his UK tour. Join Chris and this old seat in a witty and moving testament to the journeys of our fathers in a material world so different from today.

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PRESS ENQUIRIES

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LISTINGS INFORMATION

26 February 2014, 7.45pm

New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich

New Wolsey Studio, St Georges Street, Ipswich IP1 3NF

£8.50 / £5 concessions

Box office: wolseytheatre.co.uk / 01473 295900

6 March 2014, 7.30pm

Norden Farm Centre for the Arts, Maidenhead

Altwood Road, Maidenhead SL6 4PF

£14 / £12 concessions

Box office: nordenfarm.org / 01628 788997

7 & 8 March 2014, 7.30pm

Chelsea Theatre, London

7 World's End Place, King's Road, London SW10 0DR

£12 / £10 concessions

Box office: chelseatheatre.org.uk / 020 7352 1967

10 April 2014

Oxford Playhouse, Burton Taylor Studio

Burton Taylor Studio, 11 Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2LW

£10 / £8 concessions

Box office: oxfordplayhouse.com / 01865 305305

23 April 2014, 8pm

The Nightingale presents at The Malborough Theatre

The Malborough Theatre, 4 Princes Street, Brighton BN2 1RD

£8.50 / £6.50

Box office: nightingaletheatre.co.uk / 0800 411 8881

14 May 2014, 11.45pm (part of Late Night Live Art Club)

Norwich Arts Centre

Norwich Arts Centre, St. Benedict's Street, Norwich NR2 4PG

£7 / £4

Box office: norwichartscentre.co.uk / 01603 660352

20 June 2014, 8pm

Spital Arts Festival, Chesterfield

St. Leonards Church, Hartington/Valley Roads, Spital, Chesterfield S41 0HE

£8 / £6

Box office: [facebook.com/SpitalArts](https://www.facebook.com/SpitalArts) / 01246 220741

NOTES TO EDITORS

All Roads Lead to Rome is produced by Artsadmin and supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. Full details of the performance can be found here. artsadmin.co.uk/projects/all-roads-lead-to-rome

Chris Dobrowolski is an artist and teacher. He has an MA in Sculpture from the Royal College of Art, London and is an associate artist at “Art Exchange”, Essex University. His recent work includes the performance lecture Antarctica based on his role as Visiting Artist at the British Antarctic Survey, Poland 3, Iran 2 about a 1976 cup match and Vanishing Point, a series of miniature film installations made for lamp-posts and trees. cdobo.com

Artsadmin is a unique producing and presenting organisation for contemporary artists working in theatre, dance, live art, visual arts and mixed media. At its Toynbee Studios home, Artsadmin has established a centre for the creation, development and presentation of new work and a space for artists and audiences to experiment. The organisation offers a wide range of artist-development services including a free advisory service and mentoring schemes as well as a bursary scheme. Artsadmin is supported using public funding by Arts Council England. artsadmin.co.uk