

# Tweetakt 2009: Utrecht, Holland

**There's madness in the air.** There's a Portuguese chef serving fabulous festival meals out of a mobile, wooden church (**Katrina**), a theatre installation in itself; the festival branding depicts toddlers in teenage clothing (!!); we are driven by coach to a farm in the 'midden' of Holland where I am asked to do an audience development questionnaire and in some disused war bunker (**Candyland**) 13 young people eyeball me for two hours, force feed me tea and cold macaroni (both strictly off my diet sheet) and then implore me to put them to bed in a cot. It's certainly not *Wind in the Willows*!

**Young people on stage** was the idée fixe of the festival; I think we call it Youth Theatre. Whilst witnessing some powerful and lasting images we rather suspected that the work, whilst being about *the state of being young*, came less from the ideas of the young people on stage and more from a series of images created through movement workshops.

For a sense of 'festival', **Tweetakt** was great – the church, which also laid on live music and dj-ing daily was surrounded by a series of interesting installations in glass houses, all of which created a magnetic heart to the satellite venues where the shows were taking place. But I have to say that I have not returned to base with a 'product' that I could programme into **the egg**. Far from dining out on a diet of core Dutch companies, the programme was made up of either experimental, student or youth theatre work. **Theatre Max's Yvon**, however, was a 30 minute delight and **Studio Orka's De Legende van Woesterdam** outdoors delivered everything I come to expect of Dutch theatre – philosophical, quirky and a showcase for the true, Dutch tradition of recycling and engineering. [www.tweetakt.net](http://www.tweetakt.net)

One other thing – Dutch family and school audiences can stomach far more crudity, vulgarity and sexual innuendo than any British audience...but I think we knew that already!

*Kate Cross is Director of **The egg** at Bath Theatre Royal*