



Tête à Tête Recommended

August 2007

Thu Aug 16 [Riverside Studios](#), Crisp Road, W6 9RL

The irrepressible Bill Bankes-Jones is artistic director of another kaleidoscopic festival of words, music and action. Each evening consists of a starter, main course and afters. *Fri 7pm: **La Cantatrice Chauve***, Ionesco's absurdist play 'The Bald Prima Donna' set by Jean-Philippe Calvin – with two possible endings, electronic and acoustic.

August was full of Tête à Tête's Opera Festival - 3 shows a night for three weeks - which I was company managing. As a first outing for the festival, and rather seat-of-pants at that, we were curious to see how it turned out - rather wonderful, as it happened! Everyone at Riverside Studios threw themselves behind it wholeheartedly and the atmosphere there was great, with artists and audience mingling happily in the bar and on the river terrace, supping, noshing and nattering.

Fri Aug 17

Jean-Philippe Calvin and Stefan Tiedje's sampling the preparation of a salad, complete with audience "yums" and "aahs" as they were fed blackberries and chocolate! Some of the collaborations were interestingly unexpected (Luke Pickett and Matt Sharp) and exciting to witness - huge congratulations to Bill B-J for artistically directing a very successful festival and to the whole team for pulling it together with such elan.