

Duckie Copyright Christmas review at Barbican London

[Francesca Whiting](#) Dec 22, 2011

THE STAGE

Upon arriving at the Copyright Christmas store, audience members are presented with a catalogue from which to choose a free gift. The choices range from freedom from guilt to eternal youth and happiness.

Choosing the latter, I was disappointed to be told they had run out, but there was plenty of Christmas cheer left to take.

This was the premise of Duckie's interactive show, that such attributes could be bought and sold as commodities.

Split into small groups, the audience is ushered through the store into a series of rooms by a team of over-friendly shop assistants.

In one room a cheerful, skipping elf sings about the merits of signing up to an Elf store card at only 33.9% APR, while in another, the audience is faced with a smooth-talking presenter from a shopping channel.

Some scenes work better than others – the toilet attendant sketch is particularly effective – while some are just obscure, such as when the audience conjures up a sugar lump, which becomes a house with a fast car.

There's plenty to laugh at in this promenade performance but it's a dark humour – beneath all the shiny, fake Christmas cheer there's a serious message about the impact all this consumerism is having on not just our pockets but the planet.

Production Information

Barbican, London, December 10-31

Authors/cast

Scottee, Susannah Hewlett, H Plewis, Ryan Styles, Dickie Beau, Harold Offeh, Roy Kerr, Bird la Bird, Sheila Ghelani, Jess Love

Director

Mark Whitelaw

Producers

Simon Casson, Dicky Eton

Running time

1hr 30mins