

Collaborative Partners for CHM

China Plate and Cartoon de Salvo



The Centre for the History of Medicine collaborated with China Plate Theatre to bring to the University of Warwick, Cartoon de Salvo's Irish Giant Production as part of Dr Claudia Stein's; *Inside the Irish Giant: History, Science and Art*, a public engagement event funded by the Centre's Wellcome Trust Strategic Award and Warwick's Institute of Advanced Study.

This two day event combined Cartoon de Salvo's Irish Giant theatrical production telling the real-life tragic tale of Charles Byrne and John Hunter*, with expert panel discussions; Science, Religion and Commerce & Gigantism, Genetics and History; with an open forum led by China Plate Theatre discussing how academic research can feed the development process for a piece of theatre.

This collaboration with China Plate (currently working with Warwick Arts Centre) helped develop links with external theatrical production companies i.e. Cartoon de Salvo and highlighted the outreach potential of bringing academic research to the Arts.

www.go.warwick.ac.uk/chmirish_giant

<http://www.chinaplatetheatre.com/>

<http://www.cartoondesalvo.com/>

*Charles Byrne (the 8ft 'Irish Giant'), who lived between 1761 and 1783, was besieged by eager scientists including John Hunter, trying to persuade him to let them use his body for anatomical research. Byrne believed as a devout Catholic, that his soul would be destroyed if they took his body for experimentation. John Hunter eventually 'obtained' the corpse of Charles Byrne which still causes much controversy today as it remains displayed in the Hunterian Museum in London.