

Eric Byrne

Titles: 8 Sources: 0 Stills: 1

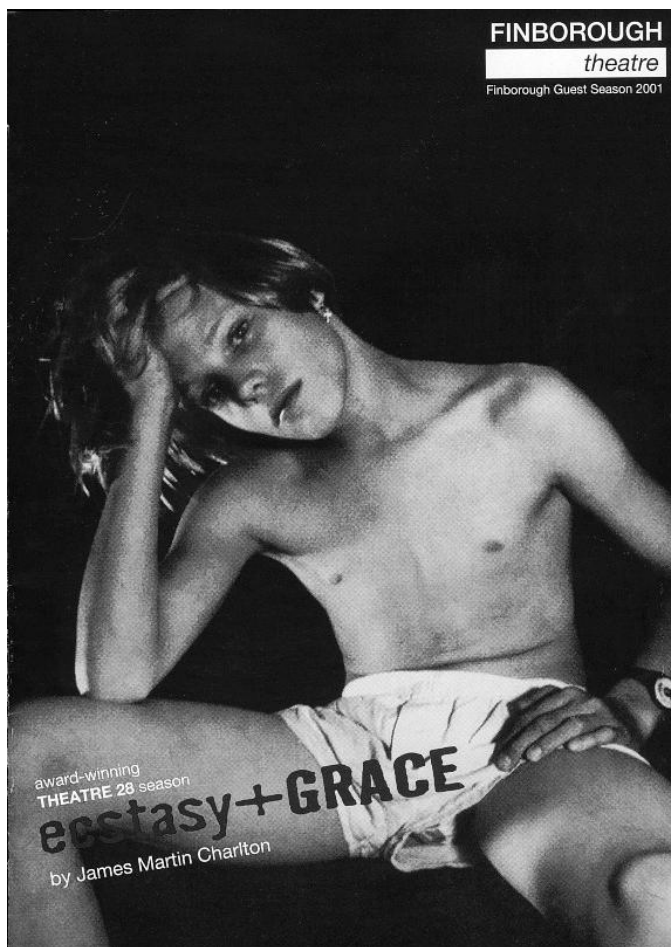
Born: UK

In March of 2001 he showed up on the London stage in a repellant little play called "ecstasy+GRACE" by James Martin Charlton, directed by Stephen Henry. The play is a liberal (gay?) christian diatribe about the impoverishment of myth and symbolism – specifically christian myth and symbolism – in our godless nihilistic culture. Charlton characterises adulthood as "a kind of living death – people who walk, talk, eat, shit and take but who give nothing and feel only their own existential despair". To make his case, however, he has rifled the gutter press for a sensational hook to hang his thesis upon, and confabulated a story about boy prostitution in Amsterdam and - that old tabloid myth - "snuff movie" making. His play has two young British gays running an Amsterdam porn shop, dealing drugs, and inveigling a 13-year old rent boy into pornography that will ultimately lead to his murder. A particularly vile instance of exploiting a contemporary hysteria to sell a message emanating from a different moral agenda altogether. If Stephen Henry is indeed gay, that makes the exercise all the more contemptible. Reviews were, as they say in the trade, "mixed".

Byrne, 13, played the rent boy "Pullet" (Get it? GET IT??) – a kind of male counterpart to the Jodie Foster character in "TAXI DRIVER". One newspaper alleged (lied) that his mother had to chaperone him hastily back to the dressing room, ears covered, during every performance to prevent his being contaminated by the sexually explicit dialogue on stage. In fact his own dialogue on stage was as sexually explicit as that of the rest of the cast. Beyond the TV and film work accredited him in the play's handbill, nothing else is known of him, but it is unusual, to say the least of it, that any parent in today's paranoid climate would permit her son of 13 to play a boy prostitute and pornography performer on the London professional stage. What Eric himself thought of it all is, needless to say, not recorded.



Source: Finborough Theatre playbill



Finborough Theatre playbill for the offending item – but note how messrs Charlton and Henry utilise an image itself culled from soft boy pornography to peddle their wares. This image does not suggest “exploitation” or “victimisation”, but the lazy sensuality of the adolescent boy. A classic case of having your cake and eating it. Gays can be such hypocrites.

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
--		KID IN THE CORNER †	UK TV
--		THE SLEEPER	UK TV
--		A CHRISTMAS CAROL	UK TV
--		STATION JIM	UK TV
--		The Bill - - -	UK TV cop series
--		TOSSPOTS	UK
--		MICE	UK
--		CACTUS	

[† nominated as “Best Newcomer” by the Royal Society Television Awards]

