

Portraits Untold – Video Transcript

Artist: Tanya Raabe-Webber

Sitter: David Hoyle

Venue: Beningbrough Hall, York

Date Saturday 1st October 2016

Ambitious live portrait project with artist Tanya Raabe-Webber, exploring and celebrating our common humanity – the beauty and strength of humanity lies in the diversity of its people.

This stream features David Hoyle - more information can be found at -
<http://portraitsuntold.co.uk/sittings/david-hoyle-beningbrough-hall/>

This video stream was filmed at Beningbrough Hall, York on Saturday 1st October 2016.

Take part by contributing your drawing via Facebook, twitter and Instagram and tagging #PortraitsUntold

<http://portraitsuntold.co.uk/>

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Supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

[#PortraitsUntold](#)

[Transcript Starts]

Sue Jordan, Beningbrough Hall: Good morning everyone and welcome to the national trust at Beningbrough Hall and Gardens we are incredibly excited to be hosting the fourth and final Portraits untold sitting here today at Beningbrough. We can't wait to see how the conversation unfolds between Tanya and David and how the artwork develops in these historic surroundings. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both the portraits untold team and the team here at Beningbrough for the hard work and support that has gone into the project to enable us to host this unique project here at Beningbrough Hall. As you can imagine its quite a difficult thing to put together in a historic setting like this and it has come with its challenges but we are delighted we have been able to make this happen and we hope you all have an very enjoyable day. The project has been designed to be as interactive and collaborative as possible so please feel free to get involved as much as you would like. We have provided paper and pencils just at the back table there and any of you who have devices with you today please feel free to use those as well using the drawing app. You can submit your drawings digitally so you can use the hashtags which Tanya has also been a part of and Jackie will be tweeting today Mandy will go through the details of that in a moment. If you need any help throughout the day. There are plenty of staff and volunteers around to be able to help you out so please do ask so without any further or do ill now hand you over to Mandy Fowler the project producer who will explain a little bit more about the format today. Thank you.

Mandy Fowler, Portraits Untold: Thank you very much Sue and Portraits Untold we are delighted to be here at this magnificent Beningbrough Hall in amongst the fantastic collection that you have here which is part of the portrait's in this room are in national art gallery on display here at Beningbrough Hall so just want to give you a little bit of an introduction to the project Portraits Untold as Sue said this is our fourth and final in this series of Portraits Untold. Portraits Untold is an ambitious national project so we have been working across the country in four venues, this been our fourth venue, four very different venues with four very different sitters and the project is set up to explore and celebrate the diversity of our common humanity through a live portraiture sitting set up. So Portrait painters and sitters have been having dialog in this process for as long as portrait painting has been in existence and we are actually enabling it to be in front of a live audience so that you people in the room and also through our live stream as well as interactive as possible you are invited to do your own drawings your own digital drawings to ask questions in the room those of you who are in the room if you put your hand up we will get a microphone to you so its picked up on the live stream and people watching on the live stream if you tweet questions through or come through on Facebook or you tube or however we will pick up those as well and ask those questions to Tanya and David on your behalf. I just got a quick few thank yours Arts council England who have supported the project and funded the project and also we have had huge staff support so we are very grateful for that. We have also worked with Hatch and Twin who are our guys who have been doing all our tech stuff and live streaming for us. Sparks PR who have been doing the PR for the project and also Dr

Chris Creed and involved in some of the trial sessions and done some of the research behind the technology side of making this happen as well. Just wanted to say a bit about the format of today

Tanya's going to guide you through the day and there will be times of natural silence in the room as well Tanya and David will be involved in creating there works might be contemplating that or contemplating the audience in the room as well around us that's fine don't be put off by the fact there might be some silences that's part of the process. We have got 3 sessions today so we are running from now until 12.15 are back at 1.15 until 2.45 and then back again at 3.30 until 5pm and in terms of the hashtag we are using its #PortraitsUntold. Now I'd like to introduce David this is not easy to do as how do you introduce David Hoyle absolutely delighted that David's with us today when Tanya and I were first considering who we could invite to sit at this project we were looking for people who could achieved greatness in their lives who had a commit in their work in representing diversity which is resonates with the themes of Tanya's work. So in that thinking David Hoyle was a natural choice David is a performance artist cabaret artist singer actor and film director I think there's plenty other aspects to that work that David does as well and he will be talking through that today I'm sure no doubt we are in for a real treat. David come to in the 1990's as the with his own Channel 4 programme and his performances are known to combine seamlessly elements comedy to painting striptease costume think of which we will be entertained with some of that today. David often trends in his performances have left him to become something of a legend on the London cabaret circuit actually completely fresh out of his new season at the Royal Vauxhall Tavern which has just started this Thursday and got a month to go. I'm sure David will be talking about that throughout the day too. Delighted to see what Tanya's going to be producing and David throughout the day. Going to hand you over to Tanya to carry out todays proceedings

Tanya: Thank you, well that was a good speech wasn't it, lovely thank you Ladies.

David: I wasn't aware that I had achieved greatness, I was very pleased to hear it you know

Tanya: All those things that you've achieved as well David

David: Well exactly, a part of me thought you might of wanted someone else and you had just fallen back on me, but it's interesting

Tanya: which one shall we pick? Out of all those things which...

David: probably more to do with performance at the moment I think, defiantly at the Vauxhall Tavern that's a very big part of my life at the moment. If anyone knows the Vauxhall Tavern in London, it's a lovely old Victorian pub and it's been there since about 1860 so how it's still standing is a miracle but thankfully it is. It's had a few threats to its long-term future recently, property developers wanting to buy it and turn it into luxury apartments that sort of thing so there's been quite a campaign to save it and it is getting there and I think It's going to be protected thank goodness because as a performance venue

I think it's very important and would be very sad if we were to lose it. That's how I feel. And I feel that the Vauxhall Tavern Tanya as a building has its own personality

Tanya: it has its own personality

David: yeah

Tanya: I have been in there, it's got little areas hasn't it

David: I honestly do think it's a miracle that it's still standing, because it's like a battered building but has got a lot of character and when you think of all the people who have been on there over the years. Lily Savage started at the Vauxhall Tavern and I use to go and see Lily Savage on a Thursday in the early 80's and I was very nervous I never use to stand anywhere near the front of the stage because I'd have been terrified that Lily savage was going to say something to me. So I always use to stand right at the back I never thought that one day id be on the stage doing my own shows and similar thing would happen. People wouldn't stand near the front for the fear that I might say something. So it's gone full circle. But it has got character. And that's very important I just hope that the campaign that we have got going on at the moment. Keeps the property developers away so that it can retain its function as a live arts venue.

Tanya: Yeah

David: It's a changing area Vauxhall you've now got very high rise buildings and luxury apartments and all this sort of thing going on so it does look slightly in congruence but I think it's all the better for that really. Where I live in Manchester a lot of old buildings have been demolished recently their Victorian which I think is a shame.

Tanya: Yeah

David: that's why it's important to keep our building up, I think it would be very sad if buildings like this went

Tanya: we were talking yesterday about moving in

David: Yeah absolutely I think if they could just sort the heating out I could live here quite happily you know. Maybe install a swimming pool, few Jacuzzi's, a few more balconies, major structural changes basically. But this room is beautiful and I did notice yesterday I think it is a room that makes people behave in a certain way because it's quite formal and its quite a contrast to rooms that I'm used to which are pubs and clubs basically with a very different atmosphere. But It's nice to feel posh occasionally. I was just looking at all the gold in this room

Tanya: I know I was looking at that whilst we were doing the speeches and I was thinking it's kind of very roman

David: it's amazing

Tanya: Yeah

David: Well to me it's kind of like the idea of maintaining it keeping it beautiful

Tanya: Yeah. How do you get up there to dust all that David?

David: yeah and if it is all done by hand you know the gold leaf and what have you. it's an incredible job. Beautiful.

Tanya: We've got a question already

David: Fabulous

Tanya: Where's the mic

Audience: Hello David and Tanya I'm Lisa, lovely to see you all.

David: Lovely to see you

Audience: Out of all these lovely pictures is there one in particular that stands out?

David: well for me I do like the portrait of lady chesterfield, that does appeal to me very much but then yesterday I started to fall in love with this painting which I consider a masterpiece and I think it's a very valued painting from the national collection. Tanya was talking about this painting earlier on and saying how the use of blue in these oil paintings because it is quite a difficult colour to get hold of or its all to do with wealth isn't it

Tanya: yeah, they use to use blue as a symbol of wealth

David: yeah so I would defiantly like lady chesterfield I think it's a bit camp as well I think that David Garrick over the door that's very interesting because I'm interested in the theatre

Audience: that's lovely, I love this one behind us with the two guys

David: yeah what do you like about it?

Audience: just its camp ness

David: yeah, they did have a sense of camp

Audience: yeah

David: yeah, one must never lose it. But it is lovely

Audience: Thank you

David: Yeah, thank you

Tanya: Lisa joined us for a workshop didn't you Lisa

David: Oh fab, and did you do some drawing as well?

Tanya: I think I showed you one yeah, we were just looking at the photos from the drawings

David: There's some lovely paintings in this room

Tanya: Have you run any workshops David?

David: Not really, I think the only, the world of the workshop

Tanya: The world of the workshop

David: I have been more involved with you when you've been doing it

Tanya: Yeah, we've done it, together haven't we?

David: Yeah, we have done it together

Tanya: What were we

David: I don't think I've ever done it on my own

Tanya: Do you remember what we were doing?

David: well we were working with senior citizens I think

Tanya: Oh yeah, we did, yeah, we did in London

David: In London, there are quite some amazing characters

Tanya: And we were looking at, do you remember what we were looking at, ugly spirit

David: Ah, the divided self

Tanya: The divided self

David: That's how Tanya and I got to know each other through a theatre production company really, a feel fittings they were very good you know and Gary Robson and hopefully Gary's following today's events

Tanya: Send him a tweet, so it's all Gary's fault

David: It is all Gary's fault

Tanya: It's all Gary Robson's fault, so we want him to tweet us back

David: But that was because I fell in love with the work of fittings theatre and I went to see about three of the shows at the Royal Exchange in Manchester and then I thought oh I'd like to meet Gary Robson's so I wrote to him

Tanya: Oh did you

David: Yeah, yeah and he said I could come to see him and that was it I ended up in a production and ended up meeting all these people through....

Tanya: Do you remember when we did that production David what was your character

David: My character was the camp commander, camp again here we go, and I think I dressed up, I was like a Nazi officer weren't I

Tanya: Yeah

David: In one part of the production singing, it was very different weren't it Russell Bar wrote it

Tanya: Yes he did, Scottish

David: Yeah, I think it can be called an advent guard production safely and it was an immersive theatre piece

Tanya: Yeah it had like two bits to it didn't it

David: Yeah, it was quite a strange start to it because people had to sort of que outside before got access

Tanya: because it was like a side show

David: yeah, all that went on

Tanya: And we had the opera singer

David: Oh yeah Denise

Tanya: Denise Lee

David: Denise Lee who was a big featured artist for the opening of the Olympics the last time In London

Tanya: She was

David: And she had an amazing one off Vivienne Westwood gown, which was stunning

Tanya: But her character in the show was an opera singer who was down on her look

David: Yeah very poignant when she sang, amazing singer

Tanya: I think you've started off a bit sad

David: yeah, she did make me sad, yeah, her character made me sad

Tanya: Yeah

David: And then her partner on the accordion

Tanya: Oh yeah her husband

David: They have got a baby now

Tanya: They have got a baby now, well not be a baby anymore be a...

David: I know time goes so...Amazing. Wow very good

Audience: I've got a question for you David if that's alright

David: yes Hello

Audience: Your cv is quite big in terms of all the various performance pieces you do what has been your favourite is it theatre is it dance is it producing?

David: Ah I think I'm very into performing I like the contact I can have with the people say in a pub and club environment I like that very much and the knock about quality of it and the idea that we are all collaborating together because we are all alive together so might as well celebrate live together and I do like that very much, the immediacy. But then it's also

interesting if you get involved in a film or something like that and your directed, it's interesting because I find it's a good way to learn and been in film is very very different to been on stage, been on stage as you know is more like semi fore, you know big gestures that sort of thing whereas in film it's all toned down and I found that very interesting you know where you can concentrate on the eyes, small gestures that sort of thing as it's a such different contrast, yeah.

David: Wow you're amazing Tanya, amazing, doesn't seem to take any length of time at all, incredible

Tanya: Incredible, there you are you're on the canvas

David: That's what practise does, it's worth it isn't it the practise and the observation you know been able to do that in a few minutes is incredible

Tanya: there you go done,

David: Exactly yeah

Tanya: see you later

David: I do have fondness for what some people consider un finished paintings I do like them you know that show the drawing and the sort of technicalities behind the paint I find that very interesting

Tanya: The process

David: Yeah the process

Audience: I've got a question for Tanya

Tanya: yeah

Audience: Do you start every portrait in the same way do you always start the same place the eyes the outline or does it vary depending on the sitter

Tanya: No I'm looking at particular features that I think that I can grab straight away and get in so that the face or the image begins to immediately give me a sense of that person. So yesterday I kind of started around the eyes but today I kind of wanted to start around the mouth and I wanted to get that kind of David's pout

David: I think I've got a lot of lines

Tanya: Yeah you have

David: Which must have been a help to Tanya

Tanya: so I wanted to start there and go up

David: Friends say David you look like you have got such a battered face

Audience: experience

David: Yeah exactly I think experience sounds nicer than battered, and laughter lines and you think what was that funny you know. I mean I try with a moisturiser but they never gonna go away they might soften them but that's about it

Tanya: the lines are easier for me to grab

David: must be a gift

Tanya: It's a gift David

David: they are beginning to join up now I can see what's going on. I think that's one of the reasons I've enjoyed wearing make up

Tanya: Yeah

David: Really because at least then you can take some control over your face you know you can change it to a certain extent, yeah. I'm very lucky in London sometimes my friend Tom does my make up for me and he does things like all these lines here he will hide them by sticking on silver foil so there's a tip if you got any lines you don't want anybody to see put silver foil and it's a head turning look, never a dull moment. Well sometimes you find yourself you might be travelling on the tube because you might have run out of make-up remover your off somewhere else your dashing all over and that can be interesting you know the reaction of people. I had a bit of nail varnish on the other day and even that can cause a bit of a sensation

Audience: No

David: I know it's ridiculous in this day and age, it is

Tanya: so you only wear make up for performance

David: only for performance

Tanya: only for performance, why is that David?

David: well I think I enjoy been reasonable enormous in real life

Tanya: Yeah

David: So yeah probably just sit under the radar as far as I'm concerned, I mean I call this look as you know this is ready salted

Tanya: Ready Salted

David: Yeah if I throw on a frock or you know put my make up on or what have you then I call that prawn cocktail because it's a bit more interesting

Tanya: Prawn cocktails quite spicy though

David: I think it can be, and it's a change you know I think we are encouraged to be consistent all the time and I think that's such a shame because to me what is consistent is like that thing on a heart monitor you know that goes burr well that symbolises death so I

think we should have variety in our life's and ups and downs and contrasts not he was the same all the time

Tanya: That's what they will read

David: It's like a form of death and you could rely on him

Tanya: in your eulogy David

David: Permanently one foot in the grave he never changed. I think we are all multifaceted and I think its if we are all brave or mad enough to bring that out really you know, it's just the whole idea it's our bodies so it's up to us what we do with them and can treat them as a canvas and we can be have fun basically that's what I think. A lot of my work has been about sending up conformity you know because I was from quite traditional background so I had to rebel against it, I think when you're from a traditional family you either kill yourself or you become more imaginative.

Tanya: you've got very pink skin very orange David

David: Orange wow, I think that might be something from the body shop its vitamin c it's to do with oranges I probably put too much on. It said it gets rid of wrinkles so I must pile it on, probably doing more harm than good

Audience: David

David: yes hi

Audience: you said you're from a traditional family could you tell us about when you were younger when you were a kid and what your family life was like if you want to

David: yeah well, I think I always knew a bit different and they were very traditional my grandfather for example was I consider a Victorian but then I have a theory about people who were involved in the first world war which he was and a lot of these people lied about their age in order to defend the country. My take on it is that they actually all died and what came back was these people who as teenagers had seen such devastating sites that they couldn't even talk about it, so yeah I think that goes on and It kills something and then probably think what is it I'm defending and it probably was a very old fashioned way of thinking it's all to do with control really most of society is to do with control obviously there's more of us then there is of the ruling classes people who are in charge so they do try to control us and I was aware of that when I was younger so it was a bit precocious I think in some ways but it was quite a lonely situation to be in really as it's a lot easier to conform then not conform, any idiot can be like another other idiot but it's difficult if you can't pretend that you're not different and I couldn't, but I got lucky in the 70s when the fashion changed so imaginative and they were unisex and all the rest of it so I was very fortunate there but the dressing up and all that carry on I can't say it was encouraged by everybody my grandma encouraged me she was lovely but again it's to do with have we been brain washed or are all of us brainwashed to a certain extent do we just truly just coincidentally happen to have the same thoughts as the oppressive do you know what I mean. What can I say well I think religion played a part in it as well and I think there is a lot of control in

religion as well and they are into clearly defined gender roles which to don't stand up at all the idea that one type of human being is inherently more stronger and more authoritative than another personally even now doesn't make any sense to me at all none and it never will. I think sometimes people with benefit perhaps taking hallucinogenic drugs. People should trip out and see what it is they been brain washed to believe for the nonsense the cruel nonsense that it is. I'm into love and having a laugh in a way none of us asked to born did we but we are here but we find ourselves on a perpetual wall which I don't agree with, I don't agree with the trade and I don't agree with these weapons of mass destruction I don't think we are told enough about it who is making these devices, who is selling them, is there ever going to become a point where we no longer have dealers and manufacturers I like to know, or is it going to go on forever and ever until the world just blows up. I'd like the fill the world with art not weapons of mass destruction I don't believe in army's I don't really believe in a lot of things really, I suppose I was brought up to be a man but then when I realised how moronic and obedient you had to be to be a man I didn't want to be one, and that they join army's and join gangs an all they do is kill. Who for. Usually the ruling classes or for multinational corporations so didn't really ever interest me and again we should take some hallucinogenic drugs might make them nicer people

Audience: the national health trust doesn't stand by that opinion

David: well it's an option you know, I'm not saying they should sell them in the gift shop "The unforgettable experience"

Audience: I think following on from what you said about men learning to be men

David: learning to cut off

Audience: yeah there's quite an issue at the moment with how boys can have their own identity learn their role in society, learn how to boys, learn how to be men, learn how to be people and you know join in gangs and just general violence and not been encouraged to do well in school. Is perhaps an issue for a lot of boys and young men what do you think we can do about that?

David: well I think and this might sound a bit but I think that boys should be encouraged to help each other with hair and make-up perhaps research is it viable to set up an ecology friendly nail bar you know people have acrylic nails and I don't think they are good for the environment. So, I think boys should be encouraged to beautify each other, if men so called men stayed in and helped each other look lovely there would be less wars you know and people wouldn't be takin knives out on the street they would be taking a hair brush you know. Stop teaching these boys to kill and be obedient in a moronic way teach them something useful like hairdressing you know that's going to benefit society and make the world a nicer place, more beautiful. I'm pro beauty and I think it's sad that even now human beings are been encouraged to believe that they are boys you know again because it's all brain washing to me you can just be a collection of cells with a soul. I don't believe that the soul of the spirit has genitals I'm prepared to be contradicted. Anybody? I think we are just pure energy, love energy, I think the challenge is for us to realise that we have more in common then will ever differentiate us, I mean for a start we are all going to die, id only

admit someone being different to me if they didn't die on the earth plain anyway other than that we are all the same, we are all going to die and it's what we do with our lives in between. I've been very lucky because something must have happened, it wasn't easy been different wasn't easy at all, it led to a lot of rejection, its led to a lot of me having an unhealthy attitude towards myself it's taken me years to work out actually the people who were a pressing me who were brain washed wouldn't of thought that but now I'm glad that I have. But now I have no interest in people and I'm here which is amazing. And I think all that's testimony to going down my own path really. An it's the people, they say birds of a feather flock together so I must have met other people who didn't fit in, they couldn't fit in it was an impossibility. Recently I was doing a show in London I did 10 nights in 2 weeks we finished last Sunday and a lot of that was about school and education and how homophobia would be dealt with when I was at school which it wasn't, what they would do was allow me to leave lessons a minute earlier, id have a key for a music practise room id run to the music practise room, lock myself in put my coat over the window so the other children couldn't see me and sit and have my breaks and lunch hour out there. But then probably having artistic thoughts was probably sat in there thinking one day I'll get out of here and with people who are a bit more intelligent. I think how it works is some people are more gullible to the brain washing, personally and other people you just can't brain wash us you just can't do it, and therefore we can't fit in we do don't believe these absolutes that are presented to us. Everyone is going to have their own individual life story, and every right to it we have got to support each other through our manifestation on earth. Hello yeah

Audience: have you ever thought of entering politics or what are your thoughts on politics?

David: Well that's a lovely question, I think my performances are political I don't know what I'd be like in the formal political situation you know what I mean, when you see some of the politician's now I think they would get on my nerves, again they have gone for some form of conformity and they wear the suits and there meant to look like really together people and you know they are corrupt, their taking money from international corporations they, there not even immoral they are amoral if you were to say to them do you have a moral compass they wouldn't even know what you were talking about and I feel what they are doing at the moment say with Jeremy Corbin saying he is un electable and what they really mean if they was honest is that he is un corruptible the other politicians aren't corrupted. So, I would find it difficult to be amongst them I think

Audience: Yes I think that's very true I think you would be a breath of fresh air

David: I'd like to give it a go but then you can imagine that the press would get hold of a life of someone like me they twist things and make it very difficult for people like myself to do anything like that. I have poets who are friends and you can see how they life would be portrayed ina horrible way by the tabloids when you know they are lovely people

Audience: yeah, I think the tabloids have got a lot to answer to in this country

David: yeah well, I think for the mental health of this country the tabloids should be destroyed and they need to progress, they are all about regress and going back where as I

think we should be going forward. Which I think this event is about really it's the old and the bold and the new and contemporary brought together so it's interesting.

Audience: Thank you I think you make an interesting prime minister

David: oh thank you very much well I would definitely have you on the cabinet, lovely, you could be on the arts side as well.

Audience: I've got another one, you talking about conformity and how people conform, what's inspired you and pushed you to not conform? Have you ever thought would life be a lot easier if I just did what everyone else did?

David: Well it would my life would have been a lot easier if I'd just of fitted in definatly I think it was I also brought up to be honest, if your brought up to be honest you can't lie about yourself so if your finding other boys attractive and that sort of thing and say yeah I find that boy attractive and then get condemned for that then you are very aware of the hypocrisy one minute they are saying be honest and the next minute because you are been honest and they are not hearing what has been programmed or what they feel they need to hear they short circuit because they don't have a mind of their own, I do. But it can get you in to trouble. But again I think sense of humour personally whatever happens in your life if you can retain your sense of humour you are going to get through it so I do feel I've been very lucky there, that I have retained well actually the worst is actually the funnier it can appear, because in the history of the ever unfolding universe we are only here for less than a second so the things that we get our knickers in a twist about when you get it in prospective its really funny you just think no hang on. I think at the moment because of this austerity we are worried about paying the bills and the rent and all the rest of it, and again it's to keep us small and keep us contained but we are on a planet floating in space you must keep remembering this to keep perspective they want us to be pathetic and tiny and controlled but I think it's better to be more expansive minded. Its interesting houses like this are all to do with scale and all to do with height and space and it allows your mind to develop. Whereas my flat in Manchester its housing association its very small the ceiling are very low you can feel a bit cramped and Closter phobic whereas in this room it makes you feel magnificent. That's why I like this house so much the height of it the scale of it, it just makes you come alive and be flamboyant like Lady Chesterfield I think she had the right idea but as Tanya was teaching me yesterday about these paintings when we look at them obviously, we see on them on surface they have actually probably extended her neck and her limbs and all the rest of it there's a certain amount of distortion that goes on.

Tanya: yeah there's a kind of formula they wouldn't have sat for you know, they would have just sat for the face and the rest of it would have been like a mannequin type thing

David: yeah that would have been done in the studio wouldn't it

Tanya: Or it might have been just clothes on a thing and then they would have put hands and head on later.

David: I'm attracted to it and she probably owns all the land around it and everything so

Tanya: I'm attracted to those gentlemen on the end

David: What the four?

Tanya: Yeah, I'm loving the hair

David: Yeah well, they were very into their looks weren't they with the make-up and the wigs

Tanya: I think I might be looking for a wig like that David

David: It hasn't got mice in it

Tanya: In my costume?

David: Yeah it needs somebody to look after them as well.

Tanya: They are all very soft aren't they the paintings, I'm getting your soft side I think David.

David: Oh wow

Tanya: I'm kind of...

David: Ah that's nice I'm loving the colours

Tanya: Do you like that?

David: Very much so, yeah. Wow

Tanya: Do you think it's looking like you? I think so. I'll stand back a little bit and have a look

David: I can definitely see myself in there

Tanya: oh yeah

David: Absolutely

Tanya: I think it's because I stand so close, you know when you do a painting David? do you stand so close?

David: Do I?

Tanya: Yeah when you're painting?

David: Well I tend to finish the shows I do in London by doing a portrait of somebody from the audience and I would say they would be about this distance and then I would just do the face

Tanya: Do they come up on to the stage?

David: They do come up on to the stage yeah

Tanya: Do they sit in a chair like this

David: yeah not as beautiful as this though

Tanya: Not as beautiful as that

David: There might be a bar stool if they are lucky, they are not on the throne, it's a good way to finish the shows, it's a good way to meet people and talk to people because they are relaxed and they have been immortalised which is never a bad thing. It's kind of intimate really. And it's the colours you use for different people sometimes you use you see somebody and you think ah yellow or you think mm blue or orange or something.

Tanya: we were just talking about yellow weren't we?

David: yeah, it's can be a bit disappointing and a bit diluted I think. I avoid yellow, and I don't wear a lot of yellow because I always think it might bring my teeth out. They say the trick is coral, coral lipstick if you have got stained teeth. There's a tip

Tanya: A coral, like an orange pinkie colour

David: It can just tone it down

Tanya: we aren't toning it down though are we David

David: no because we are alive, and that's got to be better than been dead surely

Audience: Oh yes

David: I mean these houses are all about life aren't they, about enjoying life to the absolute maximum you could have your own billiard room, your own smoking room, your own this room your own that room amazing.

Tanya: I've put your teeth in there but I haven't put them yellow, I don't think I want to put them yellow.

David: No, they are not canary yellow

Tanya: I might make them pink

David: a live model, working from a live model, I've done that quite a lot and I was once a member of adult education college and that was very good for life drawing I think sadly they aren't as available as they were adult education colleges Tanya. But I benefited from those you know, you work during the day and then go for adult education in the evening and they did have a live model in Manchester and that was very useful.

Tanya: When did you do that?

David: I did that probably sometime in the 80's

Tanya: In the 80's

David: Yeah, before things started to be closed down or we run out of money we can't do this anymore we need it for bombs

Audience: David I've got a question for you, you just mentioned the different rooms the smoking rooms, the billiards room so if you had this house and your dreams came true what different rooms would you have?

David: that's a lovely question, well I would need one room for all my costumes so I'd have a costume room, and then make up room, I think a massage room would be nice I'm very into that, art room painting, somewhere like this would be sensational although I might have this as more of a dining room you would be welcome to bring your own sandwiches. I'd have a swimming pool that would be nice for exercise, then I'd just like people to stay, the social side. Rather than passing people like we are use like people in a shop door way be nice that we don't have to do that be nice if you can come with me and I'll sort you out you got somewhere to go, because you got all this space for one person which is fantastic but also crazy really in the world we are in at the moment. But I am in love with this building at the moment and a bit like the Vauxhall Tavern I feel some buildings do have a personality and a spirit to them and this building would rather this was happening rather be empty old and not happenings I think the buildings very pleased its brought people together again.

Audience: yeah its seen a lot of life in its 300 years and a lot of different stories from the people so there's so many stories so this is just another one

David: yeah well, I heard one of the stories about Lady Chesterfield and I thought it was very helpful of her I think she was quite enthusiastic about the sharing of her bathroom and I think for some of the young men who were involved in the RAF I think particularly had her good use about them. I suppose you make your own entertainment and in those days, there was no television I mean nowadays the television has replaced the clock in some way where she had a very full life she would be up horse riding in the morning or fox hunting whatever you know probably 15 times a day you know I don't know if you have seen her bathroom its beautiful. I like that sunken bath experience Tanya

Tanya: I need to go and have a look I can't remember it

David: it's another world its beautiful, she has style but I think she had the money through her father's business

Audience: Tanya is this a bit like your school?

Tanya: My school?

Audience: Yes, your school

Tanya: Yeah it is like my school

David: Is it really?

Tanya: Yeah

David: Oh grand

Tanya: my schools not far from here

David: really?

Tanya: Yeah

David: oh my word where about?

Tanya: it's on the outskirts of a little village called Kirby Moorside my school was called Woburn hall has anybody heard of Woburn hall? Yeah see, it's a special school for the

David: how many pupils were there

Tanya: when I was there, about 110 and it was a boarding school and I went there from the age of 4 until I was 16

David: did you really?

Tanya: I did yeah

David: wow

Tanya: in the beginning that was 1969 when I first went to school and boarding straight off and your parents were only allowed to visit you twice a term

David: Really wow

Tanya: yeah it was strange

David: How did you feel about that?

Tanya: well at the time I use to be sad I was taken away from my parents but as time went on you kind of got used to not having your parents there so therefore when they come to visit it was like oh you come to visit, you know you wanted to go off and have fun with your friends.

David: Their loss

Tanya: you didn't really know them so it was difficult like forming that parental relationship

David: did you feel you were part of a community?

Tanya: yeah well, the community of the school

David: Yes

Tanya: Because the community of the school had like care workers, boys for boys, women for girls.

David: Yeah, the usual

Tanya: girls' quarters was at one end of the school and boys was at the other end

David: Okay

Tanya: if you were little though you did get in a mixed room from maybe 4

David: too young to do that

Tanya: yeah too young to do that now, there's no boarding I don't think now

David: Okay

Tanya: and they go from the age of 8

David: well its interesting you should say that about starting at the age of 8 because what came out of these shows in Chelsea recently was what goes on in Finland nowadays and children don't start their formal education until there 7 years old prior to that they get involved with what's called creative play where they are encouraged to develop their imaginations and that sort of thing and that fascinated me and also in Finland they don't have any private education all the schools are of an equal standard it's fascinating

Tanya: yeah

David: And there they are very into vocational training within education so there if your artistic you are encouraged

Tanya: Yeah

David: another aspect of the education in Finland is that they leave education system feeling good about themselves and feeling respectful to their peer group and the people around them so it's not just about learning facts and figures it's about learning to love yourself basically. And this is revolutionary in education because in this country if you still want to live when you come out of school then it's a plus. There's a joke in there somewhere. So, that appealed to me what's going on in Finland and they say that as a country don't have a lot of resources to sell so they decided to treat the children's brains as the resource that the country is going to build on so good luck to them.

Tanya: Yeah. It had big grounds as well the school like lawns and lakes.

David: Wow beautiful

Tanya: Walled gardens

David: and was your school like a stately home

Tanya: yeah it was yeah

David: so you would have grounds

Tanya: we had grounds, we had a lake and like an island we had boats, we had big paddling pools that had big fountains like what do you call them

David: like at Chatsworth

Tanya: yeah like a with dolphins coming out and water coming out their mouths and all that

David: Gorgeous. Do you remember a programme called the champions on TV years ago

Tanya: Yeah I do

David: I used to love that, Alexandra Bastidal, yeah, I liked her, I might have got her surname wrong

Tanya: in fact we used to come and visit, I don't think we ever came here from the school to Harewood house it's got a long name Castle Howard that's it, we use to go to Castle Howard

David: Amazing

Tanya: Old houses

David: well they are amazing meant to be able to fire a laser beam I think through the locks at Castle Howard because everything's so perfect which is pretty amazing precision building and engineering

Tanya: So we all use to get on the bus on the sunshine bus it was a charity that provided the buses

David: A lot of comedians would be involved in all that stuff, yeah, I remember it's all coming back now. All the variety club of Great Britain

Tanya: So at what age David did you start to believe you were different to others

David: I want to say right from the word go

Tanya: right from when you can remember your earliest thought

David: Infants, my first day at school I got told off for getting on a rocking horse with another boy they were having a nervous breakdown about it "Get off that horse and get off him" all that and that was day 1. I think some of us can't conform basically and this is the problem, some can, but if you can't then you're constantly in trouble it's not easy, and you are on your own and I think that makes it worse in a way makes you quite defensive.

Tanya: I guess been brought up in a boarding school with all the other disabled kids it kind of gave me a sense of community and identify at a very early age, we had a camera dory which was a cultural thing we use to call each other names

David: Affectionate?

Tanya: No, in fact sometimes it could be but there was a hierarchy, if you were a walker or wheeler to begin with and then there was the hierarchy of how disabled you were, how much you could walk, talk and feed yourself

David: Hierarchy is something humans get involved with, do you think it's a natural thing?

Tanya: I don't know I think humans do like hierarchy, even people who say they don't do hierarchy's I think they do

David: I think I was aware when I was younger that your encouraged is this person better than me or is this person worse than me rather than see them as another human being your supposed to see them as worse or better than you it's quite a neurotic aspect to meeting somebody, it's interesting. I just don't know why we can't accept each other as live entities without having to justify ourselves to each other, were here aren't we, we might as well be pleasant to each other and accept things who are we to judge, I'm terrified to judge anybody

Tanya: now then it's coming on what do think everyone?

David: Oh yeah, I can see myself now

Tanya: how's it looking people is it good? Yeah?

David: I think this is the area that's developed as the years have gone by, tell-tale you know, and that's probably why it's another good reason to wear cosmetics, going above my natural lip line if I was to judge anybody I would say sort of person who's not afraid to go above their natural lip line, because I think that can be quite revealing. But I sometimes wondered if I started to look like a horse

Tanya: A horse?

David: I'm going a bit horsey here, I'm changing into a horse

Tanya: you will have to start galloping

David: well maybe a canter, building up to a gallop

Tanya: and who's going to ride you David

David: start forming a queue, well I wouldn't mind, I've got an open-door policy. Fantastic I can't believe you have done that

Tanya: Neither can I

David: But you must be used to my face as well as you've seen me

Tanya: I have seen you and I have done a portrait of you on the tiles I can't remember what that character was called

David: not the camp crusader the camp something or other, camp commander

Tanya: camp commander was that it? I don't know we will have to ask Harry, had he tweeted anything? Come on he's still asleep, David, he's not answered

David: Gary?

Tanya: Yeah

David: he might have been out last night, he lives in Scotland he will have been on the whiskey, he will have been sampling it to make sure they are keeping up with the standards

Tanya: yeah, I can't remember what our original conversation was now

Audience: getting old

David: getting old exactly, and I think that's it when we get older we realise what's important and what's not and again it can make your life, what I was worried about in my 20s and 30s as you sort of go into your 50s you think no I can't be bothered with that

Tanya: I think that's a good start anyway David

David: I love what you have done

Tanya: will get you doing some drawing afterwards

David: I'd love that

Tanya: Yeah

David: I was very into the pad, the tablet

Tanya: we will do some more of that

David: it's a great way to draw and saves on paper

Tanya: I'm thinking we might have prawn cocktail

David: Prawn Cocktail, I'll be changing into my prawn cocktail quite soon wont I, just hope I'm warm enough

Tanya: we have been looking at the paintings to come up with the outfit haven't we

David: Yes, well it is a tribute to Lady Chesterfield isn't it, she's the reigning presence

Tanya: She's the reigning presence, I think we need to know more about these two men next to her

David: Yeah, well Lisa likes that painting don't you

Tanya: I think they are brothers aren't they

David: I'll have a look at that as I'm leaving

Tanya: we are going to have a break now David, we are going to have a break folks.

- BREAK -

Person – Welcome back to Portraits Untold

Tanya: We are going to come back we are ready, this way my darling, here we come, it's like I'm getting married again, so here we are

David: Here we are

Tanya: Here we are darling we have transformed into beauties

David: well its lovely to be here, hello

Tanya: It's like we are here all over again David

David: It is, transformed

Tanya: We've transformed

David: What I've done in the interim I've put, I've put Tanya a light day make- up, obviously, I can go heavier in the evening and put some glitter on there and diamante but for day time obviously a nice subtle day time look so that one can be taken seriously during day light hours, very important. My own ensemble is inspired by what Lady Chesterfield wore in this magnificent portrait and I wanted to wear something a tribute to lady chesterfield so that's why I have got these robes on which comes courtesy of who I'm very lucky to know and get costumes and I think this is for spring and summer next year, you saw it here first. As far as I'm concerned, the national trust isn't about the past from my perspective and also the future we can't be too nostalgic we have to go forward and I'm convinced this room would

have had very interesting conversations over the 300 years of been here and it would defiantly be a space where new ideas would be expressed and exchanged and it's great that its role is been honoured today that's what I feel. Let's just have a lovely up lifting time

Tanya: I feel like we have brought all this colour into

David: we have

Tanya: Blue

David: Yes magnificent painting

Tanya: Lady Chesterfield with the pink

David: yeah, the long neck and a very waist and I think that's what they did with the portraits they are very flattering

Tanya: They are very flattering and I feel like we flattered ourselves.

David: Oh yes definitely, well this is a light day make up and all I'm doing is emphasising, just given myself a fuller lip and bigger eye so people at the back can see

Tanya: we shouldn't be afraid to have a more open lip, I'd like to see more ladies with an open lip

David: never be afraid to go over your own natural lip line

Tanya: I'd like to see some gentlemen with some lipstick on

David: Make up is for everybody, we are all human beings. It's all technology

Tanya: Technology is going on, we are just getting it wired up so we can do some iPad drawing

David: Oh fantastic

Tanya: have we got some drawers in the room

David: yes, we have, fantastic

Tanya: did you want to have it on your knee again David

David: I think this will be quite nice

Tanya: You're going to draw me while I draw you this time

David: Interesting

- SET UP IPAD -

David: You have got some beautiful colours there Tanya

Tanya: I know, I have

David: Acrylics

Tanya: I think I liked put some more orange on the table

David: when I can see more of your face that's when I'm going to start

Tanya: A bit more red, and a bit more pink

David: Have you got your hookers green

Tanya: I shall get my hookers green

David: Because the bit of eye shadow I've given you was inspired by hooker's green

Tanya: Of course I get that, let me just see where's my hookers green, there it is, I might go for a slightly larger brush this time David

David: Interesting

Tanya: Fresh water

David: I can get more of your face on

Tanya: Are we too close to each other?

David: No we are alright

Tanya: You see I'm starting with that mouth again, it's that open lip David

David: Yeah, I have given you quite a full generous mouth, because that tight-lipped look doesn't suit you

Tanya: No

David: It's not your nature. If anyone has any questions I am available and I'm sure Tanya is

Tanya: Yeah, we can answer questions as we going

David: Yeah

Tanya: That's quite interesting David because your make up is like paint

David: Yeah defiantly well I do regard my face as a canvas and just slap it on very much in the style of expressionism so like the German expression painters they inspire my attitude towards cosmetics. Definitely.

Audience: David I've got a question if that's okay, you've almost answered it actually I was going to ask what inspires your look in terms of make-up style do you change it every time you perform or

David: Yeah I think it does I'm lucky in London because my friend Tom Shaw does my make up very often when I'm doing shows in London but I do like to do it myself as well and I think my inspirations are like German expressionism painting but also say Hollywood in the 1940's they tended to go for the big eyes and fuller lip and sunken cheek bones and all that sort of thing I think like Joan Crawford and Betty Davies more that end you know what I mean? I'm hoping I don't look too much like whatever happened to baby jane. I don't mind.

To me it's all art and expression, put a shirt on or a t-shirt on and a bit of make-up, I am from a school says the more you put on the more beautiful you will be so 2 kilos of makeup and you're going to be absolutely stunning aren't you. I think with the eye make-up Tanya is coming across as a bit of a villain batman or something like that.

Tanya: I am, got it in their now

David: This is new to me working with this pad and I must say I'm defiantly going to get one because I enjoy drawing not only does it save on paper but you can save all the sketches you have done and it just seems a very practical way so thank you for introducing it to me

Tanya: Its very fluid isn't it

David: it is yeah

Tanya: the way you would have like a liquid brush

David: and you have got the light touch, like that just through the weight that you use

Audience: David I've got another question

David: oh yes hi

Audience: do you feel different in yourself?

David: yes

Audience: Obviously Act 1 Act 2 you have come in transformed

David: I think personally I do see it as a mask and dressing up as an escape so say whatever has gone on in your life personally for me if I've got a show to do and I put my make up on and I've put a costume on and I've put my wig on by the time I've done that I do feel transformed it's like armour plating in a way it permits me a freedom I wouldn't feel normally, in the first place really because I was very shy and I thought doing it this way I can become somebody else and more able to be articulate and talk but I think I was very reserved within myself so I think this has brought me out of myself and a lot of my friends who dress up they similarly feel quite reserved a bit shy, just transforming yourself and treating your face like a canvas and having fun really is a very liberating thing to do it's a nice change. I have all the time in the world for jeans and t-shirts because its comfortable but I think variety is the spice of life. DO you enjoy dressing up or putting make up on at all?

Audience: I don't really do much of it but that's my choice I choose not to

David: Absolutely yeah, freedom that's what it's all about

Audience: although I might come to work on Monday with some inspiration so

David: Well that's lovely if you ever wanted me to give you a light day make up

Audience: It's a deal

David: Yeah, I'd love to

Tanya: I bet all these guys in the paintings have got make up on you know, the gentlemen at the end they will want they

David: Yeah its quite ironic really that we live in times that we do when only a few hundred years ago, gentlemen wouldn't be seen dead without cosmetics and a wig on, so it is interesting. And also, the beautiful clothes that they use to wear, like the intercut laces, a lot of thought went into the appearance. So, they weren't always different to you, cloths that's quite a recent development

Audience: What do you think changed then you've looked at men wearing make-up in these paintings what do you think has changed for this to stop but now it's sort of coming back into fashion.

David: I think different factors, I would imagine one of the reasons that men use to wear make-up they might have had a skin compliment that sort of thing so maybe healthier diet and that sort of thing didn't keep wearing the cosmetics as a feature but then also I think the new that we had to take differences between genders to extremes I think it got more and more neurotic that one gender had to say look how different I am to you, that's extreme and I think it went extreme. I think what's happening now is we are coming back together again and there is a middle ground. You don't have to be one thing or another or you couldn't be like me I couldn't possibly understand you this garbage, we are all going to die, I'm trying to keep it up obviously my philosophy is we are only here for less than a second in terms of the history of the universe so just make the most of it and try to be happy if you can, and it's not easy we are living in times of hostility which I think is also man made I think its trickery. Beautiful I love what you can do on the lace.

Tanya: Do you like that?

David: yeah, it's beautiful. Haven't you got lovely hazel eyes Tanya?

Tanya: Hazel?

David: yeah wouldn't you say?

Tanya: Yeah

David: so I will try to find the right colour. An the good thing about these, are they called tablets Tanya?

Tanya: Yeah, iPad

David: is that you can just store all your colours on to them and just have ready access to them, I am defiantly going to treat myself to one of these

Tanya: You have got your own pallet on here haven't you David

David: Yeah

Tanya: So David has his own pallet which is here these are his colours there, you've picked all these colours

David: Yeah, I'm very into the pinks

Tanya: Oh no that's Tanya's pallet

David: I haven't got my glasses on

Tanya: That's your pallet there

David: Fantastic

Tanya: So your skin colour has now changed David from that orange colour to a paler pasty white

Audience: David can I ask a question

David: yes

Audience: since joining the room I don't know if anyone has asked this but you have talked about make-up makes you feel different and allows you to be different, has anybody asked about your clothes and how I've noticed your wearing something that looks lovely and soft and silky

David: This came from my friend Rick Owens who is a fashion designer and he kindly let me have quite a lot of clothes recently and similarly it's a nice change, as I say I'm quite happy in jeans and a t-shirt but why restrict yourself to just that all the time I think as a exhibitionistic quality to it, it's like Chris said, it's like a drug you need to take bigger and bigger doses but I feel for an afternoon in Yorkshire I feel appropriately attired

Audience: you look gorgeous

David: Thank you

Tanya: Oh yes liking that, coming together. As we are getting older David, my lips are disappearing, don't you think, they kind of shrink up don't they

David: Yeah

Tanya: I'm going for this look more I think

David: yeah, I definitely had fuller lips then what I have now

Tanya: Yeah

David: I think just discreetly you know

Tanya: It's just not too much

David: Wouldn't want to look Clown-ish

Tanya: No

David: No, although I am from Blackpool so I had that's to some of best clowns in world you know, I was very lucky to see Charlie Coroly when I was a child

Tanya: oh yeah

David: Defiantly a bigger inspiration on me as a person I loved him

Tanya: so in the paintings that we see in the national trust and in here so we see any of ourselves in there

David: That's a lovely question, well I defiantly see myself in Lady Chesterfield, but that's probably just wishful thinking, I think we all have a tendency to project don't we from our minds on to other peoples have to watch that. But yeah iv defiantly got a kinship with lady chesterfield I think because she enjoyed life and if you're going to live in a house like this then why not. And I would imagine this room would be full of sophisticated friends of hers from London, discussing new ideas in fashion in literature in how people life I would imagine she had a very open mind

Tanya: do you think?

David: Yeah, I would imagine she's a very sophisticated lady

Tanya: we look for ourselves in portraits, in paintings, in artwork so we have cultural reference so I'm just trying to think of our cultural reference in historical portraiture and in paintings.

David: well I wouldn't know what it was like to be a member of the aristocracy at that time

Tanya: No

David: But I think the way she portrays herself I feel a connection there

Audience: David as you're from Blackpool how do you feel about groups such as the funny girls and performance pieces

David: Yes, I do I've been to funny girls a few times actually and I think the amount of rehearsal they must do is incredible, the fact that I think they spend on average a million pounds a year just on the costumes is amazing, so to me its art and the fact that it's in Blackpool I think people might be a bit snobby about it, I think that's unfortunate because I think funny girls is an amazing show. And how everyone can work together, I love it I think it's very contemporary and I hope it doesn't end, I really hope it continues. Have you been?

Audience: Yeah, I've been about 3 times now, I loved it

David: Yeah id defiantly go again, there needs to be more of that

Audience: we've come from Birmingham today there's plenty of gay bars but there's nothing like that, anyone can go doesn't matter on race age gender

David: It's a complete melting pot it brings everyone together, it's very very special and I believe betty legs diamond is back now, I think she's come back

Audience: she is, she's come back for this season I think, I think it's nice seeing so many people in one room you don't really go to many places like that

David: and different ages so you have got very young people, my mum likes going she is heading towards 90 and she goes with her friends, I think anybody who has been to see

funny girls in Blackpool is first wow id wish I'd seen this before and you just plan your next visit. Fabulous. I'm now going to do the colour on your cheeks

Tanya: Are you?

David: Yeah

Tanya: I'm going to ask the audience is there anyone who has done any drawings in the audience. Yeah cool.

Audience: I've done a couple of drawings but I've also got a question for David. While we are on the subject of entertainment do you remember doing a song with Boy George

David: I do yeah spoiling it for others

Audience: Can you tell us a bit about that

David: Well Boy George kindly approached me and said do you want to do a song with me? It was an amazing experience he took me into a recording studio obviously as a very experienced musician sound recordist he just took charge of it completely. Performed it in Leicester Square for Gay Pride and that was an amazing experience

Audience: It looks fantastic on YouTube

David: he was lovely to me and obviously, he knows the business very well and I thought that very patient and kind and just been around him and watching someone at that level and how they work it's just incredible and in the recording studio no time to waste knew exactly what he wanted a how to do it

Audience: I thought the lyrics were excellent

David: we came up with the lyrics together, so that was democratic

Audience: Brilliant

David: it was a good experience thank you

Tanya: I'm just going to do a few snaps while your painting me David

David: it's all multimedia today. Now I've noticed I've done your lips the same colour as I've done your cheeks so I'm going to try and sort that out

Tanya: What about the jewellery that your wearing David? What's that?

David: Jewellery that's a ring by Skoroski and that was because I went to Liverpool and say this ring on a lady's hand and said oh I love your ring and she just took it off and gave it to me, I was a bit embarrassed actually I didn't expect her to do that but I do treasure it. And the others I just keep my eyes open when I go around the local market in Manchester its surprising what you can find in the jewellery counters it's amazing when you can find, you get what you pay for mind they don't last long

Tanya: No

David: These types of rings. This again was a gift I like to think that it is all diamonds obviously

Tanya: Yeah

David: But somebody who use to live in the theatre gave it to me as they no longer worked in the theatre so had no use for it I get a lot of stuff like that. The pearls aren't real they are from Primark and it was defiantly the best 75p I ever spent and its just little things like this that can give you a pick me up.

Tanya: I don't want to put too much in there David

David: Shall I leave it there

Tanya: we could always come back to it

David: yeah, I'm happy with that. That's another reason why I like these iPad as you can store the images. I think I've been a bit frightened of technology you've broken that barrier

Tanya: I've broken that barrier have I that's cool

David: yeah, I love doing this. Can we store that one? Are we going to start again?

Tanya: No I'm going to take over. What I'm going to do now David is I'm going to paint Prawn Cocktail.

David: Yeah exactly, I call this look prawn cocktail, earlier on I had my jeans on and a t-shirt I call that ready salted when I've made a bit of an effort I call that prawn cocktail and that's what we are doing at the moment

Tanya: I'm going to put your prawn cocktail on top of your ready salted

David: Fantastic, get all the flavours

Other – In the break we managed to capture some lovely footage of David and Tanya's transformation and becoming the prawn cocktail aspect if you follow us on twitter and also go to our website that footage will be available for you to see later on maybe tomorrow by time its uploading they will also be some photos

David: I love that colour

Tanya: Yeah

David: Is that using sort of a paint effect

Tanya: Yeah this is a paint effect. I'm going to go back to ink and get a red line round there.

David: Fantastic, it's very expressionistic

Tanya: It is isn't it

David: it's nice to see people getting involved. Oh, I love that, that's amazing

Tanya: That is good isn't it David

David: Is it possible for everyone else to have a look because it's just so lovely

Audience: It's just my interpretation of what I saw, I've added some colour

David: your very good your very talented

Audience: I don't class myself as talented art is what other people see it as good as what other people think it is

David: Absolutely its from you, if we keep judging and policing each other we aren't going to do anything

Audience: well we live in a very judgemental society then don't we

David: yeah total judgement, we don't want that

Audience: No we don't

David: Your artwork and your response to what I'm saying I think it's absolutely amazing and I hope you do more drawing

Audience: Thank you

David: We know what's gone on in past but its what's going on in the future now obviously, I'm never going to paint that and I don't necessarily want to because that was of its time. I'm very into where you're coming from with your artwork now

Audience: Thank you

David: Its sensational, it really is, have you seen that Tanya?

Tanya: That's great isn't it, I'm loving the hair on there. I'm going to do the hair now after that

David: See this is how art inspires

Audience: Thank you

David: Please do more you're a wonderful artist. We all are just got to give it a go, I think the most difficult mark you make is the first one then the rest you can just... you got nothing to lose. I think the pads help with what you can do. Tanya, are you using the paint effect now?

Tanya: yeah

David -It's fantastic and that's a lovely colour what you have brought out in a way, I'm liking how the picture is evolving

Tanya: do you like that

David: taking on an identity of its own

Other – We've got a question for David on about been an artist and if you have any formal art training yourself

David: I got an art a-level grade E when I was working at BHS and then later in life when I was sort of in my mid 20's I did go to the Manchester Polytechnic for 2 years and I was studying a degree in print making and I did enjoy that there was a lot of life making involved in that, which I found very useful. But life got in the way and I didn't finish my degree I got very involved in student politics and that seemed to take up all my time, but I loved it and I've kept going ever since. In a way because I live on my own I sometimes when I'm doing my paintings I'm painting my own company so you can paint the sort of people you would like to meet or be your friends that sort of thing.

Other – I think yesterday David we had students in yesterday from York who were lucky enough to be here with you and Tanya and you were talking about the collage in your work I wondered if you wanted to say a few words to today's audience about that.

David: yeah well collage appeals to me because I am very attracted to printed matter a magazine, newspaper, flyer for a nightclub or a restaurant or whatever and to me it's all evidence of life in that printed matter might be a bus ticket that tells a story it's a journey so I enjoy sticking those to the collages and painting over the top of them it can mean you can end up with a flat that looks like a hoarders paradise because everything I see I think oh that will look nice in a collage so you end up with tons of stuff so occasionally I have to have a big clear out because it can be anything could even be a humus container or wrapper or stuffed vine leaf's where I think oh that will be good I'll stick that in a collage later on. Because it contains information as well as the colours that are involved and also historical they will tell you where, typographically what typos are currently fashionable so all printed matter contains history

Other – Maybe we could get some National Trust wrapping from the café or restaurant here

David: Yes id love that. Are people still using the acorn as a motif. Yeah could put a few acorns in there. Everything okay at the back?

Tanya: I'm just trying to find the right paint David, I was using something that was pretending to be digital paint, I don't think it was working because you couldn't see it

David: Can you when you're using a paint effect change the density of the colour?

Tanya: Yeah

David: So have quite a dilute and a...

Tanya: I found this, what's this, this is a brush pen so if I'm using this, the harder I press the more dense the black is coming out

David: Oh wow yeah that's quite dark isn't it

Tanya: Yeah I'm going to go pink

David: It's got a lovely ease of movement hasn't it

Tanya: Yeah, that's a better colour isn't it then it was before

David: I love it

Tanya: I like it over the paint

David: I do its very, it reminds me of like the clown make-up in a way I love it

Other – David, if you had one portrait of yourself on a wall at home and you could only have one would you choose to have yourself like this or how you were this morning? You can only have one

David: well id be tempted to say half and half really

Other – That's cheating

David: it is cheating, well probably ready salted because looking Tanya working it's conceivable that I could have maybe the ready salted painting and then I could project more modern projections on to it and make it work in that way then it's not completely static forever and I have the best of both worlds

Other – That's still cheating

David: Well I've tried to answer it to the best of my abilities. But I definitely need one of these, I really do. I can see myself so clearly. Wow I love it.

Tanya: do you like that

David: That's lovely I love it. It lends itself to expressionism doesn't

Tanya: That's a different one

David: I just love all the colours, lovely and bright

Tanya: Have I got any of the public drawings on my system anybody? Let me know. Chris?

Chris – I'm going to put some on now

Tanya: He's going to put some of the drawings that the public have been doing so we will project them on

David: I met a lady in the car park earlier on this morning and was just lovely work

Tanya: That's a drawing that we did yesterday. I like that there, do you like that?

David: I do yeah very much

Tanya: I might have to put that in

David: Its bold

Tanya: The internet's been a bit slow David so we are going to look at people's drawings in the next session

David: there's a lot going on

Tanya: I might draw it on with pencil actually it looks like it needs to be drawn fast

David: Yeah, well that's it you can be very energetic with those tablets

Tanya: Actually David have you got that box of marker pens there

David: I have yeah

Tanya: Lets have a jumbo black marker pen, would you like one?

David: and what would I draw on?

Tanya: you can help me fill this in here

David: oh yes definitely, its quite difficult in high heels but I'm going to try

Tanya: Lets just go over this character here this dark one, if you do this bit down here. Follow the lines really quickly. Because sometimes when I draw with a pen I hold it differently, do you do that?

David: Yes defiantly

Tanya: So you kind of choose which lines are going on and which aren't going on it so it's not truly tracing is it

David: No its expressionistic I love it. It's all part of it evolving that's what I like. I love that its bringing us together as artists.

Tanya: I like it. I like it with that pencil line in, shall we add that is as well. It gives it more of a 3D look

David: Which area should I concentrate on and are we just shading

Tanya: no go over the line again, I would say scribble but we decided yesterday we didn't want scribbling, we didn't believe in the word scribble.

David: No

Tanya: I can't remember what we said it was, because we did that drawing with that very young person, who was possibly less than a couple years' old

David: I love it, what a great idea Tanya

Tanya: so you ever invite people to come up?

David: into my flat?

Tanya: no to do drawings

David: No I've never thought of this but I think I will defiantly yeah, particularly someone who, I mean this is helping with my confidence drawing, but I think as a way of building confidence that would be a great thing to do

Tanya: Yeah

David: So I've learnt a lot working with Tanya, I didn't know that this technology existed before I met Tanya and I think working in collaboration can only be a good thing, we can spend a lot of time on our own

Tanya: yeah, we can yeah

David: when it's a mutual, when it's an interest you have both got it's a good thing to do

Tanya: can we turn off the projector

Other – On the drawing front I just want to add into that Portraits Untold have been working with the big draw the big campaign for drawing and in October is the month of drawing so there's lots of activity going on all over the country that is encouraging as many people to get involved in drawing as possible so a great start for that is been here and taking part. There's lots of different opportunities across the country. Tanya's been doing a lot of work with the big draw and the run up to today running the workshop and taking part.

Tanya: My husband keeps calling me ambassador spock

David: Fantastic

Audience: You got the make up for it

Tanya: Is he here? Yeah, he's here

David: I think Tanya looks like batman or is it from superman

Tanya: or a cat

Audience: Cat woman

David: with a bit of ballerina

Tanya: Now I just want to put a little bit of something

David: I mean I am tempted to invite people into my flat Tanya but worried they would get knocked over by my piles of newspapers and stuff, magazines and collage stuff. But I do need to have a big clear out really again, it's so easily done

Other – has anyone got a burning question we only have time for one more in this section? No, they are all just looking at you David as you look so amazing. We got one question.

Audience: It's another one for you David I'm ever so sorry, you retired the divine David is there any plans in the future to bring divine David back?

David: Not really, I feel how I work now my stage persona isn't a million miles away from the divine David really so I don't think I can go back to it, it was of its time, but I'd like to think I'm a continuation of it

Audience: so like the doctor who moving forward

David: there were aspects to that life that were a bit mad really

Audience: yeah its shown in video

David: yeah there you go, you can't live like that for long. I know I've got a light day make-up today but believe it or not I'm hurtling well I'm in my 50's now so I'm hurtling towards 60 now I couldn't live how divine David lives now, sadly

Audience: I think you're only as young as you feel

David: Yeah true

Audience: So remain 21

David: Absolutely I think your right. Because again people can say are you acting age appropriately, well usually they are the most boring people on earth who say things like that who won't do anything because they are terrified of stepping out the norm so you are right. I don't believe in age appropriate I believe in what's for filling what makes you happier, because you will be then more inclined to make others around you happier as well, I think it has a knock-on effect

Audience: Laughter is the best medicine

David: yeah

Tanya: that's great anything else

- BREAK -

David: I don't want it to end, I want to live here

Tanya: we are moving in aren't we David

David: I think there's enough room for all of us

Tanya: Tea and sandwiches David, the national trust is very good at sandwiches aren't David

David: They are yeah

Tanya: we just had lovely parkin cake downstairs

David: It was moist and nutritional, it was gorgeous. But I feel that the building is happy that we are here and this is happening because it is a live event we have all come together and its very much we are living in the now and going into the future, that's what I feel, its just beautiful to be here I just think it's so gorgeous. It does lend itself to using your imagination and feeling free it's just a beautiful environment we should all live like this forever

Tanya: He's online now David, Gary said your character was called the special detachments

David: Thanks for that

Tanya: He's caught up with us now, Hello Gary If you're out there

David: Hello Gary. I thought it was the camp commander

Tanya: we are a match made in heaven says Gary

David: has Gary seen Tanya's light day make up, if anyone would like me to give them a light day make up then please feel free, it's about bringing the eyes out

Tanya: we are importing images now David

David: Okay well these are wonderful machines that you have introduced me to Tanya and I can't thank you enough. I didn't understand that you could do so much with them. It's nice to have a machine where you are creating your own entertainment as appose to just watching something else

Tanya: so we are going to put someone else's drawing in there David, just going to draw...

David: and will you be able to make that stay

Tanya: yeah

David: Gorgeous

Tanya: and I'm just going to draw it in

David: this continues the collaborative idea even more doesn't it

Tanya: it does yeah. I'm going to get a thinner brush.

David: there has been some amazing works done throughout the day

Tanya: as the internet is really slow can we have a couple of the pad's that have been moving around the room? We could plug those into our gadget. Underneath your chair, you got those acetate drawings things haven't you, would you like to do a drawing of me full dress and day make up all in one. Have we any drawings of me in my beautiful gown, have we had any of you in your beautiful gown.

David: I don't want to embarrass Tanya but Tanya won quite a prestigious award wearing this beautiful frock, and you looked sensational on all of the photographs

Tanya: I did I won a visual arts award from the diversity awards it was, was it? I can't remember.

David: It was

Tanya: Was it I can't remember now it might not have been...

David: you have won a lot of awards

Tanya: good hair on this one I like the eyes on the bottom of here. See some people, that's an overlay drawing, I quite like that. Have you got that iPad there? Shall we have a look David, which one shall we have?

David: Well I think they are both amazing, I'm struck by the face

Tanya: The blue one, shall we have the blue one?

David: go on then they are both beautiful

Tanya: Gosh, we have got a very full room David we might need to capture this as well. This is a stunning one isn't it

David: it's amazing isn't it, the colours are just so sensational, yeah its really well done that

Tanya: I'm just putting light bits of make up on now

David: day make up

Tanya: light day make up

David: it's a make-up you can just throw on to just pop to the corner shop to get a pint of milk

Tanya: oh its gone off... I'll have to be quicker, is it the amount of time to put the make up on is that crucial?

David: It's the time to take off rather than put on I would say I think to be truly experimental with make up its best to put it on without a mirror and then the results can take you by surprise, I think a spirit of fun more than anything else and to treat make up as the German expressionists did with paint, just slap it on the more the merrier.

Tanya: he wants to know you had a hand?

David: was that from Gary? Yes, more than likely it was a shared...

Tanya: it was a shared experience and you will be able to watch the video online at a later date Gary

David: it's a make-up masterclass

Tanya: it's a make-up masterclass and it's a performance waiting for you to...

David: have a go yourself it might be a wet afternoon you got nothing to do rather than watch the television, experiment.

Tanya: Yeah exactly

David: Can't go wrong

Tanya: okay we will get rid of that one then

David: Maybe Gary would like me to do a similar make up for himself, the offers there

Tanya: wow that looks like a groovy one doesn't it

David: Wow

Tanya: look at that one down there

David: again the colours are just sensational

Tanya: Yeah I like that

David: Love it

Tanya: I haven't got those colours on here, have to put a few extra colours out for that one. We got the yellow.

David: I have to send Rick a copy of that because he will love it

Tanya: bit of fluorescent yellow, how's it going David? Where's that other one?

David: You did move but I think I caught your life, and it is full body

Tanya: Leave that one, we will have a look at that one in a minute

David: I'll leave that there

Tanya: I like the contemporary feel to this one

David: Lightness, magnificent, really lovely the colours again

Tanya: This person captured the colours that you were wearing

David: very much so, I think it's amazing

Tanya: In fact this drawing reminds me of our lady up there

David: Yeah Lady Chesterfield herself

Tanya: Yeah this is a Lady Chesterfield one I feel

David: well my look today is a homage to Lady Chesterfield

Tanya: Yeah

David: Because I felt she might wear this herself in her present day

Tanya: I think she would, she's gone into darkness now David

David: Yeah it's quite dark isn't it

Tanya: Yeah, oh I'm liking that now

David: yeah it looks good, love it. Well I've done two of you, I've done one full length

Tanya: If you do this one because you sat there

David: it would be amazing if you have like a photo canvas where they can just stay there

Tanya: yeah, I'll give you this pencil

David: Okay do you want me to start going over this artwork

Tanya: yeah I'll come and join you

David: Fantastic

Tanya: this one is very carefully drawn isn't it

David: it is yeah amazing really is I'm just concentrating on the hair at the moment

Tanya: I need some more pencil, you could do screen printing so that they are on there

David: yeah so, it's on there instantly so it's on and you would decide that you want it

Tanya: oh and it would just like say?

David: so be like printing your own...

Tanya: I'm just there's some sort of printer technique that would allow you to do that

David: yeah, I'll be all for it

Other – we've got a question that's come in via social media for you, I'll just hand you over

Audience: this questions for David as a quantum crisp fan you take on his mentor as the last stately home owner in England

David: stately home owner it's a lovely idea I'm flattered but don't think I'm the last one I think every generation will produce more yeah. Wow its interesting isn't it going over someone else's work

Tanya: Yeah, it's like should you be doing it, do you know what I mean?

David: Yeah

Tanya: You know that's somebody else's drawing

David: But when you do it you can understand the work that's gone in

Tanya: you really wouldn't, the practise really is not to draw someone else's drawing

David: yeah but collaborative aspects its required

Tanya: Yeah

Other – I think we've got another question coming in from the room actually

Audience: I'm looking at your shoes actually and thinking they are wonderful where did you get them from? And what's that on the heel

David: Oh thank you yeah what's on the heel is these are specially made stiletto heel protectors to protect the floor

Audience: was it just for when you are in this house?

David: Yeah just for when I'm in this house they were supplied by this house

Audience: so you wouldn't wear them at home

David: no obviously, I wouldn't wear them at home they are just to protect the floor

Audience: so I think Tanya somehow ought to capture that in her picture, there needs to be a little somewhere where you keep the. What shape are they?

David: They are daisy shape

Audience: can you get a daisy shape in there in honour of wearing your national trust protector heels

David: Absolutely yeah, and you asked where I got them from

Audience: Yeah

David: I got them from online but I don't advise that because sometimes they can come back a different size to what you ordered

Audience: And did these come in the right size?

David: these are a little bit big for me, what I've had to do is pack the front with bits of paper

Audience: so you're like Cinderella

David: very much so

Audience: will you go to the ball tonight

David: well I'm doing my best yeah, as Mandy suggested I should really put cotton wool in the front that would be a bit more comfortable

Tanya: There we are David, we have a stiletto shoe there, how's that? With the daisy things

David: love it

Tanya: There we have it

David: A feature of today

Tanya: okay is that good?

David: we are getting there

Tanya: Have we finished that one

David: I'd say nearly

Tanya: nearly

David: yeah if you want to just switch it off so we can see, I mean it's not going to be photographic is it from the previous one

Tanya: No

David: But maybe I could do a bit more shading

Tanya: I like it as it is, as we were talking about it been finished. They are like little postage stamps, aren't they?

David: yeah, they are

Tanya: little ones

David: I just love the way this has stayed

Tanya: Yeah, you could have loads of little ones like that couldn't you

David: Definitely

Tanya: let's have a look

David: eyes there, amazing

Tanya: shall we have that one

David: love it

Tanya: there's a good one there David with the pink background David

David: that's amazing

Tanya: this is from Ireland isn't it this is Jane

David: that's amazing when was that done? This afternoon?

Tanya: Is she a tweeter? Yeah, she tweeted it she's a lady from Ireland

David: the middle of nowhere

Tanya: yeah, the middle of nowhere

David: Incredible, amazing artist

Tanya: I want to go to nowhere in the middle of Ireland

David: I do I love Ireland

Tanya: Lets have a look shall I see if I can get that one in

David: I'd like to visit all the stone circles and things in Ireland you know the standing stones I'd like to see those; the colours are sensational

Tanya: The colours are great aren't they

David: Yeah, and how she's done the hair I like that, that's interesting

Tanya: She's got a little bit of... oh look at that David

David: Its complimentary to your work Tanya, similar eyes

Tanya: where shall we put that one

David: anywhere it's going to jump out. Nice at an angle

Tanya: Yeah, there?

David: yeah

Tanya: How shall we do that one?

David: Interesting, good question, I mean I could try with a felt tip perhaps

Tanya: yeah do you want to use felt tip

David: if you have one that's a bit thinner then what I was using before

Tanya: I think we won't put the pink background in because it's too blocky

David: yeah, we will just concentrate on the face

Tanya: I'm going to put the yellow in I like that yellow

David: yeah, I'll do the lines

Tanya: got you on your hand and knees David

David: thanks for that was going to happen sooner or later

Tanya: was going to happen

David: and what's this lady called who does this?

Tanya: this is Jane...Jane McCormack

David: Give her my love

Tanya: yeah, she's an artist in Ireland and she works from home

David: can't believe she's done that just this afternoon

Tanya: because she can't get out

David: aww can she not

Tanya: No, because of her energy levels

David: Okay

Tanya: so she found working on portraits untold as a... its rejuvenated her life drawing

David: I like how she's done the white lines over the dark that's a really nice thing to do

Tanya: yeah. Going to put those blue bits in. We want some of those lines in there, don't we? Do you want to go over that?

David: These lines yeah defiantly what colour?

Tanya: with a pen

David: Yeah, that's a nice pen the brown one

Tanya: Is it working? I think it's because that's wet paint you see

David: Yellow, I'll try yellow, actually I think that's more like a white might have to go over that again

Tanya: I think maybe do it with a pencil

David: yeah okay

Tanya: because it's not showing is it

David: no its not

Tanya: Try that, use that. Yeah that's it

Other – We think all this artistic expressionism is catching from David and Tanya we've got some people outside and their dancing on the lawn

David: are they really

Other – It's amazing

David: Lets have a look

Other – Its happening all over today

David: Fabulous I'm all for it

Other – you've inspired them

David: yeah

Tanya: now let's have a look at...

David: Love it

Tanya: Oh I like that, I do like them as miniatures as well

David: In colour as well, then we have got this space here as well

Tanya: Yeah, what was I going to do now iv forgotten, oh yeah, your astatine David

David: Yes

Tanya: Lets have a look at that

David: Well I did a couple I did a close up of your face

Tanya: I think this one, let me have a close up look at that one. Oh, look at that projected on there

David: and I suppose you could turn it round as well if you wanted maybe. Because that's how I was seeing you from this angle

Tanya: Yeah id like sort of quite big on there, I'll save that and put that in on a later date

David: Fantastic. And that was just a quick one I did of your face with the light day make up on. Il put these others here

Tanya: Yeah

David: Totally up to you I'll put those with the others

Tanya: Have you done of the audience

David: I haven't no

Tanya: You haven't

David: I could try

Tanya: I'm going to do an iPad one

David: Okay let's see what we come up with

Tanya: such a lot of people in here

Other – we just had a photo come in here it's of David as the special detachments

Tanya: Oh he sent a picture of the special detachments

Other – shall I bring it over

Tanya: Yes, there we are this is the portrait I did of you David a very long time ago

David: Memories, can we get that one file,

Tanya: yeah, we can save that, we get that a put it on the thing. That's David mark 1 and that's David Mark 101. Maybe we ought to be drawing if we can still see David you know the paintings at the end there. Can you just about? You know the paintings at the end of the wall?

David: Oh those yeah, they are very faint

Tanya: You can't see them we should have done that earlier shouldn't we

Other – we've got a question from the audience

Audience: Hi there hope you well, you look fantastic both of you

Tanya: Thank you

Audience: I like to do karaoke quite a lot, so I just wondered what would be your chosen karaoke number

David: Well I'm spoilt for choice, I love Karaoke and I think everyone should give it go at least once, I'm very drawn to hello dolly the theme music, which is a lovely song, I also like Carly Simon coming around again that's a favourite and also lulu to sir with love yeah. Do you have a karaoke favourite?

Audience: Yeah lulu is pretty much the opening number for me

David: do you do shout

Audience: I attempt to do that yeah

David: fantastic why not. There's a lot of detail in that how long do you think it took to do?

Tanya: What this piece

David: Yeah

Tanya: Probably about an afternoon David

David: Is that all?

Tanya: Yeah, I work really quickly on that piece it was more of the idea really that took longer to come up with

David: I like what you have done with the eyes, very much. Yeah that was the character

Tanya: Yeah see can put it on there

David: And did you paint it onto tiles

Tanya: yeah it was painted actually on, this was actually working from a photograph, painted directly on to bathroom tiles because the evil doctor worked in bathrooms didn't he

David: yes

Tanya: that was the idea and it was about the two personality's one guy was the big evil eye and one eye was the soft

David: was fun playing that part

Tanya: we won't put it on their though, it actually fits in their look

David: yeah fits there

Tanya: We won't put him in I don't want him in

David: Okay

Other – We've got another question from in the room

Audience: I'm back again whilst you were growing up did you have a favourite film?

David: a favourite film, yeah one of my favourite films was the red shoes I think it was made in the 1940s, I think

Audience: it's a very old one that one yeah

David: It's an old film yeah do you know the story?

Audience: I do I saw it about 15 years ago, I found it hard follow to start with and then I started to get into it its really good

David: Yeah, I think it's a wonderful film and I've always loved it, that and I've always loved a thorn called if and that was about life in a public school but connected to society, and I loved that I thought that was amazing and then revolution breaks out in the school and its fun.

Audience: Brilliant

David: what's your favourite film?

Audience: I started with schindlers list and then I just thought it was so close to home and recently a recent film is pride I love that film to pieces I think that's a great film and I'm related to the lead character Mike Ashton I'm half cousin so if I could achieve half of what he did or a quarter of what he did that would be fantastic. I didn't know I was related to him until I saw the film

David: Amazing, very inspiring

Audience: yeah it is

David: I like those thick black lines

Audience: Hi David so we did films

David: Hello

Audience: I won't say which one song would be the soundtrack to your life so what would be your top 3 songs? That would-be soundtrack to your life

David: I'd like to have a David Bowie song in there so I think it would be maybe sound and vision, I'd like to have a Shirley Basey song in there so that might be, I think she did a song with the propeller heads and it was history repeating, I think that's the one she did with them, and then third one perhaps a Marianne Faithful song vagabond ways I think that's a lovely song, so there 3

Audience: I'd probably go with all 3 of those as well

David: what would you go with

Audience: Definitely Simon Bridge and bowie that's one of my all-time favourite songs, anything by the smiths that's my all-time favourite band and probably the stooges search and destroy if Shirley Bassey fronted them too.

David: I like all the songs off that album from David Bowie, particularly, always crashing in the same car, I think that's an amazing song as well yeah and that resonates

Tanya: that's 17

David: wow who's done that it's just amazing isn't it the colours

Tanya: yeah like that one

David: Incredible so bright and vibrant

Tanya: Yeah

David: full of life

Tanya: I need a bit more blue on that one

David: got some blue felt tips

Tanya: yeah, do you want to do felt tip. Now the ultimate question David is what is it that makes us all human

David: oh well I could say the fact that we are all going to die makes us very human but what makes us human at a deeper level I think is our humanity and our ability to love one another

Tanya: Love one another yeah

David: I think that's what makes us human

Tanya: Okay

David: Anything else is unhuman anything that supports against the system is in humane, been human more than loving and supporting and I think that's what we are naturally inclined to do but again I was talking about brainwashing, I think we have been brainwashed to believe that we are here to kill each other and we are not we are here to have like afternoons like this full of art and love and beautiful people been alive that's what I feel. I don't understand the international arms trade or the international arms dealers they are alien to me, and I don't understand why its presented as natural or normal when it is truly perverse, whereas afternoons like this are beautiful getting together of human beings. Tanya, this is a very human situation and I feel very privileged to be part of it and I meeting lovely people like and obviously, yourself and Jo, Mandy and Jackie and all the people connected with this building and I think it's that what is the way forward. And for us to come together as human beings in the spirit of humanity where we don't judge each other we don't police each other we just accept and love one and other. That's my interpretation on what it is to be human.

Tanya: Okay good

David: What do you think?

Tanya: what do I think? What is it that makes us all human?

David: Or it's a good question to throw out into the salon

Tanya: Into the salon, saloon

David: oh saloon, what is it to be human

Audience: I think you've summed it up perfectly, to treat each other as you expect to be treated yourself

David: Definitely

Audience: we are all human beings we are all equal, here for life which is to live and not to kill each other, love one another and forgive

David: I hate the idea that we are living in a world where we are dependent on actually law in order for us to be free and I think that's very sad if that is the case

Audience: My own personal opinion is politics and religion have got a lot to answer for when it comes to war

David: when it comes to war when it comes to controlling us and telling us what to think I think your absolutely right. I think spiritual is more important than rules and regulations

Audience: if only we could all live-in peace and that would be a start

David: yeah

Audience: it would be a great starting point which is why I mentioned in I think the 1st session...

David: Would be a perfect foundation to build society back on

Audience: and that's why I mentioned in the first session you would be a perfect prime minister

David: Ah thank you very much I'd love to give it a go

Audience: Yeah, we will get that hash tag going for you

David: Fabulous. Housing for all and jobs only for those who really want them

Tanya: I think it's about diversity

David: Diversity yeah

Tanya: About celebrating been different, and we have all got something different to bring to the table, and you should respect that

David: I mean we are diverse in terms and context of our lifetime but I totally agree with you, but I think what binds us together, common thread is probably the fact that we are mortals that we will die I think this is a profound thing to have in common with any human being rather than think about the persons difference I think about the same ness as in I will die you will die so let's get it together

Tanya: whilst we are still alive let's enjoy life. To me this is all a celebration of life and it's been amazing to see the artworks that have been created in this room

Audience: Hello Its about recognising each other and recognising ourselves in other people

David: Definitely, yeah, I agree with you

Audience: And making that connection and keeping that connection

David: defiantly yeah to see ourselves in each other I agree with you. I'd take it further to say that to a certain extent we all share conciseness but its whether or not we can accept that and whilst I do accept difference I don't know if I can accept collective conciseness or the fact that we are profoundly connected in some way if you were hurt it would hurt me

Tanya: I think we are developing a nice montage there

David: I love what's going on in that corner there's a lot of activity their I love it

Tanya: I think just do a little bit more

David: well its different aspects of the subject that different people have picked up on so we end up with a really interesting selection. Like it's difficult to think that, that is the same person as that in a way but somebodies seen that and somebody else has seen that

Tanya: yeah lovely

David: I like that have you brought the lips out

Tanya: yeah do you like that

David: yeah, I do very much and these colours as well. It's beautiful that Tanya.

Tanya: would we like to invite someone from the audience to come and sit for us David

David: that's an idea isn't it, well they could sit for you

Tanya: they could sit for both of us couldn't they

David: I don't know what I would draw on really

Tanya: I'm going to give you the iPad

David: yeah okay I'll do it on that definitely

Tanya: or should we invite someone to come and do a drawing of us

David: that's an idea, let's have the shoe on the other foot

Tanya: Shall we have that

David: Yeah

Tanya: Okay, who would like to join us, they all sit there quietly, do you think we should pick somebody?

David: yeah, it's all in a non-judgemental environment so everybody is welcome

Tanya: because we talked about the way that when you finish a show you pick somebody from audience

David: I do, and I say I pick people guided by spirit as to who be immortalised, but I feel that there is somebody else who does want to come here and do some drawings. Who is that person

Tanya: who is that person David would you like to find that person

David: Lisa maybe the lovely person behind you, if you wanted to come and draw me and Tanya, be very welcome

Tanya: It's a doodle, it's an abstract it doesn't matter what it is its a response

David: it doesn't have to be a photographic representation

Tanya: Thank you for joining us, give this woman a round of applause

David: what's your name Vicky, nice to meet you Vicky you did shine out

Tanya: what made you pick Vicky

David: I think some people have an energy about them I think we all do

Tanya: I was thinking Vicky as well you know

Vicky – I've got a lot to live up to now haven't I

David: we believe in you, we all contain energy but some people just let it out a bit more I feel, your beaming

Tanya: don't feel nervous, have you got an iPad

Vicky – I've got a phone

Tanya: You've got a phone, Vicky's got a phone

David: I think you can do it on a phone can't you

Tanya: okay so its dead easy, this is the pencil so when you draw when you touch the screen the harder you lean on it the thicker the line yeah?

Vicky – Yeah

Tanya: okay so we are going to get rid of those lines

Vicky – good

Tanya: so you can start again, and just draw what you see. As your drawing that's going to come up on here I'm going to see if...imagine this screen is the canvas, so I think it would be quite nice to have something on the left. I'm going to take a pencil and go this side.

David: it's hard isn't it

Vicky – yeah

Tanya: your moving around, she moves around David. Have a look David

David: Wow its fabulous its great

Vicky – Thank you

Tanya: Carry on, do we need more you done

David: or do you want to try some colour

Tanya: Lets have a look, I think we might, stay there a minute, I'm going to play it as a little animation

David: Wow can you play it again

Tanya: It looks great as a pencil line on there, that will be saved

David: Your part of it now

Tanya: Do you like that David

David: Yeah, we wouldn't have been able to do that if it wasn't for you

Tanya: round of applause

David: so you filled the canvas, interesting now

Tanya: 10 minutes left. Can you bring my wheelchair round, I'm going to have a sit-down
David?

David: I bet your ready

Tanya: I am ready. Have we got any more questions? No?

Other – This is your last chance to get questions in for Tanya and David, we have got two or three hands now wow

David: I like champagne and red wine

Other – That's the after party

Audience: question to you both really this is the fourth one of the entire series what's been your highlight

Tanya: Oh gosh, each one has had its own life span

David: Yeah

Tanya: so I just think the whole thing has been extraordinary

David: yeah

Tanya: created this project that has created a series of live portrait events in such diverse places. Fantastic diverse and beautiful people, and every single sitter every single day

David: Interesting you said about beauty as almost have a catchphrase and I say that everybody is equally beautiful and equally valid so I do feel that

Tanya: yeah totally agree with that David

David: we will have met a lot of people through doing this work

Tanya: and each one so let's say for this one it's been an absolute dream putting my make up on David

David: Just a light day make up

Tanya: it's gorgeous and drawing and creating this canvas together has been...

David: Collective work

Tanya: Yeah collective

David: you have filled the canvas all sorts going on at different scales and the colours it's just beautiful and the contribution that everybody has made

Tanya: and I love the fact we have the salt and pepper in the beginning and in this great hall with this beautiful setting and paintings it's been amazing

David: Mm

Tanya: SO we've had the national portrait gallery with Evelyn the Dame Evelyn Glennie which was playing the canvas was a extraordinary thing to do, which we will be doing more of

David: for those of you who don't know here work she's an accomplished percussionist isn't she and she was able to make rhythms while you were painting on the canvas she created a rhythm and music

Tanya: she did yeah

David: which was amazing. I say my high point would be this, not just because I'm a bit of exhibitionist and I like the idea everyone is looking at me but I like this room and the fact we are all in it history's that this should happen all of us are here and I think that it's an important get together and I think that's what this room was made for to bring people together, its defiantly that embraces art and artistry and conversation and bringing people together so I feel its function has been honoured and it's just been lovely to meet people, sometimes I've been having a break and spoken to me or shown me a drawing that they have done earlier on very magical and lovely I think like myself it would have added confidence to have more of a go of the drawing and observation and got more of it. I think with Tanya showing me how to work the iPad I defiantly want to get one so I'm going to save up. Because I've not been very technical I've been a bit of a technophobic I think a bit frightened but its good.

Tanya: and who would ever of thought that id of done a portrait in a football ground

David: Who?

Tanya: That's an amazing thing yeah

David: amazing location and amazing people

Tanya: I can't wait to see the finished product in national portrait gallery on the 1st of December

David: Yeah that's going to be an event

Other – Indeed we will all 4 final portraits and all 4 final sitters brought together for the first time, we've met them all but they haven't met each other, so that will be fantastic you can talk about your experience of sitting for Tanya

Tanya: I may have to have another facial David

David: I think the evening look, if you don't mind having glue on your face because I put the glitter sequins, diamante

Audience: Tin Foil

David: Yeah tin foil, if anyone has any lines they are a bit self-conscious about just stick tin foil on them and people can't see, and makes your face into a conversation piece. Why not. And frighten people if you want

Audience: I've got a question for both of you actually in childhood who were your heroes, who did you look up to?

David: wow what a question

Tanya: shall I tell you mine, in childhood? I'm a bit of a telly addict, 6-million-dollar man, wonder woman and the Walton's because they all have a relationship with disability so that's where my cultural figures came from I couldn't see them in paintings, and the hulk. How about you David?

David: I couldn't really think of one but now I'm thinking in terms of television, I think I've always had a soft spot for Bob Monkhouse, I never got to see him live in cabaret but he was supposed to be amazing

Tanya: My mum worked with Bob Monkhouse in cabaret

David: did she really, amazing

Tanya: and Lenard Resita

David: Rising Damp and then he was on the west end stage in a production in the early 80s and I bought a ticket to see him but unfortunately, he died 2 days before

Audience: Comedians are fantastic my boyhood hero was Les Dawson I love Felicity Kendall in the good life as well.

David: Les Dawson was particularly good at the piano

Audience: fantastic fellow

David: going back to Bob Monkhouse he would ask the audience for words and then say a story using the words that had been supplied by the audience

Audience: thinking on your feet fantastic

David: and as a tribute to him I sometimes ask for words from the audience and improvise a song that all comes from Bob Monkhouse

Audience: thank you

Mandy Fowler: I'm sorry to say but we are running out of time

David: we will be sat here in the dark soon fiddling our way out, it's another way to get to know people

Mandy Fowler: I think Sue would like to say a few words before we finish for today

Sue Jordan, Beningbrough Hall: I'd just like to say a massive thank you to David and Tanya for allowing us to be part of your creative collaborative journey, it's been fantastic to see your artwork and thank you very much for the stimulating conversation, we have enjoyed it

David: Thank you Sue and Lady Chesterfield

Tanya: Thank you to the Portraits Untold team

Sue Jordan, Beningbrough Hall: Thank you to Jackie, I think she is going to blog about her experience so watch out for that one, a very important view and role. This is our final in our

series, it's been very important event. We are going to be looking at different events and sitters so give us your feedback. A big thank you to beninborough hall and portraits untold.

[Transcript Ends]