

# THE GREAT DEBATE

## What Does It Mean To Be Human?

What level of communication is possible between humans and animals?

How much can the study of animals tell us about ourselves?

What does it mean to be human?

In 1967, Roger Fouts, a psychology student, began teaching American Sign Language to a young chimpanzee called Washoe, beginning a relationship that has continued for over 30 years. *The Chimp That Spoke* is a production inspired by this story showing at Newcastle Playhouse in May 2003. Acclaimed for their bold visceral theatre productions, *David Glass Ensemble* present a meditation on our closest animal relatives and explore what it is to be human.

*What does it mean to be human?* is a post-show discussion organised by *The Great Debate* in association with *Northern Stage* and *David Glass Ensemble* to further explore the questions raised by the play and by Fouts's work.

Chair: Mo Lovatt

Panel:

David Glass, Artistic Director, *David Glass Ensemble*

Professor John Burn, Institute of Human Genetics, International Centre for Life

Dr Caspar Hewett, Chair, *The Great Debate*

David Large, *The Great Debate*

### Newcastle Playhouse

### Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne

*The Chimp That Spoke*

7.30pm

*What does it mean to be human?*

9.30pm

For more details see: [www.thegreatdebate.org.uk](http://www.thegreatdebate.org.uk)

# Thursday 22 May 2003