

pierre du plessis

Chaos is a gift



human
WRITES

Eternal Flâneur

Pierre du Plessis



Pierre is currently the CWO of HumanWrites, changing the world one wee square notebook at a time. Originally from a design background, he has shown to critical acclaim at Fashion Week, created award winning campaigns as a stylist, worked as brand curator for the SABS Design Institute, and freelanced as an art and creative director. He is also an artist, working with socio-political themes, cultural diversity, and the tension between absence and presence.

The other half of his life is in philosophy and spirituality. He leads a contemplative faith community in the city of Cape Town and he is also an award winning author.

He is a popular speaker on chaos and innovation, speaking regularly at conferences and corporate sessions, and an educator at Duke University. He has been featured numerous times on TEDx. His clients include BMW, Old Mutual, KFC, Adcock Ingram and others.

Pierre is an eternally curious flâneur, a wanderer of the city streets, an urbanite observer. He reads like a maniac, but only when he is not online. His talks on leadership, chaos, and innovation leave audiences inspired and equipped to create great work in a volatile world.

His alter ego is the love child of Gertrude Stein and Jason Bourne. He lives in Cape Town with his wife, two kids, and his iPhone.

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"Pierre, like all good trend spotters, looks at the world with infinite curiosity and an open mind. As such, he has a knack of pin pointing a trend on the rise, but most importantly its roots and trajectory. Without these two elements you don't have context, and Pierre has the ability to provide that all important context."

Dion Chang, founder FluxTrends

"The true power of this talk is in how it touches on the simple yet poorly understood - or personal yet most potent - aspect of our being...managing the self"

Victor Kgomoewana, Africa Business Specialist



Duke^{CE}

adcock ingram 

TEDX

Clients

Keynote

Chaos is a gift.

DEAL WITH VOLATILE, UNCERTAIN, AMBIGUOUS, COMPLEX TIMES AND DISCOVER THE BIGGEST MISSED OPPORTUNITY IN INNOVATION

It's no secret that chaos is near certainty in just about every aspect of our lives and even more so in business. Everything from changing weather patterns to artificial intelligence is disrupting our day to day lives. Mere living, and not to mention doing business, now takes a level of awareness and ability to handle ambiguity and complexity that has never been required before.

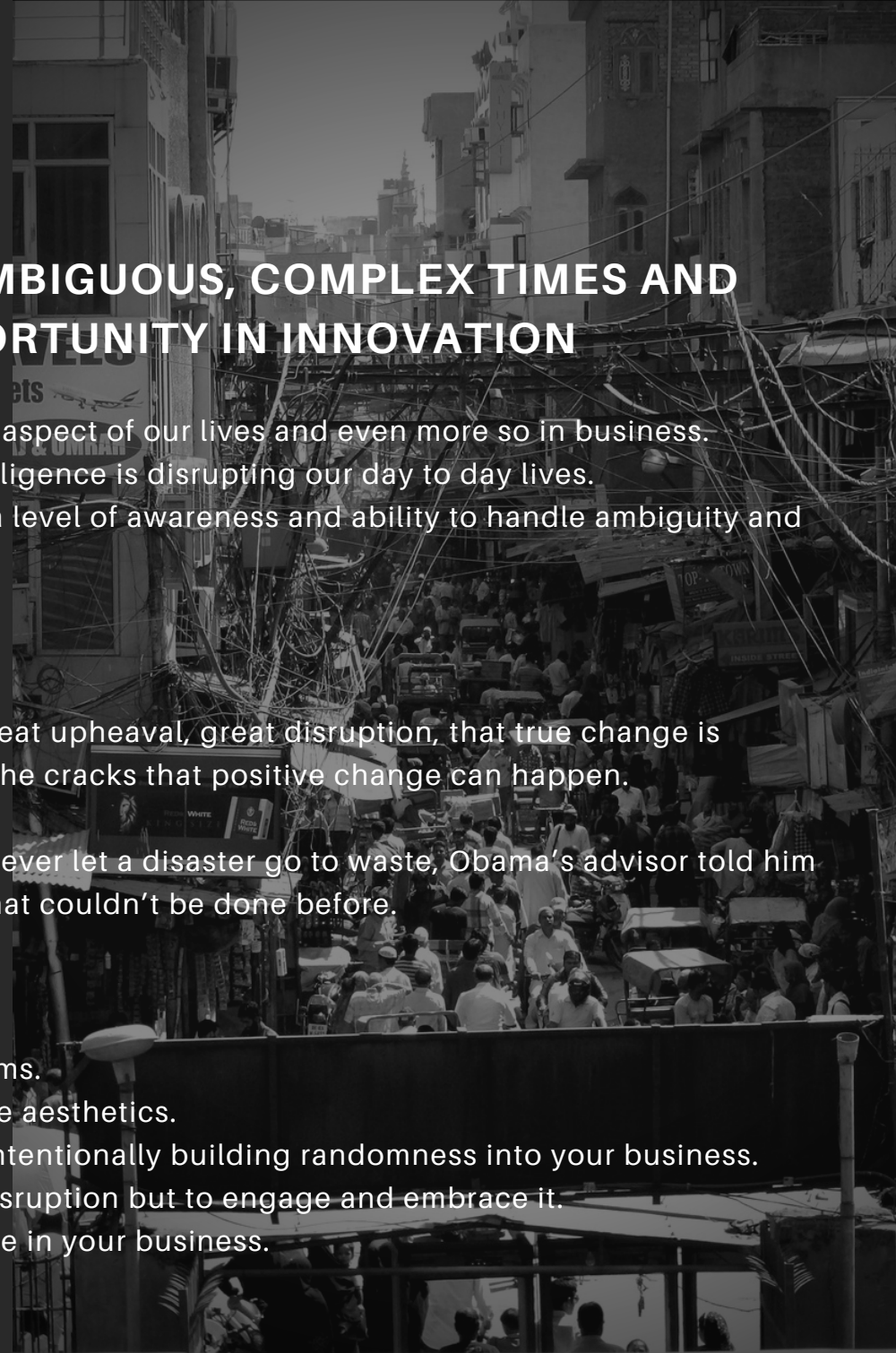
Change is the only constant.

The irony is this, that is only in times of chaos, in times of great upheaval, great disruption, that true change is possible. It is only in the liminal spaces, the twilight zones, the cracks that positive change can happen.

It is only during these times that true innovation happens. Never let a disaster go to waste, Obama's advisor told him during his '08 campaign, a disaster allows us to do things that couldn't be done before.

What to expect

- A deconstruction of old thought patterns and belief systems.
- Insights from philosophy, business strategy, and Japanese aesthetics.
- An emphasis on the importance of engaging chaos, and intentionally building randomness into your business.
- A new understanding and method to not only deal with disruption but to engage and embrace it.
- A key understanding toward building an innovative culture in your business.



Keynote - Pierre du Plessis

Heroes, Monsters, and Kings

LEADERSHIP LESSONS FOR TIMES OF CHAOS FROM ANCIENT ARCHETYPES, CULTURES, AND STORIES.

Have you ever had caught yourself thinking, 'someone better take the lead here right now or this is going down fast'? Well, the bad news is that if you thought just that, you are very much the one that should be taking the lead.

Leadership is a key quality and necessary skill that we all use, from working, playing, or raising children. It is an innate raw talent that can be amplified and sharpened into a profound strength when we add knowledge and experience.

In an age where we prefer to forget the past, or ignore it, and am besotted with the future, with the 'new'. it is ironically the stories, lessons, and concepts from our distance past that we most need to lead in a volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous world.

The answer lies in the structures and value systems of monasteries, the conflict resolution processes of native American tribes, the ancient archetypes that form the basis of our psyches, legends of ancient heroes facing terrible monsters, and the ideas about the universe from the first philosopher.

What to expect

- The most important lessons we can learn about leadership and business from monks.
- New models for leadership from ancient circles.
- The gift of the archetypes, understanding leadership as a function and not an identity.
- The importance of paradox and tension between leadership styles and energies.
- Expect to have your leadership paradigm challenged.
- Leave with a new framework, and new metaphors for leading in a chaotic world.

Keynote

WALKING, HANDWRITTEN NOTES, AND ARTISANS.

WHY BEING UNAMBIGUOUSLY ANALOGUE IS YOUR BEST OPTION IN A DESPERATELY DIGITAL WORLD.

Seems like everywhere you go everything is going digital, as if going digital is the salvation of every business everywhere. Since when does innovate mean digital only, and since when did disruption only mean, let's make an app?

A friend of mine, Len Sweet, always says the more high-tech the world becomes the more high-touch we need to be. Technology is a great stimulator of innovation, true, but it can also be a great isolator. In an increasingly AI (artificial intelligence) filled world, we will need human interaction more than ever.

What is the human touch? What will it look like for a business to be built on tactile, human experiences. What does it mean to be human in a digital world?

There are gifts that simple high touch practices like walking, handwritten notes, and handmade can bring. Not only giving us (back?) our humanity but giving new ways to innovate, new or old pathways to explore, practices from the past that will catapult us into the future.

What to expect

- Reflections and insights about the nature of humanity
- Sparks for new value propositions
- Re-imagining your approach to innovation.
- Where you could position your brand in an AI world.
- Tools for connecting and developing your teams and building a human centered organisation.

Keynote - Pierre du Plessis

PROSTITUTES, THE ANDES, & JAPANESE SWORD MAKERS

A TALK ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTORING, FRIENDSHIPS, AND STRANGERS.

We live in a world obsessed with the 'I' so much so that we cannot even spell WII without two I's. We need to re-connect to run sustainable businesses where knowledge is not hoarded but shared, we need to re-kindle friendships to simply be healthier human beings.

In this talk, featured at TEDx Soweto, Pierre offers a new framework to guide us to form 4 types of relationships necessary for us to move forward as companies, and simply just as human beings.

We are not born as individuals, we were born as part of a community, a tribe, a nation. Each of us carry a scar with us on our stomach's that tells of our connection, once, to the rest of humanity.

What to expect

- Reflections on the state of the world, and the rise of Narcissim
- Trend research and snippets
- Motivation, and Inspiration for teams and individuals
- A Practical frame work, the four friends, to help guide and build your team.

Keynote - Pierre du Plessis

CATS, THROWING LIKE A GIRL, AND GURUS

A START TO KNOWING YOURSELF, AND STARTING TO MOVE FORWARD

Knowing ourselves has become such an important goal, that nowadays it is being tied to knowing the meaning of life itself.

Where is the self located, are you your six packs abs, your skill to bake gluten free muffins, or your job?

Are we what we do?

This talk explores where the 'self' is located. Where we find our identity in a world with no meta narrative, no big idea telling us who to be and where we fit in. Where do we find ourselves in a fragmented, splintered world?

Parker Palmer asks, how do we rejoin our souls, with our roles, because "The perceived incongruity of inner and outer - the inauthenticity that we sense in others, and they in us - constantly undermines our morale, our relationships, and our capacity for good work"

In a world where careers change every five years, or less, are we what we do? How do we navigate life, how do we hire people? Do we hire for attitude, being, or do we hire for skill?

What to expect

- Knowing the self is crucial to happiness and fulfillment. Knowing the self, helps us to know where we fit in, where should work, how we should organise our personal and professional lives.
- Knowing the self, is the basis of meaningful success.
- "Learning to create your mind, is the very basis of learning to create the world" Sadhguru

Keynote - Pierre du Plessis

Suit up! Cod pieces, little black dresses, and the art of dressing well.

on the importance of dressing well.

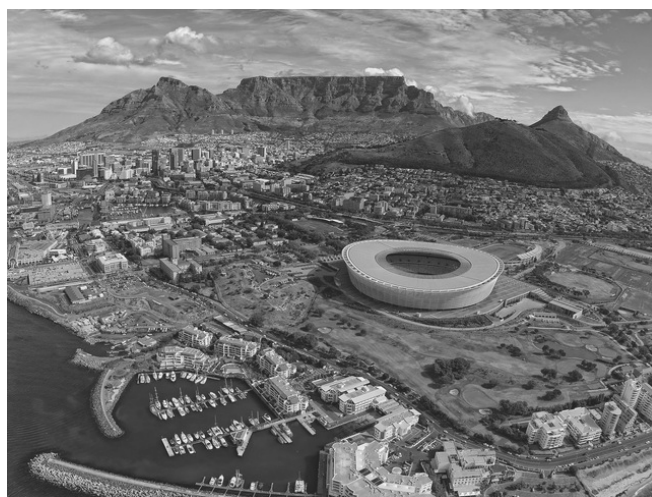
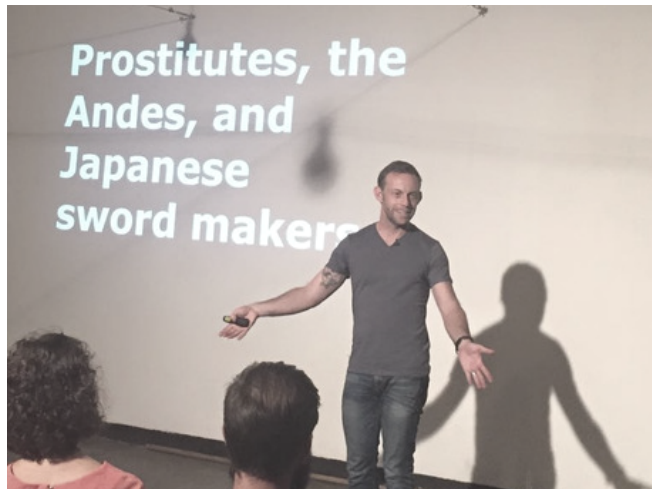
Legendary GUCCI designer Tom Ford said once that dressing well is just good manners. There is also the common wisdom that clothes make the man, but is this true, aren't we over that by now? Is it necessary to dress well, for both men and women in an post modern 'enlightened' age? To quote Joan Rivers when she was asked by Oprah whether women should have plastic surgery:

"ABSOLUTELY"

This talk explores the history of dressing up, the ups and the downs, the elegant and the hilarious (what about cod pieces?!). More importantly, why it matters today, and how to dress well without pretense.

What to expect

- A fun talk that include the history of fashion
- Why it matters to dress well.
- How to dress well for both women and men.
- A Question and Response time for your dressing up FAQs



**Every Keynote booked includes
20 Writables.**

**For every Writable you buy for
your ideas, HumanWrites gives
5 storybooks to a child to
nurture their own.**





Thank you.

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