

REVIEWS FOR *MOVING STATIONERY*

By Thomas Monckton
Produced by SHOW PONY

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EXTRAORDINARY PHYSICAL DEXTERITY IN WONDEROUSLY WACKY SHOW

Reviewed by John Smythe, 17 February 2012

Raised in Patea and trained in Paris (L'École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq) via CircoArts in Christchurch, Thom Monckton devised his almost oxymoronically entitled *Moving Stationery* in Finland. As a silent clown he is a joy to behold.

His impeccable finger-sync piano playing, which we first saw in *Members Of Our Limbs* (December 2010), is simply an intro as we take our seats, as are his antics with a notice board displaying the count down to the starting time.

The substantive show captures the torpor of a lonely desk job, where a cup of tea is the highlight of the day. Basically he brings four file boxes up in a lift, unpacks them, makes his tea then discovers an urgent report that needs completing ...

What makes this show brilliant is the wackily imaginative way he goes about it, and his extraordinary physical dexterity (his body locking and popping moves could win competitions if he went that way), not to mention the physics lesson implicit in his teabag dunking.

Every bit of his costume is exploited to comic effect. A past success has won him a helium-filled smiley-face balloon and the gift of pens, a pen-holder and Sellotape. These, along with a hat stand, desk, office chair, the boxes and their contents – including some sushi and a tube of wasabi paste – become characters in their own right, as the simplest tasks become complex and blossom into wondrous routines.

Of course he comes to a reel sticky end and reality bites in the shape of that urgent report. But wait – there's more ...!
Don't miss it.

CAPITAL CULTURE via WOTZON.COM

MOVING STATIONERY – SILENT BUT HILARIOUS

Reviewed by Heather McDonald, 17 February 2012

Meet Sigmund. He's a little strange, a little lost and quite probably somewhere on the spectrum. In his plaid man-cardi and socks, painfully short trousers and thick-rimmed glasses, he is the quintessential socially-awkward geek.

Sigmund is the only character in [Moving Stationery](#), a solo physical comedy on at BATS as part of the [Fringe Festival](#). Created and performed by Thomas Monckton of Kallo Collective, the 45 minute show was inspired by a simple roll of sellotape and devised in a three month arts residence in Finland.

Stuck in a dreary office job, Monckton's clown character finds joy, confusion and frustration in the everyday items that surround him. In the same way that children prefer to build forts with cardboard boxes instead of play with new shiny new toys, the show displays why even the most boring things can become enthralling with a little imagination.

Cardboard boxes seem to dance and float in the air, making a cup of tea becomes an elaborate exercise in physics, and a humble office chair provides endless amusement.

Thomas Monckton's silent performance is self assured and his comic timing is wonderful. He is a physical genius and his incredibly elastic body contorts and moves in ways that shouldn't be possible – sort of a cross between Michael Jackson, a Cirque du Soleil acrobat and Rhys Darby.

The show is hilarious too. Before the show audience members were instructed us to tickle the person next to us if they weren't laughing, but seriously, if you didn't find yourself laughing you might need to see a therapist.

A whimsical, playful and charming comedy suitable for all ages, [Moving Stationery](#) will make you look at your boring old office desk in a new light. Monckton thoroughly deserved the rich applause from the audience on opening night. It ends on Sunday so make sure you see this wee delight.

This is only one of many, many [Fringe Festival](#) shows on over the next few weeks. Too many to mention here I'm afraid! Having said that, my picks for the rest of the Fest are...