

THEATRE

Gaff Aff

Playhouse, Sydney Opera House; tonight 7.30pm, until Saturday, adult \$49, conc \$39, under 30 \$30, 9250 7777, sydneyoperahouse.com

BA BOOM, ba boom, ba boom. Dimitri de Perrot creates a human heartbeat on his turntable, while the other half of the Swiss-based duo, Martin Zimmermann, mimes a day in the life of everyman.

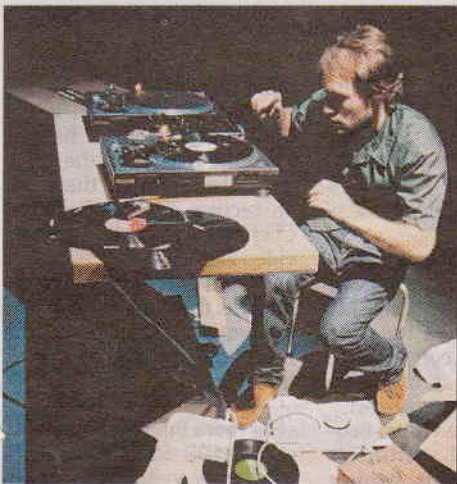
Rhythm and repetition are central to this show's combination of mime, physical theatre and silent-movie style comedy. Zimmermann, who has been compared with Buster Keaton, is the main man, working with a live soundtrack by de Perrot. Not a word is spoken during the performance.

The artist plays cat and mouse with the audience from behind a cardboard screen, eventually revealing himself as a middle-aged man in a grey suit with a pink tie and white sneakers.

He stands on his head, creates props as he goes and makes items on stage, including himself, appear and disappear. Off he goes to work, in a parody of the rat race: he jabbers on phones, drinks from the water cooler and manages his all important pile of shuffling papers. The sense of daily grind is reinforced by a giant turntable that barely stops moving during the one-hour performance.

At one point, he appears to twist his body 360 degrees as the stage moves around him, and his spot-on facial expressions and physical theatre get solid laughs from the audience. A neat, poetic exploration of what it is to be human.

Xanthe Kleinig



Sounds of silence: Dimitri de Perrot