

VITAL THEATRE presents GEORGE DILLON
in the WORLD PREMIERE production of



WINNER
The Herald
'Angel'
Edinburgh
2000

GRAFT

Tales of an Actor

by Steven Berkoff

On tour in 2001

George Dillon, "one-man wunderkind and spiritual son of Steven Berkoff" (Scotland on Sunday), gives an award-winning performance in this frequently hilarious, ultimately devastating WORLD PREMIERE staging of Steven Berkoff's sketches from the life of an ever-struggling actor.

Harry is a dedicated artist, often out of work, rejected and desperate to practise his craft. In GRAFT, Steven Berkoff, world-renowned actor, director, playwright and author, draws his breath in pain to tell Harry's story, from auditioning at the local Town Hall for a drama school grant, through occasional working highs and low encounters with agents and directors to his final exit at Leicester Square Tube.

"Brutal, compassionate, brilliant. Examines the actor's soul with a precision that is acutely painful and appallingly funny."

RICHARD E. GRANT

"Dillon's performance holds the audience so rapt that at points I am convinced we collectively stopped breathing. Dillon clowns as much as he grimaces, strutting and fretting his hour upon the stage in a way that is intuitive and inventive - the most compelling storytelling you will see."

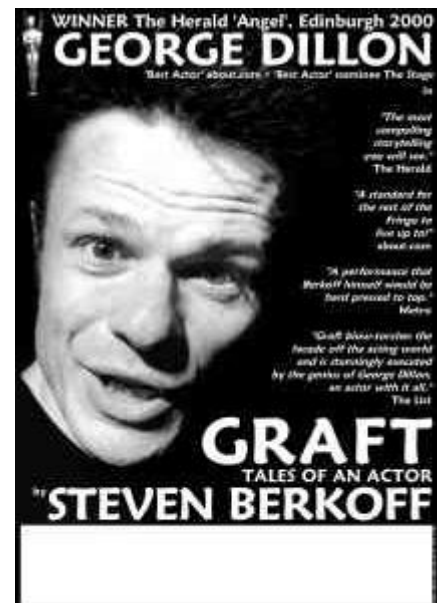
The Herald

"Graft blow-torches the facade off the acting world and is stunningly executed by the genius of George Dillon. Vocally compelling, Dillon is an actor with it all. His electric desperation and vitriol collide with painful cravings of the soul, to produce a truly powerful performance. Never indulgent, Dillon's physicality is organically and poignantly precise. His own idiosyncratic talent soars."

The List

"Steven Berkoff's funny and touching 'Tales of an Actor' strikes one with all the terrors and stupidity and hilarity with which we combat our ill-chosen, foolish way of life."

ALEC McCOWEN



"By turning in an assured and confident performance that Berkoff himself would be hard-pressed to top, George Dillon shines brightly in this one-man show."

Metro

"He doesn't hold the stage for an hour and a quarter: he is the stage on which Harry's life unfolds, sweeping the audience along with irresistible force... The play should be compulsory viewing for all who want to take up an acting career... a virtuoso performance to cherish and a standard for the rest of the Fringe to live up to!"

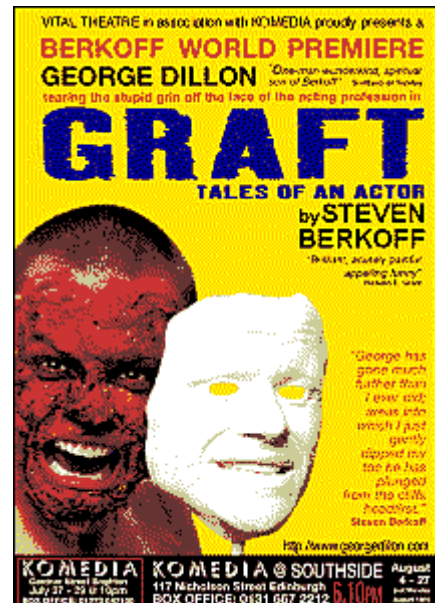
About.com

"Dillon boasts an outstanding stage presence and mastery of theatrical technique. He shifts between the voices of Harry, narrator and agent without apparent effort. His movement is utterly precise yet expansive. Graft is a one-man show with no props, set or costumes but with Dillon it looks like it could use a still bigger stage."

The Argus

"A master class in powerful performance - this was an explosive ticket. As the extraordinary, tortured prose spits out of Dillon the younger man miraculously transforms, metamorphosing into the real Berkoff. I was stunned by the visual and verbal similarities between the two. For this almost supernatural transformation alone, Graft is worth the ticket price. "

seelife.brighton.co.uk



"The performance is virtuoso. His tales enthrall."

The Stage

"Steven Berkoff is different. His 'Tales of an Actor' speak with a bracing honesty of experience in the theatre with which all actors are familiar, but which few have dared to articulate. He is a pioneer. His views are both caustic and invigorating... I hope they will be read by anyone interested in the theatre and in the work of actors."

PAUL SCOFIELD

"One show that all those Edinburgh hopefuls should see."

The Guardian

George Dillon has been an exponent of Steven Berkoff's work for over 20 years, performing in East, Decadence, Greek and Metamorphosis, directing the World Premiere of Brighton Beach Scumbags and working with Berkoff as an actor in Sink the Belgrano! and Salomé and as assistant director on Salomé and Acapulco.

In the 1990s he created 5 acclaimed solo shows: - STUNNING THE PUNTERS "This is the craft of acting carried to a pinnacle of virtuosity" [Scotland on Sunday] - JUDGEMENT "Dillon's mesmerising performance should sweep the Fringe awards" [The Observer] - HELL & Other Tales "One of the most distinctive and challenging solo performers around translates powerful prose into disturbing, dangerous theatre." [The Guardian] - THE REMEMBRANCE OF EDGAR ALLAN POE "Dillon's performance is astonishingly versatile, a tour de force." [The Scotsman] UNDER MILK WOOD "Not only pure enchantment, this is exceptional theatre, skillfully paced by director George Dillon" [What's On in London]

Graft was first published in 1998 by Oberon books. It can be ordered via Steven Berkoff's website