



23 August 2000

THEATRE REVIEW

graft – tales of an actor ★★★★★

Spanning 30 years, Graft relates the life, times and ultimate demise of Harry, a jobbing actor who suffers intensely for his art.

Key events in Harry's life are brought to us, from his indecision when filling in his drama school application form to his suicide when he finally realises he'll never be the great thespian he'd always dreamed of becoming.

Graft is penned by all-rounder Steven Berkoff, one of British theatre's finest talents. 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.

The show offers a genuine insight into what it is that drives actors and makes them want to give away so much of themselves on stage.

At times it makes uncomfortable viewing, showing us in detail the sort of thoughts and feelings that many would be at pains to keep hidden from others.

But, there are moments of light relief amongst the pathos and, in being moving without ever lapsing into sentimentality, it is a bold and striking performance from an outstanding young actor.

Andrew Midgley



10-17 Aug 2000

THEATRE

Graft: Tales of an Actor

★★★★

Steven Berkoff's book made flesh by George Dillon

A one-hour solo performance about failure and unrequited talent, *Graft* blow-torches the facade off the acting world. The empty bitterness of the self-loathing soul of acting comes through in Berkoff's crippling poetic language 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. Initially, there is a worry that he is too much the disciple of Berkoff, but his own idiosyncratic, requited talent soon soars. (Davie Archibald)