

January 19, 2015 5:43 pm

Title & Deed, Print Room Theatre, London — review

Ian Shuttleworth

Will Eno's Beckettian play muses on loss and outsiderdom through fragmented recollections



Conor Lovett performs 'Title & Deed'

Like his UK-breakthrough play a decade ago, *thom pain (based on nothing)*, Will Eno's latest piece comes to London from the Edinburgh Fringe, where it was much acclaimed. Also like the earlier work, it is a monologue about loss delivered by an intelligent but embittered man — though that is not to accuse *Title & Deed* of being formulaic.

A nameless speaker rambles on about being, as the subtitle puts it, “slightly foreign”, making passing mentions to the curious and surreal-sounding folk traditions of his home. But these fade into the background behind an increasingly pervasive sense of outsiderdom that grows ever more existential: we all share the feeling of living somehow elsewhere but we can never

share it, because, well, we're somewhere else.

Sign up now



FirstFT is our new essential daily email briefing of the best stories from across the web

Title & Deed was written specifically for Conor Lovett of Ireland's Gare St Lazare Players. Lovett is a low-key performer, and this fits his character's diffidence perfectly, with his baby face, his little remaining hair cropped extremely short and yet a constant hint of hidden depths. Gare St Lazare Players specialise in Beckett, and there is an unsurprisingly Beckettian feel to Eno's play. But whereas Beckett's figures always seem to be parsecs away from those around them, “Man” here seems separated by the merest sheet of glass: thin, transparent but unbreakable.

The tantalisingly unexplained quirks of his home (such as Reverse Weddings or Terrible Saturdays) slowly coalesce with fragmentary recollections of past times, with various partners and with more abstract musings, until the big picture swims into focus: “Time, place, happiness. A person should be able to figure it out. It's only three things.”

After 65 minutes the piece doesn't end, it just stops. But it keeps going in your head. *Title & Deed* is another prime example of Eno's ability to send the intellect and emotions in opposite directions simultaneously.



the-print-room.org

RELATED TOPICS London

Printed from: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/5f6d50fa-9fcb-11e4-9a74-00144feab7de.html>

Print a single copy of this article for personal use. Contact us if you wish to print more to distribute to others.

© THE FINANCIAL TIMES LTD 2015 FT and 'Financial Times' are trademarks of The Financial Times Ltd.

SHARE THIS QUOTE

Eno's ability to send the intellect and emotions in opposite directions simultaneously.

[Tweet this quote](#)