

Bean machine makes a powerful impact

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

LUCY GUERIN COMPANY
SINKY MOVE

Reviewed by Jill Sykes

International Theatre, October 26

Choreographer Lucy Guerin has something very special for her collaborator Trevor Patrick. He is probably the most interesting performer on the independent circuit, often developing his own material. With the Lucy Guerin Company, he has been given a role that takes him deep into the territory of interpretive territory that is his best.

In an area of dance practice where narrative was initially denied and made an appearance in a relatively abstract form, Patrick's character emerges as a man of Mr Bean. He plays a man living a narrow, solitary, comically untroubled existence in a world that whirls around him.

He and the outsiders - Rosalind Wiseman, Brett Daffy, Stephanie Lake - are separated physically at first. Then their lives become entwined, literally, in a witty re-interpretation of choreography that emerges from all unintentionally humorous. The next day, Trevor Patrick's role interacts with theirs to fit in with their fast

lives. He fails. Yet when he walks away, it seems that he has gained self-esteem and they have been left as the mere shells they probably always were.

Patrick's sensitivity and subtlety in projecting the nuances of this role through his mind and body make it an engrossing performance. It is strongly supported by his colleagues and buoyed by Guerin's crisply delineated choreography which expresses multi-layered concepts.

Her title for the piece, *The Ends of Things*, came from the composer Jad McAdam, to whom it is dedicated; the original collaborator for the work, he died in July. Guerin writes that their intention was to explore the emotional resonance of endings, visually and aurally, with the premise that they happen more often in quiet than in crisis. The result speaks for itself.



Him and them ... from left, Trevor Patrick, Stephanie Lake, Brett Daffy and Ros Warby in *The Ends of Things*. Photo: Penny Stephens