

HUMAN RESOURCES

By Chris Aronsten
Darlinghurst Theatre February 2006

Director: Kate Gaul
Designer: Tobhiyah Stone Feller
Lighting Designer: Matthew Marshall
Composer: Daryl Wallis
Stage Manager: Katy Green

Cast: Josef Ber, Thomas Campbell, Lorna Lesley
Ensemble: Nathin Butler, Julian Dibley Hall, Suz Mawer,
Scarlet McGlynn, Alexandria Steffensen

Human Resources: a 3-part look at the psychology, graft and sexual politics of working in an office. In **Dave's Lunchtime Dos and Don'ts**, Steven revels in his easy manipulation of a lonely, sexually frustrated, wealthy older man – until his plan goes horribly wrong. In **Brian Meets His Match** a pack of office workers all use the same internet dating service. Their obsessive rules of engagement are challenged by the arrival of the new boy – plain old Brian. In **Fiona's Functions** we discover how an older and near-untrainable box office worker deals with the encroachment of technology and her seemingly pre-pubescent new boss.

What the critics said:

"This production really deserves an A+ report card. Delicious, dirty and a Must See." Skye Crawford BROADWAY AUSTRALIA 6/2/06

"Honest, funny and raunchy, this trilogy is as fresh and bracing as a sea breeze. Aronsten...illustrates the dehumanising effects of the nine-to-five and with tongue in cheek, some of the potential pitfalls should you turn to sex in the workplace as an antidote. Kate Gaul stylishly directs three excellent performances. Recommended." Colin Rose SUN HERALD 5/2/06



"...Campbell shows considerable promise and flair...Josef Ber, a very capable actor, excels ... superbly played by Lorna Lesley **Human Resources** deftly directed by Kate Gaul, and effectively designed by Tobhiya Stone Feller, makes for a lively bittersweet and thoughtful trio." Bryce Hallett SMH 7/2/06

"... a vigorous new work by Chris Aronsten... clever, insightful and intense, while being both comic and dramatically distressing. **Human Resources** is edgy, stylish, and fun to watch and its actors and director masters of their craft." Phillip Wood THE PROGRAMME 9/2/06

"**Human Resources** ... funny and profound in its exploration of the psychology and politics in an office environment. Director Kate Gaul has once again put together a very sharp and engaging piece. The design (Tobhiyah Stone Feller) is sexy, haunting and seamless. The performances of Thomas Campbell, Josef Ber and Lorna Lesley are brilliant, they command the stage, the language and the flamboyant personalities that they play, yet know where to draw the line between characterisation and human portrayal. Indeed this dilemma of honesty is the play's crux. What happens when our masks take over from our real selves? Inevitably we are left alone with our own worst enemy – ourselves. Kudos to writer Chris Aronsten for his colourful linguistics, wonderfully horrible tensions and for rich stories that both entertain and make us think." Sarah Doyle STATE OF THE ARTS 18/2/06

