

The Receipt

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WHAT ELSE IS NEW...

THEATRE

The Receipt

Lyric Studio

★★★★☆

Kieron Quirke

THE sounds of alienation and of a world gone mad are the backing track to this softly administered jab of satire from Will Adamsdale and Chris Branch. With humour and effortless control of mood they have distilled the urbanite's most contemplative, solitary moments into theatrical form.

Adamsdale tells the story of Wylie, an office worker cracking up in a long dead city that future generations think was called Glondon. Operating a console at the side, Branch wields sound like a medieval torturer. At work Wylie lives a life of warning bells and phones on hold, as Branch assails him with invasive effects. At home, he is stranded amid noises of thin walls and booming lift shafts.

This is a city where paper is everywhere, especially near machines meant to cut back on paper. As Wylie struggles against the pointlessness of everything, seeking meaning in an insane mission to discover the original recipient of a littered receipt, Adamsdale and Branch make urban living look as absurd as it probably is.

Budget cityscapes spring up around the stage, while at ground level the oppressiveness of Branch's din reminds us that in the city while never alone, we are never far from lonely — But in a fun way, I promise.

● Until 10 Feb (08700 500511).