

THEATRE REVIEW

Power Point

★★★★☆

Arriving at the Camden Court Hotel's business suite, I'm greeted at a registration desk and given a personalised name badge by a suitably officious, black-clad drone. So authentic is the slick seminar set up from the outset – not least the impressive theatre programme posing as a 'System Diary' and the characters' own Twitter accounts on business cards – we, the audience, are quaking at the prospect of being summoned on stage for some role play. Fortunately the cast in this production by The Performance Corporation take centre stage – and then some – although mass participation is obligatory.

Business gurus Jack and Jill Power (Alan Howley and Lisa Lambe, pictured, respectively) are introduced to us now-delegates by harried mediator Mary Point (Clare Barratt), although we have no idea what they are selling, apart from



impenetrable corporate jargon; so like most multinationals, then. A family feud emerges out of this hellish assembly where esoteric graphs and pie charts are beamed on to projector screens, and UHPs serve as interrogative spotlights when the mysterious Sonny (Hilary O'Shaughnessy) abruptly appears. Jill's Balmain shoulder-pads and Louboutin heels clash with Mary's cheap, mumsy apparel, and motivational bunkum contradicts and collapses on itself. It's subversive, thought-provoking and spoofy stuff that, thanks to Tom Swift's eloquent script, pitch-perfect performances, dazzling visuals and Jill's astonishing hair-do, make for a power-dressing, gender-bending, corporate-bashing theatrical think tank. *Lucy White*
Until Sep 19, Camden Court Hotel, Camden Street D2, 8.30pm (Sat mat 3.30pm), €13 to €19. Tel: 1850 374 643. www.fringefest.com