

grooves to invite the audience

allowed us to share his infectious, in-the-moment delight.

Heaven-sent creation an agreeable offering

DANCE **DISAGREEABLE OBJECT**

Chunky Move Studios, July 21. Until
July 25. Running time: 30 minutes
www.chunkymove.com

Jordan Beth Vincent Reviewer

FOR those viewers out there who are wary of eating their greens, Michelle Heaven's *Disagreeable Object* may be just the piece for you. This strange and macabre piece of dance theatre is meticulously crafted, engagingly performed and as delicious as the object of the two performers' maniacal obsession: the seemingly innocuous green pea.

Heaven is joined onstage by fellow performer and collaborator Brian Lucas. A modern-day "Lurch" in a black tuxedo, Lucas manages to successfully counterbalance Heaven's excellent performance, acting as the foil for her "mildly evil" schemes. Much of the comedy comes from their disparate heights, especially because it is the comparatively diminutive Heaven who seems to pull all the strings, torturing Lucas with that most malevolent of vegetables. Together they comprise the perfect odd couple, grimacing and glowering in a tiny, old-fashioned parlour,

drawn together by a shared obsession.

Heaven's inspirations for the work were silent films of early last century, and this interest is clearly reflected in the melodramatic expressions, meticulously framed imagery and physical movements that speed and slow as though some unseen projector reel is being cranked at varying speeds. The action is divided into short scenes in which a simple silhouette, a moving shadow or a facial expression is consciously highlighted, with the smallest details taking on an unexpected and exciting significance.

The general impression of a silent film come to life is further manifested in a score by Bill McDonald, which ranges from tinkly piano music to white noise, punctuated by the telling creaks, groans and shrieks of a gothic film.

Disagreeable Object maintains its narrow focus and a very clear construction of space, mood and characterisation. This piece, presented as part of Chunky Move's *The Next Move* series for emerging choreographers, represents some of the most entertaining creative work on offer in Melbourne.