



## **ECONOMY OF THOUGHT**

The banking crisis meets a thoughtful critique



Grinning bankers bet on who in a crowd of protesters will scramble for a banknote as it flutters towards them. A young journalist exploits family connections to get her first big scoop. An ambitious economist sees a move into green energy as a means of furthering her career.

Everyone's on the make in Patrick McFadden's solid morality tale set in the world of high finance. But don't expect an hour of empty banker-bashing: *Odd Rituals'* thoughtful play, part comedy and part critique, is gratifyingly nuanced. Nobody emerges unsullied by the grime of greed as its storylines expand into fractured personal relationships and fraught questions of integrity.

Katharine Davenport stands out as the tormented Amanda, torn between loyalty to her sister (a volatile Rose O'Loughlin) and to her unpleasant banking colleagues, led by the obnoxious Reece, played with gleeful swagger by Jonny McPherson.

Things move slowly at times, especially in some lengthy and frequent set changes, and the plot direction sometimes seems a little shaky. But it's a strong piece of work nevertheless. (David Kettle)

■ *Assembly George Square, 623 3030, until 26 Aug (not 12, 19), 2.40pm, £12-£14 (£10-£12).*