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REBECCA GELDARD'S TOP 10 SHOWS IN LONDON

WITH



WITH
Rokeby
Until 3/10

It's too easy to package what this reactionary collective does as familiar pop-cultural satire, given the easy accessibility of their human narratives. But they're far too clever to fall into such an obvious associative trap, rapidly shifting in gear from one moment to the next, between Armando Iannucci's topical mode of send up and Heath Bunting's tech-focused cultural critique. WITH's chameleon practice appears to have evolved out of the toxic ashes of a media bonfire comprising surplus-to-requirements corporate marketing material, self-help book-jacket jargon, an ex-charity t-shirt run and the contents of a reality TV post-production company cutting-room floor. Their hokey life enhancement company offers a range of services for the disengaged: the agents of 'GAPFEAR' will travel the world on your behalf, while the traumatized subject of video work 'Redesign Your Life Down Under' is brought (with the help of "the victims of the porn industry" and rugby) to the point of being able to "re-interface with the real me". But the Devil, as always, is in the details - wriggling between personae and modes of presentation, the group, with their pseudo-benevolent actions and performative gestures, effectively tip the viewer into a layer cake of mass-media references. From the midst of which, in truly Orwellian fashion, it becomes tricky to ascertain precisely where the critical buck is being kicked from and with whom it will stop.