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Dispatches from the Fringe: the extraordinary in the ordinary

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Portraits in Motion, Volker Gerling in association with Aurora Nova
Photo by Susanne Schüle with kind permission from Tiger Dublin Fringe 2015

Portraits in Motion, by Volker Gerling in association with Aurora Nova

Rating: ★★★★★

In "Portraits in Motion" German, photographic flip book maker, Volker Gerling tells of his extensive travels and of his passion for making flip books. Since 2003 he's walked 3,500 kilometres on what's become a series of personal pilgrimages, walking from Berlin to Basle, showing his thumb cinema to anyone interested. Along the way he takes photographs of people.

The humorous and soft spoken Gerling, using a video camera hooked up to a large projector, flicks through black and white images of people and places contained in his series of flip books. Each little book offers a sort of brief journey where time can be stopped, stretched, rewound or frozen. In between, Gerling gives some context to the images, describing how he takes thirty six

photos in twelve seconds and how the gaps between the images are equally as important. For the most part he lets his flip books do the talking. And they speak volumes. A lot can happen in twelve seconds. A self-conscious pose can be dropped, a mask slip and an inestimable richness and beauty can be found in the faces of strangers.

If the aim of art is to make strange the familiar and the familiar strange, "Portraits in Motion" meet this criteria perfectly. With "Portraits in Motion" Gerling has taken an almost forgotten form and resurrected it, slowing time to reveal the moments in between the moments. Here he finds a vast richness containing the life we fail to see happening right before our eyes. In "Portraits in Motion" the universal is reflected in a gentle particular that is astonishing in its simplicity and beauty.

"Portraits in Motion" by Volker Gerling in association with Aurora Nova runs at [the Abbey Theatre](#) on the Peacock Stage as part of the Tiger Dublin Fringe till September 19th.

Show begins at 6.30 pm.

Tickets: €16/€14

For further information visit [The Abbey Theatre](#) or [Tiger Dublin Fringe](#)



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