

# Adelaide Fringe reviews 2014: The Trials and Tribulations of Mr Pickwick

The Trials and Tribulations of Mr Pickwick

Theatre \*\*\*

**Bakehouse Theatre — Studio, until February 28**

NIGEL Nevinson's one-man play hitches itself to the genius of Charles Dickens and his comic masterpiece, *The Pickwick Papers*.

Adopting the role of Samuel Pickwick and others, Nevinson propels the audience through parts of Dickens' quixotic tale of travel and travail.

Backed by simple costumes and props, Nevinson uses Dickens' words to help Mr Pickwick — a kindly but somewhat limited philosopher and retired gentleman — landlady Mrs Bardell, valet Sam Weller, lawyer Serjeant Buzfuz and others spring from the page.

Lovers of Dickens will enjoy this solo performance, with strong characterisations true to the writer's voice.

Those less familiar with the tale may find the 19th century prose and pace a little ponderous.

But the humour and bravado of the court scene is a rollicking piece, bound to entertain.

Classic, if you're in to that kind of stuff.

**Jennifer Hullick = The Advertiser**