“It’s all in the Timing” by David Ives
Primary Stages  59 E 59 Theater
A review by Fred Sander (March 10, 2013)

Velcro to David Ives’ brillante in a (Gallop-pig-gos) search fur populi trying to communicate but can’t.

Scene one portraits how boy and girl can’t start jump a café relationship as they mimic one another’s speech. In his ear and out her other their timing is off. They are mostly not in synch by a nanosec . Bling! Can Ives pull this off? Bling!

How did we get to this point of non-communication? 
Three chimps named Milton, Swift and Kafka, subjects of an experiment, to see if they can with finite in time type the full script of the bard’s Hamlet. They seem at times to manage to be and not to be, a sure thing. “The rest is silence” one of them muses. But can David off this pull?

Scene three, like a Higgins teacher transmits to to teach a versal uni language to do little Eliza. “I think she’s got it.” Unamunda is at the brink.

Their speech is minimalist as far as it goes as Phil lips Glass wants to buy a loaf of bread, loafing all the way round the cakery. Dough he cannot get.

In scene five nothing goes well when one is in a Philadelphia or a Baltimore or dead in a Cleveland. People still have no selves and by scene six Leon unable to trot or ski is offed in Mexico on August 20th, 1940. Timing just right is as humans learn to kill rather than talk over their stuttering.

In a word the play is hilicious and demonstrates Ives’s creativity early in his career. Befur mit Venus. This production is the first NY revival in 20 years and anticipates the disintegration of speech in the era of texting. It runs until April 14th . Try not to miss it.

All this may be a good introduction to “Kafka’s Monkey,” our next play in which a monkey transforms into a human with, I presume, the discontents of civilization resultment.

Saturday April 13 2pm
at the Baryshnikov Arts Center
450 West 37th St.
Call Fred Sander to reserve your ticket(s).
212 534 8150