

The New Theatre Group has returned with another premier playwright and an all-star cast for its fourth consecutive Fringe production. We were unable to commission a playwright this year, but we are excited to be presenting *Strong*, a world premiere play by Dominic Orlando.

Strong

a new play by Dominic Orlando

Performances are at:

**The Minneapolis Theatre Garage
711 West Franklin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55405**

Friday, July 31 @ 5:30pm
Saturday, August 1 @ 10:00pm
Thursday, August 6 @ 7:00pm
Friday, August 7 @ 10:00pm
Sunday, August 9 @ 7:00pm

Cast:

**Sasha Andreev
Emily Gunyou Halaas
Terry Hempleman
Amy McDonald**

For reservations please visit www.fringefestival.org

About the Play

Detectives Ross and Everly are linked by a traumatic event 20 years in their past. When a crime that echoes this event brings them back together, a dangerous game begins. This play explores trauma and recovery, guilt and redemption, and how fragile and strong we can be.

About The New Theatre Group

The New Theatre Group is dedicated to presenting new works by local playwrights through an organic, artist-driven process. The shows are cast before writing begins and the playwright then tailors the script specifically to the actors involved. The resulting production is a wonderfully personal and collaborative piece that works to specifically showcase not just the actors, but the entire groups' ideas about what theatre can be.

It was established by Brian Balcom in 2006 as the producing organization for *How to Cheat* as part of the Minnesota Fringe Festival. That show enjoyed a great deal of success ranking in the top tiers in total attendance and audience reviews. The Group is currently working towards a season featuring more new work by local playwrights.

For more information about our production history, please visit www.NewTheatreGroup.org

About the Artists

Dominic Orlando (Playwright) was recently awarded his second Jerome Fellowship to The Playwrights Center, and was commissioned by Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, The Red-Eye Collaboration, Nautilus Music-Theater, and Teatro Del Pueblo. A former McKnight Fellow, he is also a Core Writer and a co-Producer with PWC's company- in-residence, The Workhaus Play-wrights' Collective. He is four-time fellow to The MacDowell Colony, and a former writer-in-residence at Yaddo, The William Inge Festival, Ucross, The Edward Albee Foundation, Djerassi, and The Atlantic Center for The Arts. He will be directing his new play for Workhaus this coming November.

Terry Hempleman's (Actor) local credits include *His Girl Friday*, *Gem Of The Ocean*, and *Lake Hollywood* at the Guthrie, *Huck Finn*, *Amber Waves* and *Anon(Ymous)* at CTC; *Last Of The Boys*, *Same Time Next Year*, and *Orange Flower Water* at the Jungle Theater; *Cyranno*, *Carousel*, and *The Most Happy Fella* with Ten Thousand Things; *Dinner With Friends* at Eye of The Storm; *Frozen*, *Midsummer Nights Dream* and *Of Mice And Men* at Park Square Theater; and *THIRST* at Joe's Garage.

Amy McDonald (Actor) has worked locally at The Jungle, The Guthrie, The Illusion, The Mixed Blood, The History Theater, The Old Log, The Cricket , Stagemwright Unlimited, Building Seven Productions, Thirst Theater and The Playwrights' Center. Other theater credits include The Williamstown Theater Fest, The Second Stage, The Woodstock Theater Fest, Caldwell Theater, Indiana Rep, Pennsylvania Centre Stage, and The Sacramento Theater Company. She is a member of the theater faculty at SPCPA and holds an MFA in Acting from NYU.

Sasha Andreev (Actor) was most recently seen in Guthrie's *Two Gentlemen of Verona* as the Singer. Theater credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Edgardo Mine* (Guthrie Theater); *Figaro*, *Don Juan Giovanni*, *Lettice & Lovage* (Theatre de la Jeune Lune); *The Mad Dancers* (Mixed Blood); *West Side Story* (Chanhassen Dinner Theaters); *Peer Gynt* (MN Orchestra); *A Corner of the World* (Emigrant Theater); *10 Speed Revolution* (Walking Shadow); *A Christmas Carol*, *Fast and Loose* - 2004 Humana Festival (Actors Theatre of Louisville)

Emily Gunyou Halaas (Actor) has performed in New Theater Group's *How to Cheat* as well as her solo show *She, So Beloved* in the 2006 Fringe Festival. Her Twin Cities credits include work with Theatre de la Jeune Lune, The Guthrie Theater, The Jungle Theater, Park Square Theater, Theatre Latte Da, Mixed Blood Theater, Red Eye, Frank Theater, Gremlin Theatre and Children's Theater Company.

Sarah Holmberg (Stage Manager) graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Superior with a BFA in Technical Theatre - Direction and Design. She has worked locally as a stage manager for Walking Shadow Theatre and New Theatre Group and as a props designer for Walking Shadow, Penumbra Theatre and Park Square Theatre.

Brian Balcom (Director/Producer) grew up in Minneapolis and has assisted on several shows at The Guthrie, The Jungle, and The Old Globe Theaters, and has directed with Mu Performing Arts, Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Illusion's Lighthouse Group, Walking Shadow Company, and Gremlin Theater. Brian has a BFA in directing from the Carnegie-Mellon School of Drama.

