

Audience Reviews  
www.FringeFestival.org  
(kitties = stars)

### **Strong**

*by Marvin Joel Rubin*

**Rating** 4 kitties

Written like Mamet, when he mattered.

### **Wanting More**

*by Joshua Humphrey*

**Rating** 5 kitties

I didn't want this show to end; it felt as if I was taking a long draught of cool water from a stream and I didn't want to stop. From beginning to end I wanted more: the tight writing, the driven, nuanced performances--everything, with one proviso, was perfect.

There are some lengthy transitions that take me right out of the experience and place me back square in my seat. I didn't appreciate that; these worlds were so clearly defined that I hated being taken out of the moment.

That said, on the writing and performances alone, this is worth 5 kitties. There is so much packed into these two pieces, I was never bored, always riveted and hungering for more.

### **Stunning!**

*by Christina Lein*

**Rating** 5 kitties

Two pieces of sheer brilliance! All star cast, stellar direction, and fabulous scripts. I would love to see "Strong" as a full-length drama, either on stage or on film.

### **Strong Performances**

*by Ralph Remington*

**Rating** 4 kitties

Strong boasts strong performances. Terry Hempleman, Emily Gunyou Halaas, Sasha Andreev and Amy McDonald are giving a master class in acting. If you dig meaty performances and character work, as I do, go see Strong and sit for a spell. You won't be disappointed. These folks possess some of the finest acting talent that we have in the Twin Cities. Recognize!

### **Christian Carter**

*by Christian Carter*

**Rating** 4 kitties

Very great performances by every actor involved. The script to the main feature certainly lacked, but this all star cast made it very worth while, and the shorter Little Green Man was hilarious and very well written.

If you are in the area of the Theater Garage, do not skip this show, and if you are Fringing out and about, try to see it, the acting is superb.

### **Strong Performances**

*by Erik Hoover*

**Rating** 4 kitties

All four cast members find depth and subtlety in these well-written shorts. The format gives promising material short-shrift but hopefully this is only a peek at something greater to come.

### **Strong stuff**

*by Mo Perry*

**Rating** 4 kitties

Strong was my favorite of the two pieces. I appreciated the directing choice to open the actors up to the audience in some of the 2-person scenes (rather than face each other). These actors are so good, it was a treat to be able to look into their faces. This is the show to see if you're looking for simply great acting by accomplished artists in a stripped-down, intimate Fringe setting.

### **Beautifully done!**

*by Nan Montgomery*

**Rating** 5 kitties

It is well worth your while to see this. The writing is excellent and made elegant by fine acting. A fine wit is behind the Little Green Men script and Strong exposes the terrifying frailty of all.

### **Beautiful script & flawless acting**

*by Florence Brammer*

**Rating** 5 kitties

Wow, what a great pair of plays. These two short works have more content than most works triple their length. Flawless acting doesn't hurt either. Even though this was a 10 p.m. show after a long day of Fringing, I was sorry to see these two thought-provoking and satisfyingly ambiguous pieces end.

### **Awesome Aliens**

*by Justin Alexander*

**Rating** 4 kitties

Little Green Man is the delight of the evening -- a clever, tight script combined with strong, memorable performances set a high bar.

Strong, unfortunately, doesn't clear that bar. The performances -- particularly from Emily Gunyou Halaas and Terry Hempleman -- are extraordinarily good, but they're ultimately betrayed by a confused script that fails to realize the full potential of its dramatic material. The script is as much frustrating as it is disappointing, and it is to the actors' credit that they succeed in creating memorable and entertaining theater despite being somewhat hamstrung.

Long story short: Little Green Men is excellent and worth the price of admission all by itself. Strong has a questionable script, but is nevertheless powerful and moving on the strength of its actors.

### **Tech?**

*by David Trudeau*

**Rating** 4 kitties

I desperately want to give this five kitties for the superb writing and acting, but the annoying long dark pauses for choppy scene changes and light and sound miscues prevent me from doing so. With a few more cheap chairs the scenes could seamlessly flow from one area of the stage to another using light and sound cues. Writing and acting of this caliber deserves better direction.

### **Good Stories, Well Told.**

*by Sid Solomon*

**Rating** 5 kitties

Another success for The New Theatre Group. Director Brian Balcom leads an all-star cast through two terrifically written one act plays. A MUST SEE for anyone who enjoys top-notch professional theater at its best.

### **What Doesn't Kill You....**

*by Reid Gagle*

**Rating** 5 kitties

Excellent acting and solid writing anchor these two short dramatic stories. Both of these dialog-driven playlets are comprised of scenes with a pair of characters, mostly just sitting and talking. Although the format sounds static, there is a lot of story movement in the longer piece, 'Strong'. The short piece, 'Little Green Man', is less ambitious, but the idea of a Gitmo for a Roswell alien is cute.

### **Strong stuff**

*by Dan Pinkerton*

**Rating** 5 kitties

A pair of tersely written one acts that show how much can be accomplished in a short short play. The first, about a government drone attempting to interrogate an illegal alien (as in, from another planet) is as good as the best Pinter --- tense and funny at the same time. No humor in the second piece, about sexual offenders and the people whose lives they destroy, but again, it's crisply written, tense, moving. Kudos to the fabulous cast (Amy McDonald, Emily Gunyou, Terry Hempleman, Sasha Andreev) and excellent, unfussy direction. Not to be missed.