

JULY 13 2006



## BEST OF THE FRINGE 44



### DESPERATE HOUSEPETS ★★★★★

Featuring Alan Lee, Adrian Proszowski. Written by Robert Watson. Directed by Andrew Lamb. July 15, 8:45pm; July 16, 3:30pm.

*Desperate Housepets* could get by on well-executed penis and rabbit libido jokes, but the greatest of its considerable charms is that it has bigger dreams, like the fish trying to turn its memory-impaired tankmates into fully realized Kierkegaardian social beings. The excellent ensemble bounce punchlines off each other like tennis balls — with Leah Wahl almost literally chewing the scenery as a baby-mutilating cat — and execute a biscuit-winning late turn into weightier material. With more brains than a neurotic border collie and the heart of a golden retriever, this show should catch on faster than rabies. **MH**

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