

We are well over half-way through the 2012 Hollywood Fringe Festival. So far, there have been some great shows, but we expect nothing less. Today, we review three shows: **Richard Parker**, **INTERNment** and **Love Is A Battlefield**



***Richard Parker* at Fringe Central Mainstage**

by Tony Bartolone~

The ultimate indication that *Richard Parker* is a brilliant play is the feelings it incites. After the play two impulses were prevalent above all other thoughts: 1. I need to see this play again immediately. 2. But I am afraid.

It was once said that a good piece of art is one that raises more questions than it answers. After watching *Richard Parker*, I say the only answers that exist end with a question mark. Existential reasoning becomes playfully unreasonable in this meticulously-crafted masterpiece. Purpose... destiny... coincidence... What, if any, consequence do these things have in our lives? Random chance creating patterns disguised as some meaning that floats in the ether with us. Does circumstantial familiarity hold any weight in the world? Is there some sort of synthesis to the fortuitous phenomenon? And if there is, what does it all mean?

Seemingly random references to coincidental happenings create a synthesis in this taunt exploration of life and death and the interactions of strangers. Simultaneously extravagantly and economically written, Owen Thomas' words are swiftly played out by sensational acting efforts. Minimalistic staging let this wonderful, philosophical dialog speak for itself.

*Richard Parker* plays June 20 at 4:30pm, 21 at 5 pm, 22\* at 9:30pm.

\*The June 22 performance is at Fringe Blackbox at NOTE.

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