



# Adelaide Theatre Guide

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## **NUCLEAR FAMILY**

**Matthew Vecchio Music**

**Nexus Gallery**

Until 8 Mar 2011

Review by Brian Godfrey

Desiree Gezentsvey's short play deals with migrating and how it breaks up families, can form new ones and, ironically, bring those segregated parties closer together in the wake of a tragedy.

The tragedy in question is the Chernobyl disaster and the immigrants a family of Russian Jews leaving their loved ones behind in the land of the long black hammer and sickle and heading for that of the long white cloud - New Zealand.

This is no depressing rollercoaster of a theatrical journey, but rather a gentle, humorous and slightly emotional trip made even more pleasurable by simple, clear direction from Dushyant Kumar and a tour-de-force performance from actor Yael Gezentsvey.

Ms Gezentsvey, wearing all-black with hair pulled tight, plays all the characters (male and female) and is a veritable United Nations of accents - Russian Jewish, Spanish, Italian and Kiwi. There is never any doubt as to what gender or nationality she is at any given time, thanks to her excellent mime and dramatic skills.

It is evident that here is a well trained actor, when Gezentsvey can turn her back to an audience and speak to a wall or go behind a curtain to talk and still be heard clearly without the aid of a microphone (somewhat rare these days).

"Nuclear Family" is a very welcomed migrant to the shores of the Fringe; but hurry as it is here on a fairly short visa.

Rating: 4.5 stars (out of 5)