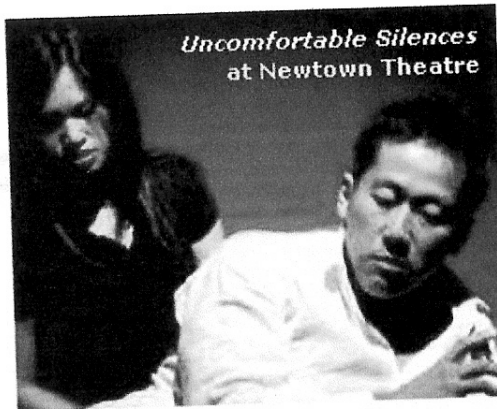


□ **IN** the current Short & Sweet Festival, the short play *Uncomfortable Silences* by Melbourne writer Andrew O'Keefe and directed by Victor Kline has turned out to be the most popular play in the festival's history so far.

The play stars Shingo Usami and Jacqui Yang.



Of 11 plays in Week 2 at Newtown Theatre, *Uncomfortable Silences* received an unprecedented 39.7 per cent of the popular vote, taking it above last year's People's Choice winner *Being Frank* (30.3 per cent) and the 2004 winner *The Ready to Fit Pergola Kit* (23.9 per cent).

It was also the first pick of 9 out of 11 judges making *Uncomfortable Silences* the winner of the judges' voting by 16 points.