

WHAT THE CRITICS ARE SAYING ABOUT DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN

"Caveman is a nationwide comic phenomenon!"

--Ralph Blumenthal , The New York Times

"Hysterically funny! As someone who has covered the theater off and on for a couple of decades, I'm as jaded as the next journalist, but I have to say that Becker made me laugh until tears rolled down my cheeks. People were holding their sides. The woman sitting next to me laughed until she choked. For ninety minutes, Becker proceeds, with compassion as well as humor, to outline the idea that there are real reasons for our differences, possibly even genetic reasons whose origins are buried in the millennia of human evolution; and instead of judging the opposite sex according to one's own gender based standards, it is possible to recognize the differences and accept them without hostile judgment. Becker sends you out of the theater with a smile on your face. You feel less alone. Couples who were arguing before the performance stroll out into the night afterward holding hands. You know there's going to be some serious snuggling going on when they get home. Seems to me that's well worth the price of admission. "

--Leslie Bennetts, Variety

"Hilarious Caveman is full of keen detail"

--Christine Dolan , Miami Herald

"While Becker is out to dispel the notion that all men are jerks, he does so in a way that is designed to promote understanding between the sexes. And judging from the uniformly uproarious response, his observations play equally well to both sides of the divide."

--Vit Wagner, TORONTO STAR

"Despite the club-wielding Neanderthal ring of its title, Rob Becker's one-man show, "Defending the Caveman," is a surprisingly sweet, gently comic, even sentimental little celebration of the male and female of the species.

Becker may spend most of his 90-minute performance amusingly cataloguing the instantly recognizable traits that differentiate the sexes, but the underlying message of all of his observations is that out of these differences springs the potential for bridge building rather than perpetual warfare.

He has found a way to mine the commonplaces of heterosexual relationships that goes straight to the funny bone. His affection for women, in tandem with his light-hearted defense of men, puts him in a win-win situation. In his hands, the fireworks of the sexual revolution have been melted into friendly fire."

--Hedy Weiss , Chicago Sun Times

"It is comforting to be assured that we are part of an ongoing family -- the cave people from inner space."

--Clive Barnes , New York Post

"(H)umorous insights about contemporary feminism, masculine sensitivity, and the erogenous zone. A genuine word-of-mouth hit, it shows no sign of fading."

--Stephen Schaefer , New York Post

"The sensation of the year!"

--Richard Christiansen, Chicago Tribune

"How does Becker explain Caveman's success? "I think the show gives people a way to understand themselves and their partners while they're laughing and I think some healing takes place when a couple sits in a darkened theater, laughing with hundreds of other couples, realizing they're not alone."

It took more than three years to write the complete show, which was first presented in 1991 in San Francisco. He knew he was onto something after working on the show in 1987 and soon developed the theme that the struggles between a man and a woman can be understood by thinking of them as coming from two different cultures.

He also feels that he has tapped into a current societal wave. "I think a whole generation is catching on to the idea that we can

work for equality between the sexes AND we can bring harmony to our relationships by understanding our differences.""

--John Wolfe, Playbill

"Outrageously funny! Caveman explores all of the things that make men and women fight, laugh, and love."

--Deborah Bradley , Dallas Morning News

You should be feeling positively antediluvian if you haven't yet caught up with "Defending The Caveman." Rob Becker's solo comedy hit celebrated it's 400th performance, making it the longest-running non-musical solo performance in Broadway history. To mark this occasion, the Mayor of New York officially proclaimed it "Caveman Day" and renamed West 44th Street, where the show resides at the Helen Hayes Theater, "Caveman Way."

--Patrick Pacheco, Newsday

WASHINGTON POST

"Caveman is a blockbuster!"

--Lloyd Rose

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

"Hilarious! Probes the male mystique with a well-aimed spear."

--Gerald Nachman

FORT LAUDERDALE SUN-SENTINEL

If good theater is supposed to show an audience something of themselves, then "Defending the Caveman" is platinum-plus. Both sexes roar with pleasure in recognition of their own foibles and each others' flaws. The settings doesn't involve much -- a television and a stuffed chair, both in granite, plus a cave drawing and a fertility illustration. He doesn't need any more.

--Jack Zink

THEATER WEEK MAGAZINE

"Becker is clearly hitting a serious chord. "We've had grandparents, parents and their married children come to the show together, people in work boots sitting next to college

professors, and many marriage counselors. What blows me away is how touched people say they are. Many women have told me that, thanks to the show, they've fallen in love with their husbands all over again. Men have told me that the show explains them to their spouses in ways they've never quite been able to articulate before," says Becker.

Caveman's structure is largely inspired, Becker explains, by Joseph Campbell's, "Hero With a Thousand Faces," an intensive study of narrative development in all hero's journeys throughout mythology. There are a number of plot turning points and each one has it's parallel in Becker's story: from the inciting incident, to time travel, to encountering a goddess and an older wise man, to undergoing a series of trials to a final, reconciliatory celebration. Don't let the high-fallutin' thoughts fool you. It's all jolly and lighthearted.

One thing is certain; Caveman is a hit. It will become Broadway's longest running non-musical solo performance on July 17 -- breaking the record previously held by Lily Tomlin's "The Search For Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe." It's well into it's second year with houses packed to capacity almost every night."
--Simi Horowitz

"Be prepared to laugh!"
--Peter Felicia

"Absolutely Brilliant! Rob Becker explores the differences between men and women with warmth, insight, and compassion. CAVEMAN should be seen by anyone who wants to understand the opposite sex."
--John Gray, Ph.D., Author, Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus

"When I saw Defending The Caveman, I knew I had a new homework assignment for my couples in therapy."
Anna Beth Benningfield, President, American Association of Marriage and --Family Therapists

"The world needs to see Caveman!"

--Lillian Glass, Ph.D., Author "He Says, She Says, Closing The Communication Gap Between The Sexes"

"One of the funniest evenings of my life!"

--Warren Farrell, Author "Why Men Are The Way They Are "