

theatre of tension

by Tracey Reid

Potestad, Eduardo Pavlovsky's compelling drama, has been said to accurately convey the disturbing psychological elements of his investigation into the social and political lives of Argentines during the military junta's reign of terror from 1976 to 1983.

Loosely translated from its Spanish origin, potestad means power: a force which can devastate a country and destroy a family by slowly driving its members insane, one by one.

The play, mainly a monologue, is set in Buenos Aires after the fall of the military junta. It explores the state of mind of a 'man' after his daughter has apparently been abducted by agents of the repressive Argentinean regime. People, suspected as subversives, were frequently arrested and taken to 'detention centres' where they were interrogated, usually under torture.

'The man,' who is never named, is played by Diego Matamoros. He creates a mood of extreme tension that unrelentingly winds the audience up to the point where, at the end of the performance, they are left in a state of shock.

This comes about slowly and almost unnoticed as the man, a doctor, tells about the fateful day



Diego Matamoros as "The Man" in Potestad at the Tarragon Theatre.

when his daughter was taken. He carefully explains where, when and how everything happened — from the time, Saturday afternoon at half-past three to where he, his wife and his daughter were sitting to the exact distances between them. Such attention relates the anguish he has undergone, as he searches his mind to remember every detail, to recapture the moment and hold onto it forever.

What the man is really trying to hold onto is his sanity, which slowly ebbs away as he tells his story to his friend Tita (Elizabeth Johnson). Tita is an attentive and compassionate listener who rarely speaks, communicating all that she is feeling through facial expressions.

But with his mind completely askew, the man reveals his true self. The horror of the situation comes to a head, exploding with a twist. The finale is vaguely hinted at, but is still unexpected when it comes, creating a shocked silence that ensues long after Matamoros has left the stage.

Potestad is running at the Tarragon Theatre until November 26.

potestad:

arts calendar

by Kristy Gordon

The Russians are here! **The Hizor Ensemble from Tadzhikistan, USSR** is on campus until Nov. 23 guest teaching in the dance and music depts. The Ensemble, consisting of 12 dancers and musicians, are noted for their performances of traditional ceremonial, lyrical and comic folk songs and dances. They will hold a **Dancer's Forum** Nov. 20 12-2pm in Studio I, Fine Arts Building II, a Master Class Nov. 21 9-12noon in DACARY Hall, McLaughlin. Don't miss their full-length feature performance of traditional Tadzhik music and dance Nov. 22 at 9pm at the DACARY, tickets at the door.

On Nov. 17 at noon in DACARY Hall, the **Student Chamber Ensemble** will perform a varied programme. Call 736-5186 for more info.

Fashion Fever hits Glendon College! Glendon's long-awaited alternate fashion show highlights a streetwear theme this year. Fashion week begins Nov. 20 and will include an old clothing exchange. The week will culminate with fashion shows Nov. 24 & 25 at 9pm at the Glendon Theatre. 487-6720

for more info.

The **IDA Gallery** is presenting an exhibition of recent paintings and photographs by visual arts graduate students. Works by Phyllis Alter, Liz Arger and Linda Dike Goerk will be featured. The gallery is open weekdays from 10-4pm.

You won't want to miss the performance of **The Love Talker** by Deborah Pryor, contemporary American playwright. This play, directed by fourth year theatre student Christina Uriarte, is a one act dramatic adventure delving into the psyche of a woman fighting for survival. The play runs from Nov. 22-24 at the **Samuel Beckett Theatre**. Performances start at 8pm and tickets are \$3 at the door. Or catch the matinee at 12:15pm on Nov. 23.

Orchestra York will perform on Nov. 27 at 7:30 in DACARY Hall. On Nov. 29 the **Winds Symphony and University Choir** will perform a joint concert at 7:30pm in DACARY Hall. The conductor is Kathleen Ash Barraclough. Call 736-5186 for more info.

The Vanier Reading Series presents the **ism Launch Party** in the Vanier Senior Common Room Nov. 21 at 4 pm. There'll be free food, too.

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