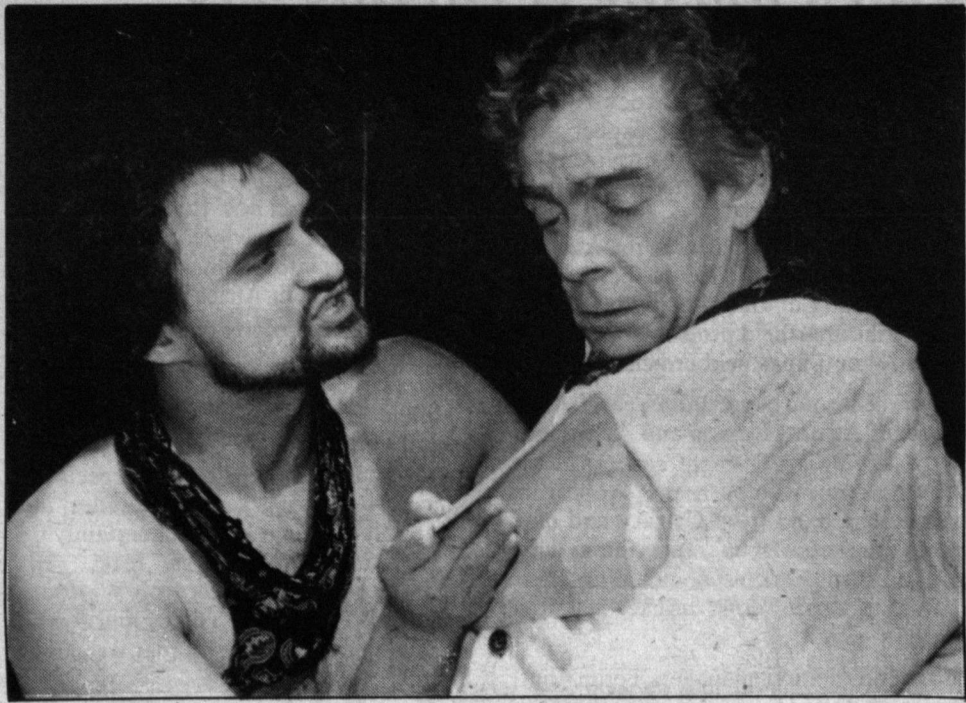


Kiss of the Spider Woman reincarnated at Citadel



Clive Osby

A scene from *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, now playing in the Citadel Rice Theatre.

Kiss of the Spiderwoman
Citadel Rice Theatre
through December 4

review by Jennifer Onano

If you enjoyed watching the 1986 film version of *Kiss of the Spiderwoman* with the Oscar winning performance of William Hurt, the stage adaptation playing at the Citadel is a must-see. Under the direction of Alexandre Hausvater, the production by Montreal's Association of Producing Artists is a hypnotic theatrical experience, uninterrupted by any intermission.

Adapted from Manuel Puig's 1976 novel,

which was banned in Argentina for a decade, *Kiss of the Spiderwoman* is the story of two men who share a Buenos Aires jail cell. Jack Langedijk plays the Marxist revolutionary Valentin, doing time for his political views. Valentin's tough cynical shell can no longer shield him from his own enraged emotions, confusion and helplessness.

Joseph Cazalet is Molina, the aging homosexual window dresser doing eight years for corrupting a minor. A gentle and lonely creature, Molina simply wants a man to whom he can devote himself.

Despite their bleak surroundings, the men have the ability to conjure up beauty

through the power of imagination. Endowed with a wonderful gift of storytelling, Molina weaves a tangled web of movie fantasies, with the 1943 flick *Cat People* in particular. Valentin is caught in the web, and inevitably, a powerful emotional bond develops between them, even though Molina knows that he might be forced to betray his cell-mate in exchange for freedom.

Hausvater uses a number of powerful techniques to convey emotion. For example, a spotlight flashed repeatedly reveals each man in some tortured state; a bright red tomato being eaten depicts utter sensuality; the harsh metallic clanking of the cell doors personifies the terror already felt by the men.

The stark set design by Jean-Charles Martel is brilliant in portraying the "caged encounter" between Valentin and Molina. By using wire mesh for the walls of the jail cell, the actors are able to project their feelings of grief and rage by hurling against the cell walls.

This is not a play with a political message, nor is it one with a homosexual message. *Kiss of the Spiderwoman* is a

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play about opening up, about the interaction between two men, and about the meaning of dignity. It is highly recommended.

Edmonton Symphony Orchestra

This Friday, November 18 at the Jubilee Auditorium, the ESO presents a special concert featuring pianist Misha Dichter, entitled "Rhapsody on a Theme ...The Romantic Era," including works by Mozart and Rachmaninoff. Tickets at BASS or the ESO box office.

Edmonton Jazz Society

This Friday and Saturday, November 18 or 19, the EJS presents the Jim Head Trio at the Yardbird Suite. Admission is \$2 for EJS members and \$5 for guests. Shows start at 9:00 pm each night.

Fine Arts Building Gallery

Two new exhibitions are now running at the Gallery, through December 11. Featured are works by John Snow, Printmaker and drawings by Louis Muhlstock. Admission is free.

Film/Discussion Night: Women and Poverty

The Alberta Status of Women Action Committee and the National Film Board is holding a discussion and film night at the Centennial Library Theatre on Thursday, November 17, 7:30 pm. For more information call 421-0306.

Horizon Stage Literary Cafe

The Horizon Stage in Spruce Grove is presenting an evening with Susan Mayse, this Friday, November 18 beginning at 8 pm. A reception will follow the show. For more information or tickets, call 962-8995.

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