

Pavlovsky Festival

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In the fall of 1995 Stages Theatre Center in Hollywood, California, presented its second cycle of works by the internationally renowned Argentine playwright/psychiatrist/actor Eduardo Pavlovsky. At this festival, Stages produced two English world premieres of Pavlovsky's works in adaptation by artistic director Paul Verdier. They were *Cerca/Close*, a jam session of emotions, words and sounds in which a couple explores its complex, intimate relationship. The performers were John Densmore, the former drummer of the rock group The Doors, who accompanied the dialogue with a musical background he created with a variety of percussion instruments, and Leslie Neale.

The second major premiere was *El señor Galíndez* which debuted in Buenos Aires 20 years ago and is now considered a Latin American classic. Its principal theme is the psychology of the torturer during the Argentine political repression of the late 70s. The cast was headed by Tony Maggio, Ken Hanes and Sheelagh Cullen.

Eduardo Pavlovsky served as artist-in-residence from 5-10 December. He performed his signature piece, *Potestad*, an emotional saga in which a man recounts how his daughter was taken away by the authorities. He also participated in discussions of his works with the audiences and in book signings. There were also staged readings in Spanish of two of Pavlovsky's most recent works, *El bocón* (The Big Mouth) and *Paso de dos* (Pas de deux). All in all, in that final week of the festival, Stages presented performances of nine Pavlovsky works.

Stages Theatre introduced Pavlovsky's works to English-speaking audiences with its 1987 Pavlovskyfest in Los Angeles, at which time artistic director Paul Verdier presented his adaptation of *Cámara lenta/Slow Motion* and *Pablo*, and Pavlovsky performed *Potestad* in Spanish. The Pavlovskyfest was later invited to perform in the 1988 First New York International Festival of the Arts at the Cherry Lane Theatre.

In 1992 Stages presented the French premiere of *Potestad/Paternity* at the Avignon Festival, starring Jean-Louis Trintignant. This production opened at the Las Palmas Theatre in Los Angeles later the same year, and featured Trintignant in his first appearance on the American stage. *Potestad/Paternity* made its English world premiere in Verdier's adaptation at Stages Theatre in 1994, directed by Tony Abatemarco and starring Joe Spano and Leslie Neale. In 1994, Stages Theatre Press published the three Pavlovsky plays it had presented in a volume entitled *Three Plays by Eduardo Pavlovsky: Slow Motion, Potestad/Paternity, Pablo*. Verdier next plans to translate and adapt *Cerca/Close* into French and to present the work in European countries.

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