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by

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# *Pera Palas*

## **Theatre @ Boston Court**

Theatre @ Boston Court and the Antaeus Company have joined their considerable forces to present the west coast premiere of Sinan Ünel's epic *Pera Palas*, an incisive, humorous, and moving larger-than-life production set in Istanbul's palatial Pera Palas Hotel, a place where guests strive to keep up with the changing world as three craftily interconnecting and intergenerational stories crisscross tumultuously historical periods in time—1918, 1952 and 1994—while Turkey straddles Asia and Europe, Islam and Christianity, centuries-old tradition and jetset modernity.

This auspicious collaboration began when Antaeus workshopped the piece two years ago and asked Boston Court's Michael Michetti, my very favorite LA director, to bring his unearthly talents to the project. "The play epitomizes theatricality," Michetti says with signature infectious enthusiasm. "Actors cross lines of race, age and gender portraying sprawling families whose personal stories beautifully parallel Turkey's history from the last breaths of the Ottoman Empire to the present." And above everything else in this memorable production, Michetti's glorious staging shines brightest. Characters not only move with *Twilight Zone*-esque sincerity through the play's three periods of time, they inhabit the same space simultaneously, one set of actors telling their tale sitting on the bed while another person time travels through the room unnoticed