

# LA WEEKLY

July 28 – Aug. 3, 2005

## theater

### PERA PALAS

New Recommended

Pera Palas is the name of an Istanbul hotel where, in Sinan Ünel's epic, three generations of Westerners try to penetrate the mysteries of the land where Asia meets Europe. Ünel writes dozens of characters in his Somerset Maugham-ish saga, and if you're trying to follow the various tourists, you might find the three-acter a bit sprawling. However, the central character is really Turkey, and the drama concerns her slippery embrace and defiance of democratic intrusions upon the remnants of the Ottoman Empire. Michael Michetti directs a production that's quietly mesmerizing, certainly not for its dramatic action, but for the tiniest moments in which modern characters find themselves literally surrounded by ghosts, despite the contemporaries' attempts to flee or brush them aside. See Theater feature next week. Antaeus Company and Theater @ Boston Court, 70 N. Mentor Ave., Pasadena; Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 2 & 7 p.m.; thru Aug. 28. (626) 683-6883.

Written 07/29/2005 (Steven Leigh Morris)