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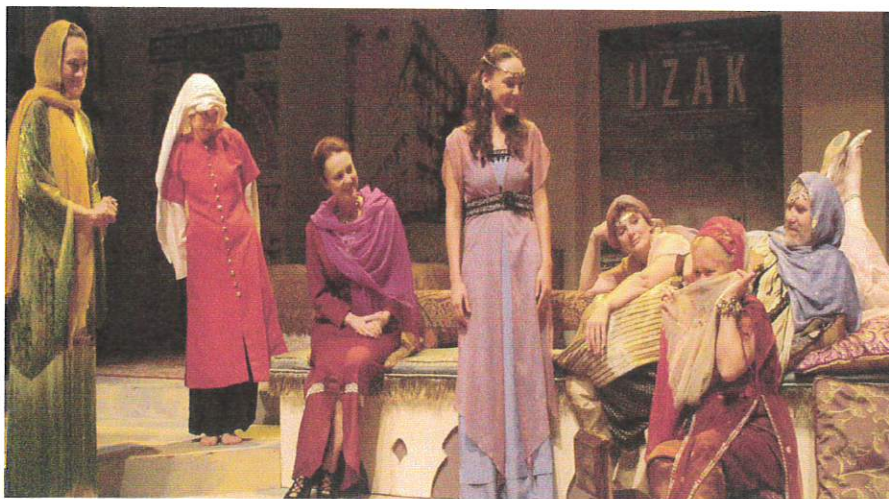
Pera Palas

The Theatre@Boston Court

reviewed by Jose Ruiz

For those not familiar with the name, Pera Palas is an ultra luxurious hotel in Istanbul designed by the French architect Alexander Vallaury. The hotel was opened in October 1891 and it is said that Sultan Abdülhamit attended the opening ceremony. The "Compagnie Internationale des Wagons et des Grands Express Européens" built the hotel for the use of passengers coming from Paris to Istanbul in the fabled Orient Express.

In keeping with the opulence of the venue, the Antaeus Company has mounted a beautifully lush presentation of Sinan Ünel's play by the same name, bringing together an exceptional double cast, a brilliant set designer and an imaginative director; all elements that fall in place like the proverbial rare alignment of the planets to create a spectacularly beautiful theatrical experience.



The play is set in three simultaneous time periods which alternate seamlessly, even when actors from one period are in the same space as characters from a different period. When their conversations overlap, it is so well done there is no trouble keeping track of the plot or the story line.

As is the case with most