

artistic director of The Antaeus Company. "There's Turkish language in it, so we've had someone consult us on that as well as a dialect coach to learn how to do a Turkish dialect."

Both Michetti and Hackett say they have never come across a play that dealt with Turkey, therefore, "Pera Palas" ventures to crack the theater mold by introducing American audiences to a widely unknown culture and, according to Hackett, sheds light on misconceptions of the country as a whole.

"I think most of all, for me, the scope of the play deals with big issues, but in a very human way. It's both personal and dealing with a whole century, a whole culture," says Hackett. "How this abrupt change confused the identity within, becoming somebody new and a country being resurrected."

Michetti says the play deals with turn of the century issues that are relevant today. "There are questions asked in the first periods of the play about what is the identity of the country and what is relevant now with the European Union and the question about whether they're European enough to join or whether they're too Muslim, too Eastern to be part of that." He continued, "Here we are almost a hundred years later and we're asking the same questions."

Like a particular tapestry that lies in the Pera Palas Hotel today, a gift from an Indian Maharajah to Atatürk in 1929, which incidentally bore the exact time of his expiration, "Pera Palas" may very well hold the answers to the future for these individuals, as well.

Sinan Ünel is the author of more than 20 plays and was awarded numerous awards for "Pera Palas" including, The John Gassner Memorial Award and was a finalist for the Massachusetts Cultural Council New Plays Grant.

"Pera Palas"

Previews run from July 14 through July 22. Opening nights are July 23 and 24 and runs through August 28.

Shows on Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Tickets: Preview \$15, Regular \$30

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