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the play you find that it is actually true. ...It humanizes a culture that we know very little about."

Hackett added, "But here's one misconception that was kind of universal, that the pasha, the sultan had an orgy every night.... (In reality) each wife is treated with respect.... It is not an amoral system. ... it can function in a human and humane way."

"The cultural rules," Peterson explained, "...made sense and made the system work."

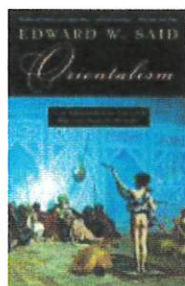
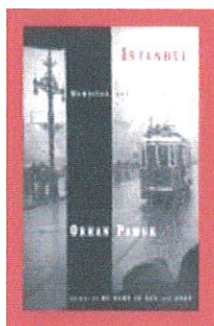
This West Coast premiere will be more lavish than previous productions and even previous Antaeus Company productions as well. Michetti worked with the company's traditional double casting and guided some guest actors who were brought in weren't used to that. Michetti trusts the instincts of the actors and allows for slight variances between actors so no performance will be exactly the same.

Unel noted, that in London the play was "seen more in terms of a political play," but for Unel, the play isn't at all political.

Yet there is a timely political aspect to this play as Michetti noted, "The question about its Westernness is on the table now with Turkey's attempt to join the European Union....Is it Western enough to join the European Union? She (Evelyn) asks this in 1924; here we are 81 years later essentially asking the same question.

--Originally published in *The Pasadena Weekly*

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