

The story of Yerma unfolds and sweeps forward with the power of the elements.

Water and earth are the key motifs. Water cajoles the earth into giving life. In the play it irrigates, and it quenches. Yerma's longing is constantly expressed as the cry of a parched woman, 'I'm thirsty but there is neither glass nor water'. It is sexual, 'Men like to please us, give us water to drink from their own mouths'. The stream where the washerwomen do their laundry represents the unstoppable force of nature towards procreation. But, 'alas for the barren wife, alas for her whose breasts are filled with sand'. Barren flesh is land 'fit for thistles'.

Then there is the breath of the play; the sigh of yearning, the moan of ecstasy, the whispers of gossip and insinuation. 'Breathe as gently as if you held a rose between your teeth' Yerma advises pregnant Maria. Her own breath which begins as a call of hope becomes a stifled cry of despair, a lament to the taunting, sterile wind which offers only 'dahlias of the sleeping moon'.

And finally, burning unchecked throughout the play is Yerma's desire to create life. Unfulfilled desire becomes raging fire which has no choice but to destroy whatever lies in its path.

Directors' Showcase

The Bird of Paradise
David's Birthday
Mother Figure

In the Studio, 1, 2 & 3 August

YERMA



THE
QUESTORS
THEATRE

July 20-27 1991

YERMA

by

Frederico García Lorca
translated by Peter Luke

Yerma	Caroline Bleakley
Juan	Michael Langridge
Victor	Nigel Lawrence
Maria	Rosalind Moore
Pagan Woman	Carolyn Savory
1st Young Girl/Female Mask	Mary Davies
2nd Young Girl	Lorraine Hill
Dolores	Monyene Kane
Sister in Law	Margaret Turner
Sister in Law	Mary Davies
Male Mask/Shepherd	Michael Dwyer
Boy in dream	John Johnson
Washerwomen	Mary Davies, Lorraine Hill Monyene Kane, Carolyn Savory Margaret Turner

This play lasts approximately
1 hour and 50 minutes
There will be no interval

Director
Musical Director
Designer
Lighting Designer
Costume Designer
Voice and Breathing

Patrick Kealey
Paul Page-Hanson
John Stacey
Jonathan Partington
Simon Baker
Sue Aldred

Construction

Bob Hoskins, Nick Beck
Carl Johnson
Nick Beck
Carl Johnson
Linda McDonald
Parkash Mankoo
Jane Plumptre
Ann Scurfield
Mike Gannon

Stage Manager
Deputy Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Properties
Prompters

Lighting Operator

Artwork

Louise Maggiore

Make-Up

Maria Lush, Louise Ricci
Emma Scott

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ida Kellarova - for her immense generosity in allowing her music to be a source of inspiration to the actors and to the production and for giving us permission to use some of her songs in the show

Mary Anderson, Celia Dowell, Joan Griffin, Geoff Moore
Bruno Santini, Kate Stratton (Stage International)
Chris Sydenham, Sylvia Wall, Janine Wunsche