

# 24 HEURES

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THE FEMININE IMAGINATION  
HAS EXPLODED THE FESTIVAL OF CONTEMPORARY THEATRE

A Beautiful Conclusion to the Events in Lausanne  
with the American Margo Lee Sherman. Magicians  
of the Art of Theatre have Created Miracles.

A Curious Tale is another story about women. There is Marie-Victoire, servant to the king, alone on stage. There are her three nieces, each in turn married to the king, and each a victim of a destiny that runs through the show like a thread. There is the grandmother, a synonym for innocence and the joy of life. There is the Virgin Mary, sole comfort to the servant who is exploited and terrorized by the terrible secret. Finally, there is the king's mother, in charge of each time delivering him a new wife. For the king is a glutton. And every wedding night is a pretext for a barbarous feast, one of those symbolic acts in which the whole scope of fairy tales is revealed.

The legend of the king who devoured his brides is not new. All the better. It has had time to people the audience's imagination, permitting actress Margo Lee Sherman and director Kate Mennone, Americans who are both familiar with solo theatre, to concentrate on one lone character, a shadowy figure but a witness to wickedness. And Margo Lee Sherman is sublime. With little touches, using only her body, she brings to life the docile servant, old before her time, who scrubs and cleans and that's all. She is obsessed with the past; the ghosts of her devoured nieces inhabit her, and the events of her life resurge ceaselessly, like a litany of bad dreams. The actress's husky voice creates miracles. Insanity awaits her if it is not already there, in the jerky, exasperated gestures of the woman. Servant and woman, all identity is denied her. Women understand this. A Curious Tale sows trouble far beyond its perfect ending.

- Isabelle Falconnier  
(translation)

The International Festival of Contemporary Theatre was held in Lausanne, Switzerland from August 25 through September 4, 1994.