



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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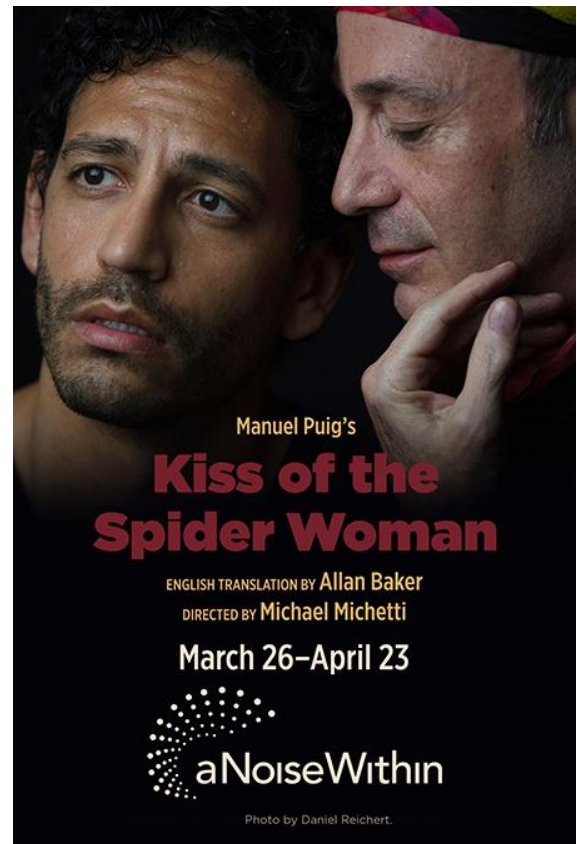
Polar opposites dare to love in ‘Kiss of the Spider Woman’ at A Noise Within

PASADENA, Calif (February 14, 2023) — In a South American prison cell in a country under authoritarian rule, two polar opposites discover that love may spring in the most unlikely of places. **Michael Michetti** directs **Adrián González** and **Ed F. Martin** in *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, adapted by Argentine writer **Manuel Puig** from his best selling novel, *El beso de la mujer araña*, and translated from the Spanish by **Allan Baker**.

Pasadena’s **A Noise Within** presents a four-week run, **April 1** through **April 23**, with previews beginning March 26.

Poignant, chilling, funny and sensual, this intimate two-hander is the story of Valentin (González), a macho political prisoner whose commitment to the Marxist cause takes precedence over everything else, and queer, movie-loving Molina (Martin), who escapes the harsh reality of prison life by retelling beloved film noir classics and emulating their glamorous leading ladies. Forced to share a cell in Buenos Aires’ notorious Villa Devoto prison during Argentina’s “Dirty War,” the two forge an unlikely relationship.

“It’s an amazing story, one that takes on new relevance in today’s polarized climate,” says Michetti. “The idea that two people from such different worlds, stuck together in this oppressive setting, are able to grow to understand and even love one another is beautiful and inspiring. There’s a lot of humor and playfulness despite the serious nature of the story, and people who might be familiar with the film or Broadway musical version will be surprised to find how much language drives the play. We, the audience,



are trapped in that cell with Valentin and Molina and, just like them, our only escape is to use our imagination.”

Born in 1932, Manuel Puig grew up as a queer man in Argentina’s increasingly conservative and oppressive society. Introduced to the movies at a young age by his mother — B movies and escapist fare were their favorites — Puig often sought refuge in the cinema. “It was our escape,” he said in an interview. “I hated my town. There was an authoritarian, repressive atmosphere, and I saw everything in terms of a second-rate cowboy picture, a B Western. The townspeople were the villains, not the heroes.” In the mid-1960s, when a coup d’état led to a full-blown military dictatorship, he sought a physical escape overseas. Puig wrote *Kiss of the Spider Woman* in 1976, while living in exile in Greenwich Village. The autobiographical parallels are obvious. Clearly a reflection of the contemporary Argentinean political situation, it was banned in his home country until democracy was restored.

Puig adapted *Kiss of the Spider Woman* for the stage in 1983. Allan Baker’s English translation premiered in 1985 at London’s Bush Theatre, with Simon Callow playing Molina and Mark Rylance as Valentin. In 1985, it was made into a film by Argentine-Brazilian director Hector Babenco, starring William Hurt and Raul Julia. The musical version, with a score by Kander and Ebb and book by Terrence McNally, opened on Broadway in 1993, receiving the Tony Award for best musical.

The A Noise Within production will feature an original, tango-inspired score by composer **Alex Mansour**. The creative team includes scenic designer **Tesshi Nakagawa**; lighting designer **Jared A. Sayeg**; sound designer **Robert Oriol**; costume designer **Carolyn Mazuca**; properties designer **Stephen Taylor**; dramaturg **Dr. Miranda Johnson-Haddad**; intimacy director **Carly DW Bones**; and casting director **Victoria Hoffman**. The assistant stage manager is **Karin Naono**, and the production stage manager is **Lucy Houlihan**.

A Noise Within has been called “an oasis for those who love classic stories” by the *Los Angeles Times* and is a leading regional producer based in Pasadena, California. ANW’s award-winning resident company is committed to representing the entire community at its state-of-the-art, 324-seat performance space. In addition to producing world-class performances of classic theater, the organization runs robust education programs with the goal of inspiring diverse audiences of all ages. ANW believes in working hard on its anti-racist practice across the whole organization. By interpreting its mission to fully engage audiences through community and artist-centered work in multiple creative disciplines, ANW is striving to be a theater that better serves the entire community.

Performances of *Kiss of the Spider Woman* take place **April 1** through **April 23** on **Thursdays** at **7:30 p.m.**; **Fridays** at **8 p.m.**; **Saturdays** at **2 p.m.** and **8 p.m.**; and **Sundays** at **2 p.m.** (no 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, April 1). Four preview performances take place on Sunday, March 26 at 2 p.m.; Wednesday, March 29 and Thursday, March 30, each at 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, March 31 at 8 p.m.

Audiences are invited to attend a **symposium** with resident dramaturg **Dr. Miranda Johnson-Haddad** at 6:45 p.m. prior to the preview on **Wednesday, March 29**. Join the **Trans Chorus of Los Angeles** for a performance of pieces inspired by *Kiss of the Spider Woman* before the 8 p.m. show on **Saturday, April 8**. **Post-performance conversations** with the artists take place every **Friday** during the run (except the preview) and on **Sunday, April 9**. An INsiders Discussion Group will be held on **Tuesday, April 18**, from **6 p.m. – 8 p.m.** on Zoom (**\$38** per individual or **\$45** per household). There will be **one student matinee** at **10:30 a.m.** on **Wednesday, April 19**. Interested educators should email education@anoisewithin.org.

A Noise Within is located at **3352 E Foothill Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107**. Tickets start at **\$25**. Student tickets start at **\$18**. Tickets to the previews on **Wednesday, March 29** and **Thursday, March 30** will be **Pay What You Choose**, with tickets starting at **\$5** (available online beginning at 12 p.m. the Monday prior to that performance). Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more.

Kiss of the Spider Woman features adult content and is recommended for mature audiences ages 18 and up. For more information and to purchase tickets, call **(626) 356-3100** or go to www.anoisewithin.org

[Click here](#) to download high resolution photos.

Details for Calendar Listings 'Kiss of the Spider Woman'

WHAT:

A Noise Within presents Manuel Puig's modern classic *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. Set in a South American prison cell in a country under authoritarian rule, two polar opposites discover that love may spring in the most unlikely of places. Poignant, chilling, funny and sensual, this intimate two-hander is the story of Valentin, a macho political prisoner whose commitment to the Marxist cause takes precedence over everything else, and queer, movie-loving Molina, who escapes the harsh reality of prison life by retelling beloved film noir classics and emulating their glamorous leading ladies. Forced to share a cell in Buenos Aires' notorious Villa Devoto prison during Argentina's "Dirty War," the two forge an unlikely relationship.

WHO:

- Adapted for the stage by **Manuel Puig** from his novel "El beso de la mujer araña"
- Translated from the Spanish by **Allan Baker**
- Directed by **Michael Michetti**
- Starring **Adrián González** and **Ed F. Martin**

• Presented by **A Noise Within**, *Geoff Elliot and Julia Rodriguez-Elliott*, producing artistic directors

WHEN:

Previews March 26–March 31

Performances April 1–April 23

- **Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.:** March 29* ONLY (Preview)
- **Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.:** March 30 (Preview); April 6, April 13; April 20
- **Fridays at 8 p.m.:** March 31 (Preview); April 7**, April 14**; April 21**
- **Saturdays at 2 p.m.:** April 8, April 15; April 22 (no matinee on April 1)
- **Saturdays at 8 p.m.:** April 1 (Opening Night); April 8***, April 15; April 22
- **Sundays at 2 p.m.:** March 26 (Preview); April 2; April 9**, April 16; April 23

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OTHER:

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PHOTOS:

[Click here](#) to download high-resolution photos.

HOW:

www.anoisewithin.org
(626) 356-3100

Kiss of the spider Woman is sponsored by **Jay Lesiger** and **Tom Klebba**.
The student matinee is sponsored **Steve Smelt** and **Jonathan Smilove**.

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