

Eye Weekly

May 11, 2006

Arts Week

FOUND IN TRANSLATION

Poet and theatre artist **Adam Seelig** was surprised to learn by reading **Yehuda Amichai's** obituary in *The New York Times* that the renowned Israeli poet, who died in 2000, had written a number of dramatic works, including six radio plays. When the Vancouver-born Seelig began his own theatre company, One Little Goat, the following year in New York -- with a mandate of exploring the intersection between poetry and theatre -- he was determined to see all of Amichai's dramatic works realized onstage.

"There is always a concern when works [by a well-known writer] have been overlooked that maybe they aren't very good," Seelig notes. "Thankfully, that suspicion was disproved."

One Little Goat produced three of Amichai's radio plays while in New York, two of which they presented last year for the first time in Toronto. On May 17, they will present the Canadian premiere of *Bells and Trains* and *Killing Him* at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre. While the first piece is an earlier, serious work about the Holocaust, the latter is a playful sexual farce.

Seelig is particularly excited about *Killing Him*, because he co-translated the play from the original Hebrew with an Israeli friend, **Hadar Makov-Hasson**. The play is about a graduate student whose life begins to unravel when the subject of his dissertation -- a hermetic Israeli poet who stopped writing 24 years ago -- breaks his silence and begins publishing panting, hot-blooded doggerel about the student's girlfriend.

The work's lighthearted and lascivious spirit gave Seelig the creative licence to have fun with it, and, while it was conceived as a radio play, One Little Goat has reconceived it as live theatre. To extend the piece's re-imagination, **Richard Windeyer**, of the Dora Award-winning, experimental theatre company Bluemouth Inc, lent his considerable talents as a sound designer.

When discussing his ongoing project, Seelig explains that his notion of "poetic theatre is definitely not poetry that has been adapted to the stage... it's theatre that pays close attention to textual rhythm. It's something I'm defining as I go along."

DAMIAN ROGERS

**BELLS AND TRAINS AND KILLING HIM WILL BE PERFORMED MAY 17, 8PM. \$18;
\$15 ADV/STUDENTS/SENIORS. AL GREEN THEATRE MNJCC, 750 SPADINA AVE.
416-924-6211 X: 606.**