

'References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot' is intriguing blend of surreal and real worlds

- ◆ **Names:** "References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot" by José Rivera, featuring Svetlana Efremova, Victor Mack, Wells Rosales, Ana Ortiz and Robert Montano; directed by Juliette Carillo.
- ◆ **Place:** South Coast Repertory Second Stage, 655 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa.
- ◆ **Data:** Continues through Feb. 27 with performances at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday matinees. Play includes explicit sexual language. Running time: Two hours, including 15-minute intermission. Tickets: \$26-\$45. Information: (714) 708-5555.

BY PEGGY BLIZZARD
IRVINE WORLD NEWS

José Rivera's "References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot" is a fascinating blend of the surreal and the real, tying together at the end through the skillful direction of Juliette Carillo as well as Rivera's intriguing script.

Unfortunately, some did not see how this comes to be. The explicit sexual language caused several, mostly older people, to leave during the first act. But for those who stayed, watching the action unfold was a treat.

The play opens and closes with the surreal images of a **Cat (Svetlana Efremova)** and Coyote (Victor Mack) playing word games with each other, being attracted and repelled, like oil and vinegar. Then there is the moon portrayed as Salvador Dali by Robert Montano who also plays army soldier Benito in the real world. Into this mix comes young teen neighbor Martin (Wells Rosales) who has fantasies of having sex with the protagonist Gabriela (Ana Ortiz), the lonely army wife of career soldier Benito.

The setting is the army base in Barstow and the desert is closing in on lonely Gabriela whose husband is away on maneuvers much of the time. She has nothing in common with the "Barbie doll" wives



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