

“The Mustache”
By Sabina Berman



A Dramaturgical Introduction
By Kristi Good

“The Mustache” by Sabina Berman

- The first playlet of a larger work called *The Agony of Ecstasy: Three One Act Plays on a Single Theme* (1978), the theme being the idea that there can be no pleasure without a certain amount of torture.
- Translated from the original Spanish by Adam Versényi (1992)

Sabina Berman—A Brief Biography

- Born August 21, 1955 in Mexico City, Mexico
- Daughter of Eastern European Jewish emigrants Enrique Berman and Raquel Goldberg
- Studied Mexican Literature, Psychology, and Theatre at Universidad Iberoamerica
- Considered one of the “New Dramatists of Mexico”
 - Born between 1954-1973
 - Affinity for one-act plays
 - Sociopolitical criticism
 - Colloquial language
- Awards
 - Four-time winner of the National Playwriting Award in Mexico
 - Winner of the Juan Ruiz de Alarcón Award
 - Two-time winner of the National Journalism Award
- Considered by many to be Mexico’s foremost female playwright and undeniably one of the most prolific and commercially successful
- Lists the following playwrights as major influences on her work: Shakespeare, Moliere, Tennessee Williams, Beckett, Stoppard, Neil Simon



Mexican Feminism of the 1970s

- Frente Nacional por la Liberación y los Derechos de la Mujer (FNALIDM)
 - Ushered in a new wave of feminism in Mexico
 - Focused on autonomy of the body and political aspects of personal life
 - Rooted in Marxism: materialism as a catalyst for historical change, dialectical approach to social change, and conflict within class-relations
 - Focused on historical legitimization of the role of women, particularly the work of 1930s suffrage group Frente Unico Pro-Derechos de la Mujer (FUPDM).
- Berman prefers this application to her work, rather than Anglo and French feminist theories (ie. Case & Butler).

Our Mustache

We have chosen the “Pancho Villa Style” for our production as a nod to Berman’s popular play *Between Pancho Villa and the Naked Woman*, which also deals with sexual relations between man and woman and the eternal struggle for power.

