

Wicked wonder



—Photo by Perry Mah

Paul Punyl
Plays Mr. Dark

BRADBURY LIKES ADAPTATION

By **GRAHAM HICKS**
Staff Writer

Ray Bradbury rewarded the cast and adapters of his story *Something Wicked This Way Comes* with a standing ovation.

Rightly so. Friday (and last night) at the Citadel's Shoctor Theatre, Gyllian Raby and her artistic collaborators did a masterful job in translating Bradbury's allegorical tale of innocence, temptation and evil to the stage.

Bradbury's book is multi-dimensional. Poetic language, syntax, images and metaphors are as important as the plot.

Through drama, dance and music, using a superbly lit and stripped down set, the Northern Light director picked up all the important threads of Bradbury's literary tapestry.

Mood was the key. Through the lighting, narrative and movement, each scene perfectly hovered upon its intended mood — be it wistful melancholy, or intense confrontation of elemental forces. So compelling was the overall work that any awareness of the individual dramatic/dance/musical components was quickly forgotten.

The Alberta Ballet's four dancers proved to be excellent actors. Ali Pourfarrokh's choreography was true to the mood.

After the show, Bradbury said in an interview that "she (Raby) found the metaphors. Imagination was well served."

Something Wicked, commissioned by the Canadian Information Processing Society for a conference finale, deserves a longer run. May such a successful intertwining of stage techniques stimulate more efforts in the same vein.