

## Page-to-Stage: Sunday coverage

September 7, 2009 by [Tim Treanor](#)

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**Hunter Styles** saw **Washington Shakespeare Company's** *One Thousand and One Days* and files this report:

Playwright Paco José Madden, who here directs his own piece, has saved Scheherazade, one of literature's strongest heroines, from the crushing blow of King Shahriyar's sword. Then he gives her another leg up in this new sequel to the Arabian Nights stories, casting her as a powerful, vengeful queen who, betrayed by her husband, begins marrying and executing all the eligible bachelors in Baghdad. Ali, a poor shepherd new to town, finds himself suddenly tangled up in the queen's bonds of matrimony and, taking his cue from Schery herself, delays his death with some irreverent morality tales about men, women, and sexual authority.

Madden hits a note of campy irreverence in writing this as a pure sequel rather than reenvisioning the whole thing — Scheherazade is pretty slow to catch onto Ali's endgame, considering she pulled the same stunt earlier in her own life — but *One Thousand and One Days* pleases in its earnest joy of storytelling, and makes us hope that Madden will continue to dig deep into literature such as the Arabian Nights for continued inspiration.