

# Black Rider nothing short of remarkable

## THE BLACK RIDER

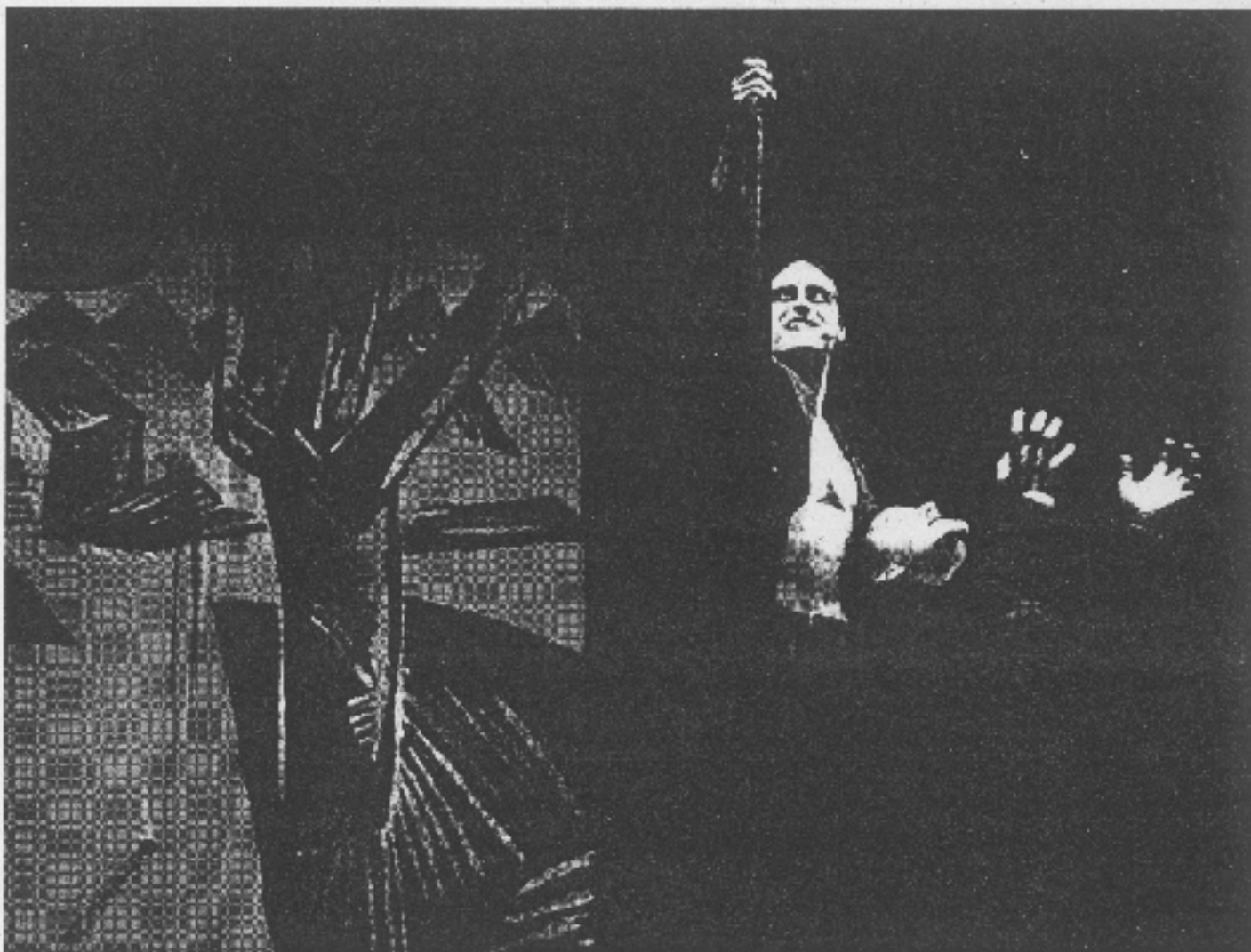
November Theatre Company  
MTC Warehouse, to Friday, July 28

IF you've ever wanted to see an Edward Gorey drawing come to life, you can't miss this visually stunning, perversely funny and wickedly Gothic musical. Edmonton's November Theatre Company does wonders with this 1994 collaboration by grotty musician Tom Waits, beat poet William S. Burroughs and playwright Robert Wilson — itself an adaptation of old German folktale.

The large production — six actors plus a three-piece band — delivers a tale of a geeky German bookkeeper who enlists the help of The Devil (played like a sickly junkie by Michael Scholar Jr.) to win the heart of a huntsman's daughter. While that sounds fairly straightforward, the execution is nothing short of remarkable. Think Brechtian cabaret fare combined with '70s rock opera and the sort of slapstick humour only found in the most violent Bugs Bunny cartoons.

While some of the action is obscure and the vocal performances occasionally grate, this thing works on so many levels, you'll contemplate a Faustian deal of your own to see this 90-minute operetta one more time. ★★★★★

— Bartley Kives



The Black Rider works on so many levels it will have you coming back for more.