

Margaret Cameron



Paco Peña

I had to leave the theatre
part way through the performance
because ...

I am soo ... envious

I need to stand
and to sing
like him

in the State Theatre

man standing
there
on the stage
there on the stage
there
on the stage
a man
sound rising ...
out of his mouth ...
Is he the only living being in the whole eternal universe?
and now I am
standing
I want to howl
in the dark
in the State Theatre

I am howling... my shadow stitched to the desert floor I have swallowed
the night in my lungs the desert moon is glowing I am a tree stars now
for eyes and I am howling and the rat-a-tat beat of my own heart to the

I too am alive

"Excuse me" I say very seriously and very intensely
to my very serious and very intense companion,
knowing he will understand,
very seriously and very intensely I say

"I have to go" and he replies "oh yes of course"

and I rush from the theatre to the cloak room
the attendant looks disappointed that I am leaving
she calls my coat an umbrella
I turn away I struggle cross thick red carpet,
through syrup air
push against my own likeness in glass door heavy

I stand alone on the wet concrete
gulping down the wind and the rain

aah
the night...

MARGARET CAMERON (Australia) is an actress, director, writer and teacher. Her original works are situated somewhere between performance art and theatre and include *Things Calypso Wanted to Say!*; *The Mind's a Marvellous Thing!*; *Knowledge and Melancholy* and *Bang! A Critical Fiction!* Margaret Cameron is currently assisted by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts and advisory body.

Margaret Cameron in *I Had to Leave the Theatre*. Photo: Sarah Matray