



Metro Times Sept. 27-Oct. 3, 2000

Through Oct. 7 - In a bold move, Zeitgeist has resurrected Fernando Arrabal's scandalously absurd play, *They Put Handcuffs on the Flowers*. Written in 1969, it's the savagely ironic story of three men imprisoned for their part in the Spanish Civil War. Director John Jakary's version forces audiences immediately into the nightmare of an inhumane environment. In a vile cell, the men (portrayed by Charles Slappson, Nectar Frost and Joel Mitchell) experience schizophrenic moments of panicked claustrophobia interspersed with the looming sense of death and dreams of a better life. The cast scurries between three stages, shifting the focus to and from dreamlike sequences, while six televisions around the room interrupt the drama with true stories from the prison (produced by Julie Meitz). What's best about the play is the entangled mess of beautiful life in all of this raging ugliness.

Moments of perverted sexual aggression become desperate attempts to reach for a sacred humanity. For mature audiences only - the production runs Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Zeitgeist Gallery and Performance Venue is at 2661 Michigan (a half-mile west of Tiger Stadium), Detroit. Call 313-965-9192. - Rebecca Mazzei

