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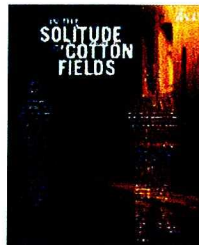
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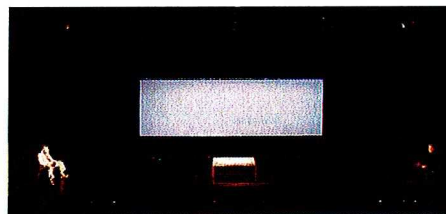
"IN THE SOLITUDE OF THE COTTON FIELDS", ON GOING UNTIL MAY 17



(France).

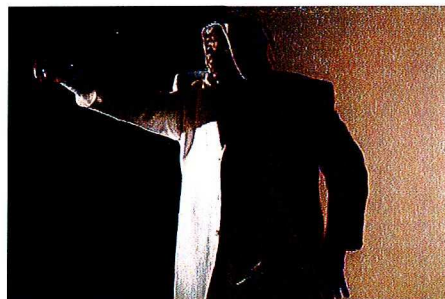
The Koltès Project sets its seeds in Atlanta
April 26-May 17, **WORLD PREMIERE** *In the Solitude of Cotton Fields* by Bernard-Marie Koltès at 7Stages Theater. Get your tickets now!

Atlanta actor and translator, Isma'il ibn Conner teams up with 7 Stages Artistic Director and actor, Del Hamilton, in a world première translation into American English of *In the Solitude of Cotton Fields* (*Dans la Solitude des Champs de Coton*) by the highly acclaimed and often studied, contemporary French playwright Bernard-Marie Koltès and coproduced by CDDB – Théâtre de Lorient, Centre Dramatique National



This play is a journey of deals - both profane and sacred, of desires that must be discovered and satisfied, of light and dark - two aspects of one entity, and the powerful interaction of two men who are more familiar than they appear. There is only a dealer, a client and desires that must be satisfied at all costs.

Forty years after the assassination of Martin Luther King (April 4, 1968), Director Eric Vigner, head of the CDDB – Théâtre de Lorient, is staging *In the Solitude of Cotton Fields* by Bernard-Marie Koltès at Atlanta's 7Stages Theatre. Moving from BMK to MLK, and from French to English, Eric Vigner undertakes the creation of giving voice to theater, theater sensitive to both the location and the text – with empathy for the deeper sense of the words and the places where they are to be produced (Atlanta), and its title (solitude, cotton fields)... Eric Vigner's staging focuses on the history - or rather, the histories of BMK and MLK - and makes all the world a stage, calling in question the world and the dividing lines between individuals and peoples, dividing lines that still exist after the advent of civil rights, the end of segregation, or apartheid, in the United States and indeed all over the world. *Hosting one of the hottest French directors is a coup for Atlanta, but it also means our show has the best possible person as its leader, so we are especially happy to have him*, says Hamilton.



This production marks the beginning of **THE U.S. KOLTES PROJECT**, a ten-year project created in order to translate and produce six of Koltès' plays, to continue the artistic legacy of the playwright Bernard-Marie Koltès. In cooperation with and through the exclusive permission of the Koltès Estate, a ten-year program was established in order to translate and produce six of Koltès' plays: *Dans la solitude des champs de coton*, *Le Jour des meurtres dans l'histoire d'Hamlet*, *Sallinger*, *La Nuit juste avant les forêts*, *Tabataba* and *Quai Ouest*. 7 Stages chose these plays because they address the curious human condition and predicament that U.S. citizens face in relation to themselves, as citizens of the world. Bernard-Marie Koltès emerged as one of the most distinctive and important dramatic voices of the 1980s. His work, based in real-life problems, expresses the tragedy of being alone and of death. His writing style accents the dramatic tension and the lyricism of his plays. Each play speaks of intense isolation, fear of the 'Other', deal-making, senseless war, misplaced national loyalty, and dysfunctional familial love/hate. Isma'il ibn Conner, Artistic Associate of 7 Stages and the official translator of the Koltès plays explains, the 7 Stages U.S. Koltès Project is a long-range effort to make new versions of Koltès' plays, including several that have not been published, as well as his novels and other writings by and about him.

