

**REVIEWS OF THE JUDAS TREE**  
**MultiStages Production, April-May, 2008**

“When the mesmerizing Elena April Fiero casts her spell, it is nearly impossible to escape entanglement, obsession, and something akin to rapture. This near-religious experience is perfectly realized by the cast and artistic crew presenting Mary Fengar Gail’s The Judas Tree, a journey into madness...There are many moments in the show where rapturous devotion is faithfully and sympathetically created....Gail’s world, in which the beautiful and the macabre live side by side, is stunningly rendered with superb acting, a grim chorus, and subtle lighting effects. .... Gail’s poetic and occasionally obsessive exploration of this character is compelling.”

-- Maura O’Brien, [offonline.com](http://offonline.com)

“The Judas Tree incorporates a Greek chorus ... [who] sing, dance, and act as a living embodiment of the Brechtian alienation effect. Their presence is also a clear reminder that this is the world of theatre, not a window on reality...Each character is unique and nuanced ... This play is abstract and disturbing, yet its relevance to our world is undeniable...The play isolates a compelling conundrum regarding sacrifice -- what should an individual be willing to do because of faith, and is faith enough to justify murder? Gail's play astutely reminds us that there are no clear answers in questions of belief. It also highlights the idea that a person's exterior tells us nothing about who she really is.”

-- Kelly Aliano, [NYTheatre.com](http://NYTheatre.com)

“MultiStages’ latest offering is Mary Fengar Gail’s true-crime inspired THE JUDAS TREE. With the production company’s signature “Multidisciplinary fusion and multicultural themes, securely in place, this wolf in sheep’s clothing tale of a serial killer in a tight skirt takes on an unlikely, mythic edge to impressive effect...The ultimate touch is the five-person Chorus Corpus Flora, who dance and sing, elevating the play to someplace beyond drama, yet somewhere other than the comfort and predictability of musical theater.”

-- Kessa DeSantis, [Electronic Link JourneyReview](http://ElectronicLinkJourneyReview)

“The book is imbued with the kind of magical realism that is wonderfully at home on the page, but can be a challenge to bring to the stage. That said, I have to say this production rises to that challenge admirably. The magic is embodied by five dancers who act like a Greek chorus of flowers in the main character's lush garden (she uses "natural" fertilizers that stinks to high heaven)”...

-- Jeremy R. Cooke, [Cityspecific.blogspot.com](http://Cityspecific.blogspot.com)

“The historical story of currently incarcerated Latina serial killer Dorothea Puente, who dispatched elderly and drifter residents of her Sacramento boarding house, makes terrific dramatic material in Mary Fengar Gail's fictionalized The Judas Tree...”

-- Christopher Murray, [Backstage](http://Backstage)