



Miranda Richardson, Michael Gambon and Eileen Atkins in 'Mountain Language': A subject of overwhelming importance but overrepresented.

PETER'S Mountain Language (NT) ... is a great play ... it is a subject of overwhelming importance but overrepresented.

large space between and behind the roundabout were estimated to some minutes, but they are not. The stimulus of life of the crowd at the far gone dead the moment a fore-noon scene gets under way, and only in the final knee-up of the great scene to the level of the performance David Bates is actually seen across a table; the language of their mountain homelands is by hidden them. 'I've got a wife and three kids', the prisoner reminds the guard (George Hartz) and to meet his act of defiance the segment is called in.

Thereafter in the prison, a young woman (Miranda Richardson) wanders into the wing corridor and sees her husband collapsed after torture, a boy lying entangled with her, a girl in the room from the language restriction is lifted, but the prisoner has been beaten and his mother wails, or wailing, to speak. Look at that, says the sergeant. 'You go out of your way to put there a living hand and they fuck it up.' Blackout.

The degradation of human lives by those with the hardware of terror at their command is a subject of overwhelming importance in our grim century approaches its final decade, but it is extremely over-represented here. Peter directs the actors to play each scene at an identical volume so that much of the tension goes slack. The result is a theatrically less incisive than Howard Barker's collection of compact 'Punchlines' which earlier this year covered similar ground, and politically less powerful than Peter's own 'One for the Road' four years ago.

James Bartholomew Fair (NT) ... is a cheerful but impressive achievement, stuffed full of wonderful jokes and London life, but obviously meant. Deciding correctly to direct it on the stage means Richard ... by following William Dudley, his cross-examination on 'The Changeling' ... to fill it with three roundabouts and a flagpole on top. There is no room for the scene except at the front of the stage. This would not matter if the

# Over the peak

**THEATRE**  
**'Mountain Language'**  
**Bartholomew Fair**  
**MICHAEL RATCLIFFE**  
Confidence meets the eye the moment you take your seat. ... The eastern beauty is lit by light and shadow ...

Hull's book for the Adam Potts ... is a subject of overwhelming importance but overrepresented. ... Don Black's lyrics often seem about to move in a more interesting direction, but ...

# Bolt of lightning

**CINEMA**  
**'Yuletide', 'House on Carroll Street', 'Fruit Machine'**  
**PHILIP FRENCH**  
Captured by his tribe's traditional ... is a subject of overwhelming importance but overrepresented. ...

time New York. Six years after the war the House on Carroll Street is being used by loyal agents of the American government to ...

# Ratcliffe on Mountain Language

Clipped By:



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