

why **salo**
is banned | in **australia**
PAUL MAGEE

1

Two men, their compelling flesh, close-pressed and driving hard. And the fascist Judge kisses, fucks and is fucked by the oldest of the boys, in all the equality of lust now a man, on top, perhaps in love, and certainly desiring to pleasure the source of law by coming inside it: in *Salo*. For *Salo* is a work of freedom and love: a repressed dream.

A voice off-screen lovingly recites *Canto IXC* over the following and final scene while the Judge, outside now, and in day proceeds to cut out the eyeballs of his victims, to drip blood on their alabaster flesh slowly, and not block his ears to their extreme cries of pain beyond the reach of mercy, staining each line of Pound's text with dream as memory sees through the poem, the torture, the dark night fuck in the previous scene, as children die, as credits roll.

2

What would happen if you breathed?
a hidden lung a word swallowed
a bird in the throat got your tongue

for one of its young
a look of divorce in your eyes

3 *Lucia di Maribyrnong*

Father let me leave this house
sings/sighs the daughter from her fortress,
her eyes on the workman here to fence her in.

Audience bored, chatter, twitter, fat man sleeps
The opera's not begun till the fat man sleeps to the end.
Prima donna glares, dagger in hand, assumes the stage.

Second act—the tenor grieves his mother—
Third act—the daughter kills her husband—
Ohime!, Orrore!—on the night of their wedding

this vow-breaking wedding, a rent in the fabric
of heaven, the curtains all falling around,
breast-beating and screaming out tears, as

six voices in synchrony
six reactions to the scene
six lines take to the ceiling
a geometry of passion
a pin-point

4 *for a prime minister (Philippic II)*

and the case now being tried
is one of suicide who did it
who killed you from inside
your own throat
they laid carpet over the depression
and walled the walls with love
s-bend dweller
s for suck harder
I feel you uptight, a succession
of dying deaths, of days

when your face falls in
you do all you can
to hold up your eyes, your nose, your skin.

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