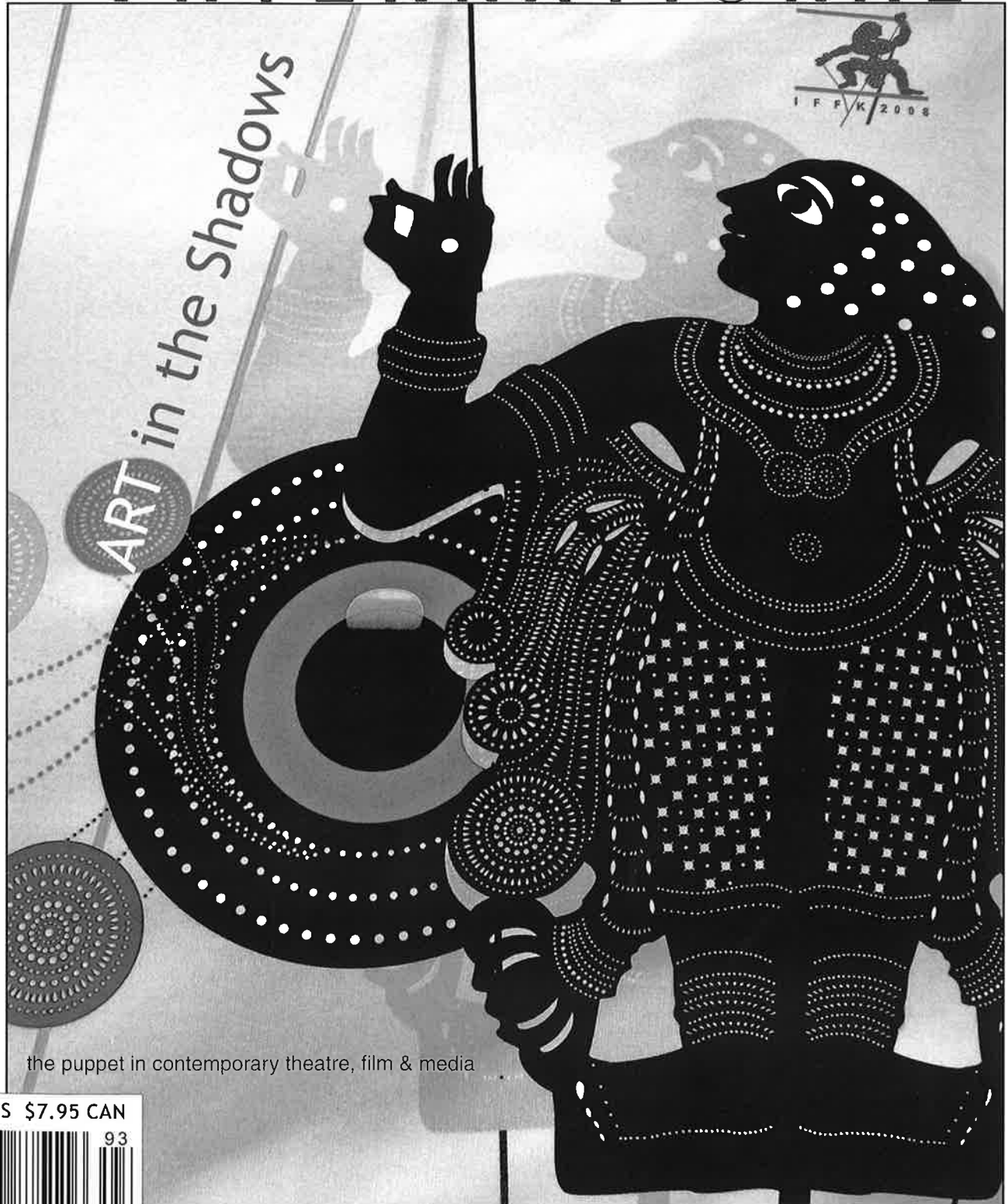


FALL and WINTER 09 Issue #26

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In Xanadu by Linda C. Ehrlich

A POEM INSPIRED BY *IN XANADU*, SHADOWLIGHT PRODUCTIONS

Lovers cast parallel shadows against the screen. Khubilai Khan and his consort Chabui, inseparable, until her untimely death. Shape-shifting shadow. Even the most powerful man on earth cannot command Death to relinquish its hold. The falcon, with the sun and the moon in its claws, enters the Kingdom of Death as a beggar, wrapped in a cloak of night.

*The Great Khan conquers mountains.
Forests of men fall at his feet,
the Great Khan.*

*The Great Khan is invincible,
and yet
before the Shadow Dancer,
Victory dissolves like mist departing
Wushan Mountain
with the rays of the sun.*

The Great Khan and his adoring consort.

*But the Shadow Dancer
spreads her wings
across the frost-filled plain
where no one enters
except on foot
alone
leaving his shadow behind.*

Linda C. Ehrlich, associate professor at Case Western Reserve University, has published poetry in *International Poetry Review*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *The Bitter Oleander*, *Literary Arts Hawaii*, *Case Western Reserve Review*, *Tributaries*, and other literary journals.

For more information, visit:
www.lindaehrich.com

For another of Ehrlich's shadow poems:
www.unima-usa.org/publications