

AMLIN GRAY
Dramaturg
Berkeley Repertory Theatre
2025 Addison ST
Berkeley, Calif 94704

October 3, 1985

AMLIN
GRAY - 1

Dear Amlin Gray,

A couple of years ago, you read, liked, and passed on to John Dillon at Milwaukee Rep a script of mine, THE RESPONSES, a one-act, 3-character play about a Rabbi and a Scribe reading letters of inquiry to the Rabbi: gradually the Rabbi's answers begin to drift off the subject of the specific questions into a sort of visionary reminiscence.... Do you recall?

THE RESPONSES has since had staged readings at the American Place and South Street Theatres in New York, and I have received some admiring letters about it from Joé Chaikin, André Gregory and David Warrillow, which I enclose. Nothing came of the Milwaukee Rep (John Dillon told me he "liked the voice... there's some beautiful writing in it. But it's not right for our audiences.") But I was pleased at your liking my work well enough to recommend it (it had come to you, if I've got the chronology straight, through Tom Cole--no relation) because I have a great respect for yours. At that time I knew only the Vietnam play, but I have since come to know your Strindberg adaptations, the second of which, especially, seems to me extraordinary.

At any rate, in light of this "history", when I heard you'd become ~~ix~~ the dramaturg at Berkeley Rep, I thought I'd write and ask if you would be interested in having another look at THE RESPONSES and/or at two other plays of mine:

THE GODS OF THE THEATRE, a kind of metaphysical backstage comedy about a deus ex machina in the Greek Theatre who can't get down onto the stage. (4M 1F; 2½ hours; unit set. Staged readings at the Cocteau Rep and the McCarter)

THE MOMENTS OF THE WANDERING JEW, ironic-visionary treatment of the "Wandering Jew," the legendary figure who cursed Christ and was condemned to wander till Judgment Day. WJ shown "on the road," with Pontius Pilate, attending rehearsals of an Oberammergau-like passion play that contains a Wandering Jew scene, before the Inquisition, with the Woman who loves him, meeting another claimant to the WJ-title, and at the Last Judgment (which he rescinds). (a cycle of 4 related plays, each about 90 minutes, ~~daabbe~~ as a whole or separately, with 7M 2F on a unit set. Showcased at the Theatre of the Open Eye, staged readings at the McCarter and Gene Frankel Theatres)

If any of this sounds like material you might like to look at, please let me know and I will send it to you personally. I need not, I know, explain to you a playwright's reluctance to mail scripts off "into the void."

Meanwhile, best wishes with your job at Berkeley Rep, and with whatever work of your own it is leaving you time for!

Best regards,

David Cole

137 Cottage St.
New Haven, Conn. 06511
phone: 203-624-3982
or
212-989-1648

ENCLOSURES | record in
(WJ) | note books
(JUSTICE) | - WJ
| - RESP
| - deus ex

Received Wed, Oct 16, 1985

Berkeley Repertory Theatre 2025 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA 94704
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AMLIN
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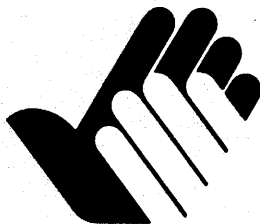
10 Oct 85

Dear Mr. Cole:

I remember THE RESPONSES very well, and have often wondered since what you've been up to. Now I get to find out! Do, please, send copies of THE GODS OF THE THEATRE and THE MOMENTS OF THE WANDERING JEW.

Yrs,

Amlin Gray
Amlin Gray
Dramaturg



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THEATRE
2025 ADDISON ST
BERKELEY, CALIF 94704
Phone 415-841-6108

AMLIN
GRAY - 3

October 18, 1985

Dear Amlin Gray:

Thanks for your letter. I'm pleased that you want to read the enclosed scripts and I look forward to hearing your reactions to them.

Best,

David Cole

137 Cottage St.
New Haven, Conn. 06511
phone: 203-624-3982
OR
212-989-1648

encl.:

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THE GODS OF THE THEATRE

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AMLIN GRAY - 4

21 Oct 85

Dear Mr. Cole:

Thank you for sending your two plays so promptly.

I greatly enjoyed THE MOMENTS..., never ceasing to wonder at the seemingly inexhaustible invention you brought to bear on your situation and themes. The obvious temptations to cuteness you evaded completely (well, maybe you succumbed once, with the WJ's reference to his relationships with the Flying Dutchman and Faustus). But, ultimately, the play seemed too extended and too esoteric for our programming here.

THE GODS..., though equally impressive in the erudition and invention with which you sustained its idea, was, I fear (from our point of view) even more esoteric.

But I continued to enjoy and admire your writing, and hope you'll keep sending us plays.

Yours,

Amlin Gray
Amlin Gray
Dramaturg

