

BILL  
CRAVER - ①

May 22, 1987

Dear Bill Craver:

To recapitulate what we discussed on the phone yesterday, when I called you at the suggestion of Barbara Damashek, my situation is basically as follows.

The 2 enclosed plays, THE RESPONSES (short) and THE MOMENTS OF THE WANDERING JEW (long) are each likely to have productions in the next 12-24 months, at two different theatres: The Berkeley Jewish Theatre in Berkeley, California (Barbara Damashek, Artistic Director) and the American Jewish Theatre at the 92nd St. "Y" in New York (Michael Posnick, Artistic Director).

Here is how things stand at each theatre:

Berkeley Jewish Theatre, Berkeley. Barbara Damashek informed me by phone earlier this month that she definitely wants to do THE RESPONSES next season, and that I would be receiving a letter of intent and contracts within the next few months. She said she would also like to do a selection from THE MOMENTS OF THE WANDERING JEW, to make up a full evening.

American Jewish Theatre, New York. Michael Posnick (who directed a staged reading of THE RESPONSES several years ago) told me in March that he wants to do THE RESPONSES there, but not in his first season (i.e., not in 1987-88). He asked to see THE MOMENTS OF THE WANDERING JEW, with the idea of completing the bill with excerpts from it.

In addition to the general problem of negotiating with two theatres at once about the same scripts, there is a particular issue with which I feel I need expert advice. Barbara Damashek has said she might like to do the "Hochhimmelfahrt Passion Play"-section (Part III) of THE MOMENTS OF THE WANDERING JEW. "The Hochhimmelfahrt Passion Play" was done as an Equity Showcase in New York in October, 1979, at the Theatre of the Open Eye, under the Showcase code then prevailing; I'm not clear on how this affects the availability of the script for current production.

Finally, there is the question of publication. Both these scripts have had numerous staged readings (at the American Place, the South Street Theatre and the McCarter, among other places); both now appear to be headed for "bicoastal" production in some form. I should therefore like to see them come out at least in acting editions. But I should also like (and after you have read the scripts I think you will understand why) to find readers for these plays outside the theatre--perhaps readers who in the usual course of thing might be more likely to pick up a volume of poems from Athenaeum than a playscript from Samuel French.

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Along with the two plays I enclose: a brief resume; some letters I have received about THE RESPONSES from Joe Chaikin, Andre Gregory and David Warrilow; some reviews of the 1979 showcase mentioned above; and a copy of Stanley Kauffmann's New Republic review of my first book, THE THEATRICAL EVENT (Wesleyan Univ. Press, 1975; paperback, 1977). (I am currently at work on a second book, ACTING AS READING, a study of acting as a physicalization of the reading process.)

Thanks in advance for your attention to my work. I am always reachable at one or the other of the phone-numbers below.

Sincerely yours,

David Cole

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