

DAVID R. GODINE PUBLISHER INC. - ^{RESPONSE} ~~DESK~~
306 DALTMOUTH ST.
BOSTON, MASS. 02116

~ WJ November 19, 1984

DAVID
GODINE - 1

Dear David Godine,

Richard Howard urged me to send you the three enclosed manuscripts. Of one of them, The Responses, John Hollander told me: "it's one of only three American plays in the past twenty years I've liked."

I realize, as I assume Richard did, that David Godine is not Samuel French. These plays have been widely performed, in New York and regionally. Until now, beyond a playwright's natural "readership" of actors, I have sought no other. But the responses I have had from Richard, John and other "literary" readers have made me feel I should like to reach more of them. I should like, for example, to reach the readers of Edgar Bowers--which perhaps explains why Richard's suggestion that I send the scripts to you instantly made sense.

As some recommendation of the plays' theatrical interest, I enclose letters I have received about them from:

*André Gregory (experimental theatre director,
star of the film My Dinner With Andre)

*Joseph Chaikin (founder of the Open Theatre,
at present working on a two-man theatre piece
with Sam Shepard)

*David Warrilow (the actor for whom Samuel Beckett
wrote Riece of a Monologue)

As some recommendation of myself as a writer, I enclose Stanley Kauffmann's New Republic review of my first book, The Theatrical Rvent (1975; paperback, 1977). I am currently at work on a second book about acting as, itself, a kind of "reading with the body."

Bytway of general background: I am Harvard '63, PhD '69; taught English at Harvard and Yale and ran the Yale College drama department from 1970-75. Among theatres where my plays have been performed are: The Circle-in-the-square, the American Place, the McCarter Theatre (Princeton), the Theatre Company of Boston, the Loeb Drama Center at Harvard.

Beyond how you feel about the plays, there is, I realize, the conventional publishing wisdom that "no one reads plays," "it's a whole separate market," etc. Here I keep respectful silence. To harangue David Godine on the possibility of getting past conventional publishing wisdom would be simple impertinence.

Sincerely,

David Cole

137 Cottage St.
New Haven, Conn. 06511

phone: in New Haven 203-624-3982
in New York 212-989-1648

Received Sat. March 2 '85



DAVID
GODINE - 2

DAVID R. GODINE · PUBLISHER · INCORPORATED
306 Dartmouth Street Boston, Massachusetts 02116

26 February 1985

Mr. David Cole
137 Cottage Street
New Haven, CT 06511

Dear Mr. Cole,

Thank you for your patience regarding your three plays; we've had them longer than we would have liked. I've read "The Responses" and "The Gods" and think they are fascinating, rich work - and readable ones. But we can't - and I'm not relying solely on my judgement here - risk a great deal more than could any other small and basically commercial publisher. It's our best bet that we could never recover our costs on these plays, and that we would as well fail to make them sufficiently public in book form to justify your or our hopes and investment. It's not fun to come to this hackneyed conclusion in the face of your fine work, but we've had to.

If you would like to send, now or at a later stage, your manuscript on acting, I would read it with great interest and I hope greater receptivity. In the meanwhile, thank you again for thinking of Godine, and best of luck finding a more able publisher for the plays.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deanne Smeltzer".
Deanne Smeltzer
Editor