

February 10, 1960

Mrs. Edith Meiser McKnight
171 East 62nd Street
New York, New York

Dear Mrs. McKnight,

Mrs. Winston told me of her conversation with you about our plans for a theatre. Our plans have not yet matured, but I have been impressed with the work of Mr. George C. Izenour of Yale who has designed the Loeb Theatre for Harvard. He aims at flexibility which makes possible various types and sizes of stages and different seating arrangements for the audience. Mrs. Winston said that perhaps you would be kind enough to write me your ideas. If you would, I'd appreciate it.

Sincerely,

William C. Fels
President

March 14, 1960
Dear President Felo-

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If I were to write you "my ideas" about a theatre suitable for a women's college it would be ^{adequately} long enough for a Ph.D. treatise. Sometime when you are in New York if you will drop in for tea, lunch, or cocktails I shall be happy to talk you deaf, dumb & blind.

- Basically I am against amateur theatres. Doing a few dozen shows a year for devoted friends and relatives never taught anyone anything about the theatre. To be any good theatre must be something in which the people who work in it can earn a decent and consistent living. You can't learn the craft

of "show business" in your old moments.

The money the Foundations are pouring into college theatres is shockingly wasteful. Theatre isn't buildings - its people. Joe Papp who has been having such a heart breaking time with his brilliant Shakespeare Company in Central Park - started in a deserted boardwalk.

- The Canadian Shakespeare Festival started in a tent - but it had Tyrone Guthrie - John Kelly (Gracie's father)

- started Philadelphia's Theatre-in-the-Park out of sheer well headed determination - and fought the whole city government to do it. Look what Margo Jones did for theatre in Texas. Professor Babersore cond.

at Harvard - on a shoe string budget is far superior to his. If you are serious about experience of years at Yale.

your gals to good theatre - find
some brilliant - openminded - dedicated
theatre person to take over. If you're
successful - the theatre can come later
- it will build itself. - But don't saddle
your self with a large overly equipped
mausoleum - whose upkeep will
break the back of any dramatic
department's financial allotment.

- Do drop in sometime and
let me tell you some of the really
horrifying faults of the American
Theatre - amateur and professional.
If you will look at my credits
in who's who's you may be
persuaded that I know where of I
speak.

Cordially yours,
Edith Weiser (alias McKnight)

171 East 62. New York City

for follow

March 29, 1960

Miss Edith Meiser
171 East 62nd Street
New York, New York

Dear Miss Meiser,

Thank you for sending me your thoughts about theatres. They are much like my own. I will accept your invitation to call when I am in New York. It will be some time before I can do this. I am going to be away for over a month and I must confess I get to New York as seldom as possible.

Cordially,

William C. Fels
President