

# The New York Times

## ARTS AND LEISURE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 1973

### LETTERS

## No 'Abandonment,' Says Papp

To the Editor:

Walter Kerr stated in his August 17th column that I was preparing "to abandon [my] normal activities at the downtown Public [Theater] and move [my] stable of . . . writers uptown to the Booth."

Mr. Kerr's statement is false. Far from "abandoning normal activities"—by which Mr. Kerr means the production of new work—the New York Shakespeare Festival Public Theater will be producing more new works this coming season than ever before. Right now we have 15 new plays and musicals on our schedule at the Public Theater.

New works and writers are our lifeblood. We would never "abandon" them unless we were going out of existence.

JOSEPH PAPP

Producer

N.Y. Shakespeare Festival

To the Editor:

Victorious or not, Off Broadway (and Off Off Broadway) is neither fading nor faltering. It is fighting, biting and hard at work. Perhaps Walter Kerr does not often wander below 43d Street, but the activities of such as Joseph Chaikin (founder of the Open Theater) and Julian Beck and Judith Malina (founders of the Living Theater) are churning away at this very moment.

Mr. Chaikin, in collaboration with Jean-Claude van Itallie, is currently rehearsing a new work, "The Fable," with music being composed by Richard Peaslee (composer for "The Serpent," "Marat/Sade" and many other

scores). "The Fable" is being presented this month in Lenox, Mass., to be followed by an opening Off Broadway in New York this fall.

Mr. Beck and Miss Malina, still working with The Living Theater unceasingly, have created a series of works as part of a cycle of plays, "The Legacy of Cain," that are now being performed as part of a major nine-month project in Pittsburgh, and some of which has been presented here in New York City Off Off Broadway this past year.

Aside from the work of these still-to-be-hailed mavericks mentioned by Mr. Kerr are Richard Schechner and the Performance Group constantly producing at their "garage" at 33 Wooster St. Leo Shapiro's Shaliko Company is working out of Joseph Papp's downtown house with exciting versions of Brecht's "Measure for Measure" and a daring attempt at Ibsen's "Ghosts." The fact that many directors and groups are utilizing texts by masters does not for a second mean the abandonment of new creative forces.

And we still have visits to New York City by such vital and urgently important companies as El Teatro Campesino, The San Francisco Mime Troupe, The Bread and Puppet Theater (usually at St. Clement's Church on West 46th St., or the Chelsea's Westside Theater on West 43d St.).

MARK HALL AMITIN

Executive Director,  
Universal Movement Theater  
Repertory

New York City