

IN APPRECIATION

I live in a house
In which Shakespeare plays,
Robert Edmond Jones and John Keats
Share my nights and days
And when he's in town
Where Arthur Miller stays.

Where Dekker and Middleton,
Elizabethan war horses,
Albee, Giraudoux, and Shaw
Join forces
With Gershwin and Sondheim
In theater courses
To release in us
Undiscovered resources.

I live in this house
With friends like these
Whose only wish
Is forever to please.

Here Annette Evans and Mrs. Darte,
Bless their souls,
And Dr. Eugene Farley and ^{Jack} ~~Ray~~ Sordani
Also have major roles
In building this house
And defining its goals.
And Norma Sangiuliano Tyburski,
Who selected me
To direct THE BARRETT'S OF WIMPOLE STREET
At Chase Theater on the campus of BUJC.

I live in this house
Where the stage is set
For people I know
And those I have not met,
For events that happened
And those that have not happened yet.
This is a house whose love and joy
I shall not forget.

THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH, CHARLEY'S AUNT, *H.M.S. PINAFORE*,
RECOLLECTIONS OF CHILDHOOD, A RAISIN IN THE SUN,
THE SOUND OF MUSIC, LOOK BACK IN ANGER,
MAN AGAINST THE SKY, ANNIE GET YOUR GUN,
RIGHT YOU ARE(IF YOU THINK YOU ARE),
PAINT YOUR WAGON, ALL IN FUN,
CAMELOT, THE MUSIC MAN,
AH, WILDERNESS!, THE MEDIUM and THE TELEPHONE,
GIRL CRAZY, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF,
Eugene O'Neill's one-act IN THE ZONE,
THE DUCHESS OF MALFI, ANTIGONE,
THE TEAHOUSE OF THE AUGUST MOON,
Six-week Summer Theater Workshops
That began at the end of June,
THE LION IN WINTER, OTHELLO,
THE MALE ANIMAL, Philip Barry's HOLIDAY--
For all of us these forty years
Were not all work but all play--
THE MADWOMAN OF CHAILLOT, GUYS AND DOLLS,
THE MASTER BUILDER, LILIOM, GRAMERCY GHOST...

The best direction we can give in the theater
Is what will help an audience the most,
No artificial gesture or speech,
No foolish, vain, or manufactured boast.

Offstage reality
It is no surprise
Is as irreversible
As is our own demise
But on stage
A character never dies
And comes to life again and again and again
Before our eyes.
Such is the majestic creation
Our dreams immortalize!
Therein, if we but see,
The power of our imagination lies.

Into this house
And on this stage I choose
To invite my friends
And all my casts and crews.

May this house
When I am gone
Be a source of strength
To build upon.

Alfred S. Groh
October 25, 1987