

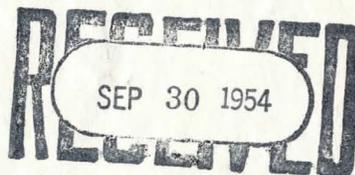
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

AUSTIN 12

DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA

September 28, 1954



Mr. Lowell Davies
San Diego Community Theatre
Old Globe Theatre
Balboa Park
San Diego 12, California

Dear Lowell:

I have been kept particularly busy with the writing of a lengthy article for the Junior College Journal in addition to my regular work or I should have replied to your letter of the 16th before this.

As you know, in spite of the difficult problems in past seasons, I have never lost interest in the San Diego Shakespeare Festival and even ~~have~~ frequently a real feeling of nostalgia towards it, so I have decided that I will accept the proposition outlined in your letter. I look forward to returning with great pleasure especially under the new conditions and with Craig supervising.

There is, however, the question of the play. May I take it that I should have the *Missummer Night's Dream*? I should like to undertake it but I am willing to consider alternatives. Then if the Hollywood Bowl proposition does materialize I certainly think there should be some new financial arrangement for I know I ought to oversee the transference of the cast to the new and very different physical conditions.

I am not surprised to learn that the Board voted down *Love's Labour*. The play is very difficult to visualize in reading. In performance it is full of charm. I prefer to think it over before offering a suggestion as to an alternative. Probably the Board would also reject *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. For my own part I'd back *Love's Labour* as a draw over *The Two Gentlemen* any day. But in both these plays treatment is vitally important. There are very few directors I'd trust *Love's Labour* to! Ben Jonson? *Volpone* would make a fine strong offering and *Every Man in his Humor* is amusing, but would Jonson attract a big enough public? *Volpone* might. I would not recommend any Beaumont and Fletcher except *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*, but that has a large cast and anyway should not be in the same bill with *The Dream*. You don't want two fantasies even though different in style.

Very best wishes to you and all the family. Barbara, knowing I was going to write, asked to join in this.

Yours sincerely,

Iden
B. Iden Payne