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June 1, 1950

Mr. B. Idyn Payne
University of Texas
Austin, Texas

Dear Mr. Payne:

One solace to me for the rapid flight of the past year is the near prospect of your return to San Diego State College and the production of two Shakespear plays at the Globe Theatre. All of us who had the pleasure of seeing your "Twelfth Night" anticipate twice as much delight this summer because we will have two productions instead of one.

We know, of course, the danger that lurks in the supposition that twice something nice is doubly pleasant; no more true perhaps than that a double Martini is twice as delectable as a single. I have no statistics to bear me out, but from the time to time inquiries and comments among our young talent I gather there will be an array of competition for parts in your productions.

As a result of the several meetings of the Coordinating Committee, composed of State College and Globe Theatre representatives, and in line with what was deemed to be your requirements, the schedule for the two plays is as follows:

FIRST PRODUCTION

July 18th through August 8th - 22 performances including matinees on Saturday, July 22nd and Saturday, July 29th.

SECOND PRODUCTION

August 8th through August 27th - 22 performances including matinees on Saturday, August 12th and Saturday, August 19th.

We feel that this is an ambitious enlargement over last year's program, but not unreasonably so if we let no avenue of publicity escape to create local interest in the productions.

We urgently need to know (tentatively at least) the two plays you propose to do. We have had considerable success this year in selling out an entire performance and also there is an increase in block sales of tickets to different organizations. We have some inquiries for possible block sales for Shakespear but no such sale can be consummated until we can indicate what the probable plays will be.

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I have talked with Mr. Sellman and with others about this matter of plays; we have tried to surmise what you would like to do, what might be most feasible in light of what talent you might have or might not have, what would be most attractive to the community, etc. Would two comedies be better than one comedy and one tragedy? Would "Taming of the Shrew" be a good opener because of its general popularity, even though there may be valid objections to it? Would "Romeo and Juliet" be a good second production? Mr. Sellman and I speculated about these matters in a telephone conversation last night. It would seem to me personally that a comedy and a tragedy would be a good combination. Finally, however, it seemed sensible to me that we rely upon your judgment and experience, including your appraisal of what would be most acceptable here in San Diego in light of your work here last summer, in determining what two plays should be given.

It would be most helpful to have your best opinion at this time of what those two plays would probably be, even though some change might have to be made by you within the first few days after you reach here. I will therefore greatly appreciate your accommodating me with your present opinion on these matters.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

LOWELL DAVIES, President
The San Diego Community Theatre

LD/mc

P.S. It will expedite receipt of your reply if you will address me at 530 Broadway, San Diego 1, California.