

August 25, 1987

Synergic Theatre
22 West 90th Street #5F
New York, NY 10024
ATTN: David and Suzanne Manning

Dear David and Suzanne,

Being neither a musician, dancer nor designer, I cannot evaluate the workshop in terms of its effect on my "art". I can only generalize my experience in terms of personal expression and self development.

As an arts administrator, I had developed a life style of rigid discipline and routines while working full time in New York City. I had become desensitized to the world around me. The Synergic Theatre Workshop helped me to break down some of my barriers and defenses formed in my adulthood. As each session concluded, I felt myself opening to my environment. Feelings, sounds and images from my childhood burst free like a rocket. In essence, I had become a child again.

I consider the strongest element of the workshop to be the perception of freedom felt by the participants, even though they were guided through a series of well-planned, thoughtful exercises. The structure of the workshop provided the freedom to create. The imposed time constraints were admittedly frustrating, yet vital because they forced the participants to work from gut reactions, intuitive solutions.

I was disappointed that we never reached the point of considering audience reaction in our problem-solving. The moments and experiences were very personalized, and I'm a strong believer that the "theatrical" experience involves expressing a point of view in exchange for an audience reaction. Perhaps if the workshop continued, we could have explored this relationship.

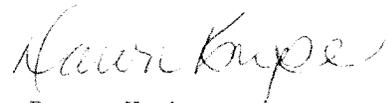
I also feel that the elements of lighting were not fully utilized. Given the time constraints, I was afraid to experiment with light beyond general illumination. Perhaps you will consider one evening devoted solely to creating light.

Some pragmatic suggestions include:

- 1) A minimum of five committed workshop participants.
- 2) Prohibit drop-ins. Participants take the entire workshop or else they don't. No half and halves.
- 3) Consider doing Workshop I and Workshop II. Workshop I would be structured as this one was and would meet twice a week. Workshop II should be more performance oriented and meet three times a week. More than three nights a week may work if none of the participants hold full time jobs.

To sum up, Synergic Theatre is a breath of fresh air. I'm glad I had the opportunity to do the workshop and would recommend it to anyone seeking fresh venues of discovery.

Sincerely,



Dawn Knipe
Director
Schimmel Center

DK/fju