

# OPEN LETTERS

Prague, October 28th, 1997

Dear Julia,

So I have missed the deadline, I'm sorry, but there is nothing I can do about it now. There are always "other things" that cannot wait. And it's precisely these things of everyday urgency that prevent me from doing something of substance. My energy is being spent on day to day struggle for something that should be already in place, but it's not. That way I end up doing things no- one else will do, but I do them because I know they should be done. As far as I know this is a typical situation of female members of our society - and is, of course, related to women, theatre and politics.

At first I thought that the heart of the matter was the political system and a change of the system would release the course of history. I thought I would be able to catch up and spend my time on important things but that, too, was an illusion. Neither the principles of the society nor the individuals that create the society have changed. I keep on struggling against dumb teachers who poison the students' creativity, struggle against the red tape, against the lack of funding, against inadequate regulations etc.

Despite all these obstacles I continue in my preparations for communication courses for the handicapped that should take place at the Prague Theatre Academy. This way of "applied" theatre is the most political expression I know. As it stands now, I am very close to getting final approval of the project. I am really excited about starting it especially since I feel that my experience in the invisible work, in the day to day struggle, will assist me in working with people whose lives are a day to day struggle. The object of this work would not be a one time presentation, the goal would be improvement of the conditions of everyday living. I am looking forward to working with - and for - our comrades in the struggle of life.

This summer one of my daughters got married ...

*Lore Jane*  
28.X.1997

(Jana Pilatova)

Alger le 08 / 09 / 97.

A  
l'attention de Julius Varley

Bon chère Julia,  
J'ai reçu ton fax. Bien sûr que  
je vais t'envoyer l'article pour  
The Open Page. Donne moi une  
petite semaine s'il te plaît parce  
qu'il y a ce qui se passe est très  
grave. On assassine des gens  
par centaines, c'est la grande  
panique. Des bébés, des femmes,  
des enfants sont égorgés tous  
les jours, c'est horrible.

Je t'embrasse  
Malika Boussouf

(Dear Julia,

I have received your fax. Of course I will send the article for *The Open Page*. Give me a small week, please, because what happens here is very serious. People are assassinated by the hundreds. There is a great panic. Babies', women's, children's throats are cut every day. It is horrible.

A hug,

Malika Boussouf)

Porsgrunn, January 1998

To all those who tore up their articles,

*Iuvat me convenit accidit*

(It pleases me, it is fine, it is happening)

I am no master of anything really, and certainly not of Latin, but once in a while I have fun browsing in dictionaries and grammars. For thoughts, words, ideas.

I am pleased that we have made another issue of *The Open Page*. In itself a concrete, specific, political act; originating from a need to do more towards women documenting their work in theatre. To give space for articles too long for the Magdalena Newsletter.

We have women in this issue who are writing for the very first time, and I especially want to encourage those we could call beginners in this context. It is important. You are important. New voices added to the ones already speaking.

That we all need special encouragement to go on, and on, is also a topic which deserves to be mentioned. Do not give up. This journal has room for it all. Also despair. Written down. We can offer encouragement and advice for those who want to have feedback on their articles before they go to print.

The politics of documentation is to leave traces. Many of the traces concerning theatre have been left by men. There are voices missing. History did not - and does - start with each of us. Go for it!

Best of luck,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Geddy Aniksdal". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered on the page.

(Geddy Aniksdal)