

THEATRE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP INC.

the national organization for the nonprofit professional theatre

355 LEXINGTON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10017 (212) 697-5230

January 27, 1988

Ms. Laura Zucker
Co-Producing Director
Back Alley Theatre
15231 Burbank Blvd.
Van Nuys, CA 91411

Dear Ms. Zucker:

I'm very happy to inform you that the Observership Selection Committee of the TCG Board of Directors has selected your application to receive a TCG Rehearsal Observership. The award will cover transportation support for Donald Margulies to be in residence for rehearsals of WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?.

Two copies of the TCG Observership Approval Form are enclosed, indicating the maximum amount of the award. Also enclosed is a set of the Guidelines outlining the terms of the award. Please read this material carefully, fill in the name of the person you are assigning to administer the Observership, and return one signed copy of the Approval Form to TCG. The second copy is for your records. Remember that you must confirm the dates and maximum travel costs involved before you sign and return the Approval Form. Any changes must be requested in advance and approved in writing by TCG.

Also enclosed you will find two copies of the Observership Trip Report Form (one to be completed by the theatre, the other by the writer) and an Observership Expense Report Form. These must be completed and submitted, along with original transportation receipts (ticket stubs rather than travel agency invoices), within four weeks of the end of the Rehearsal Observership. Reimbursement can be made only after TCG receives these reports.

Please pay careful attention to the guidelines (including the required acknowledgement in the playbill of TCG's support), since TCG will be unable to reimburse you if there are unauthorized changes in travel or residency duration or dates, if you do not submit original transportation receipts, or if your reports are incomplete.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call. I am pleased that you can be a part of this unique program and wish you a successful rehearsal period.

Sincerely,


Arthur Bartow

Enclosures: Approval Form (2), Guidelines, Trip Report Form (2), Expense Report Form

**THEATRE
COMMUNICATIONS
GROUP INC.**

1987-88 OBSERVERSHIP PROGRAM

355 LEXINGTON AVENUE NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017 (212) 697-5230

CATEGORY III/REHEARSAL OBSERVERSHIP

APPROVAL FORM

TCG is pleased to award a Rehearsal Observership as follows:

Traveler DONALD MARGULIES

Theatre BACK ALLEY THEATRE

Name and title of person who will be administering Observership:

(Note: This person will be responsible for obtaining original transportation receipts from the writer, for seeing that appropriate program credit is given by the theatre, and for ensuring that all necessary report forms are completed and mailed to TCG by the deadline date.)

Play title _____

Rehearsal dates _____

Production dates _____

Director _____

Performance space _____

Dates of residency _____

Leaving from _____

Returning to _____

Maximum inter-city travel costs approved _____

Supersaver or discount airfare not to exceed \$238

Purpose of residence

To allow the playwright to be in residence for at least two weeks during rehearsals of his play WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

IMPORTANT: Your TCG Rehearsal Observership has been approved on the basis of the information you provided in your application and the requirements specified in the guidelines. Any change in travel plans must be requested in advance and approved in writing by TCG.

Please make sure you understand and agree to the terms of this award, as described in the Guidelines, before accepting it.

Approved:

Accepted:

_____ for TCG

_____ Date

_____ for Host Theatre

_____ Date

RETURN ONE SIGNED COPY OF THIS FORM, WITHIN TWO WEEKS, TO: Artist Services, Theatre Communications Group, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017. Retain one copy for your records.

CATEGORY III/REHEARSAL OBSERVERSHIP

APPLICATION FORM

To be completed by the artistic director of a TCG Constituent theatre to enable a playwright, translator, composer, lyricist or librettist to be in-residence at the theatre and participate in rehearsals of a fully mounted production of his or her work for a minimum of two weeks.

Please make sure to include a current resume as part of this application.

Theatre THE BACK ALLEY THEATRE

Observership Applicant Donald Margulies

Occupation Playwright

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Play title WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

Rehearsal dates December 22 - Jan 28 Production dates Jan 28 - March 20

Director Stuart Damon Performance space The Back Alley Theatre

PROPOSED TRAVEL

Dates of proposed residency January 18 - January 31

Leaving from New York City Returning to New York City

Indicate mode of inter-city transportation:

Air Train Bus Car (@ \$.205/mile) Rental Car

Estimated inter-city transportation costs \$238
(not including local transportation)

Has this application, and the proposed involvement of the writer in the rehearsal process, been discussed with both the writer and the director of the production? ,yes

Please describe the reasons you would like the artist to be in residence and how he or she will be involved in the rehearsal process. Use additional pages if necessary.

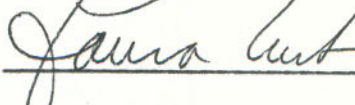
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? will be the second collaboration between the Back Alley and Donald Margulies. We produced another play by Donald, FOUND A PEANUT, in the summer of 1986. FOUND A PEANUT had been previously produced by Joseph Papp. The Back Alley production was an important second production-- that elusive animal that is so important to the ultimate refinement of a play. During the rehearsal process of FOUND A PEANUT, a solid working relationship was developed between the playwright and artistic leadership of the theatre, Laura Zucker and Allan Miller.

The upcoming Back Alley production of WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? is, once again, an important second production. The play was originally produced by the Manhattan Theatre Club in 1985, but never opened for the press because of Donald's dissatisfactions with the production. There are a lot of things he would now like to try out in another production-- he is anxious to see if our production encounters the same difficulties or new ones. Donald is good at making necessary revisions quickly.

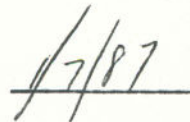
As you see by the rehearsal dates on the flip side, he will be joining us for two weeks--one week prior to previews and one week during previews--before the TCG committee has a chance to meet on this application. We hope, however, that you'll agree with the merits of reimbursing the theatre retroactively for this critically important expense.

IMPORTANT: TCG Observerships will be evaluated on the basis of the information you have provided. Should this Observership be approved, any change in your plans must be requested in advance and approved in writing by TCG.

Signature of Artistic Director



Date



Return to: Artist Services, Theatre Communications Group,
355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017.