

27 Bishops Road London N6 4HR

6 May 1979

Dear Alan

OK. I understand now. Here is the text with the changes. It's going to be interesting to see what impact it has at The Edinburgh Festival this year now that we've just elected a Tory government into power.

Advice. Don't make the Cabinet Ministers caricature. Canny, yes, but not overstated. ~~Remember that~~

Remember that there are often poetic reasons for one scene following another, that is to say no logic but it 'feels' right!

Your sound is very important. You probably haven't any old fashioned printing presses you can record. Try the old studios, maybe they have some sound you can pinch from an old Hollywood movie film. But the sound is the background to the last scenes which will add to their excitement.

I'd guess that choreography was all. Slow, slow start, mounting ... *

You might try to begin the play with the noise of the machines rolling. i.e. ~~House~~ Sound begins. House lights down. Sound grows in darkness. Up, up. Cut. Lights on set and slow, meandering start to play.

Remember also ~~that~~ strange time structure of the play. It's a Tuesday of the first week, a Wednesday of the second week, Thursday of the third week, Friday of the fourth week, Saturday of the fifth week. The plays in five parts (the centre scene of Mary's family should really have been called part three). So the ^{news} stories operate on two time levels, of a week and five weeks - corresponding to reality in which some stories take a shorter time to pursue than others.

Let the first interview happen slowly. 'And that, Miss Mortimer, is precisely what democracy is: a risky balancing act...!' Long pause - because that's what the play is to be about.

Don't forget that it's also very very funny.

I've just returned from Madrid where they invited us for the first night of Chicken Soup With Barley - a very special play to be done there. Thought the programme might interest you.

Good luck. Ask me about anything you don't get.

Regards
Andy.

*Bring a
mime expert?