

215 W. 98th St., apt. 10E
New York NY 10025
November 10, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this in support of GableStage in Coral Gables, Florida, and in support of the plan of its Producing Artistic Director, Joseph Adler, for a 300-seat theatre.

My understanding is that there is now a competing plan that would involve not a 300-, but a 700-seat theatre. When Joe Adler told me this, I blanched.

I have been writing for the theatre professionally for 45 years. I've been on Broadway over half a dozen times now (with *Venus In Fur* most recently, which has been produced in this country and all over the world and turned into a movie), I've been off- and off-off-Broadway dozens of times (*All In The Timing* ran there for 606 performances, most notably), and I've been all over the regionals with plays. To cut to the chase, I also had a play called *New Jerusalem: The Interrogation of Baruch de Spinoza* at GableStage: gorgeously produced, by the way. It was a great experience.

I wish there were hundreds of GableStages around this country: solid, professional, adventurous theatres that know how to produce a show and how to please their local audiences as well. I can't tell you how much respect I have for GableStage and for Joe Adler, who is consummate man of the theatre, with taste and drive and every necessary ability to run a successful theatre. Among those abilities are a natural instinct for what's right and what's not, what will work and what won't.

A 700-seat theatre, it seems to me, won't work. It would in fact be absurd. With 300 seats you have the necessary intimacy, the proportion that makes for good close-up *humane* theatre. And you can fill 300 seats if you're resourceful and tasteful. A 700-seat theatre is begging for trouble. I don't frankly know what kind of show you could put into a house of that size. It wouldn't be a house, it would be more of a warehouse, and probably largely empty at that. Here in New York, theatres tend to run at 99 seats (off-off), or 299 seats (off-) or a thousand seats or more (Broadway). There used to be some 500-seat houses but they've pretty much gone. The reason is Darwinian: time and experience have shown theatre owners and artistic directors that those are the comfortable sizes for theatres. And Joe Adler is wise enough to know this.

Please, please support this man who is so valuable a part of the theatre in your community. For a project like this *listen to the experts*. And Joe Adler is an expert.

Sincerely,



David Ives