

Feb. 20, '76

In a public form of literature such as theatre is, the 'public' often becomes a phantom partner to a writer. He always knows it's with him but he can't put his finger on it somehow. An award like this, which you've generously seen fit to give me for my work, helps to verify that phantom and even adds another dimension to my personal aims in writing for the theatre. I'm dedicated to the possibilities of exploration and discovery in my work and it's even more exciting when the results of that exploration find a home in a wider audience. I gladly accept this citation not as a token of high achievement but as an indication that experimental theatre and experimental writing in particular is able to be seen as a rejuvenating influence and not merely as a "promising snot-nosed kid". Thank you.

*Sam Shepard*