

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

*This letter came to us moments before the program for “**Because Of You: The Life and Loves of Sholom Aleichem**” was to go to print. We thought we would share it with our audiences:*

My wife Rosy and I used to come to the Playhouse all the time when we lived in LA; we saw those Sholom Aleichem shows about a dozen times each, and still remember your Ionesco festival where we first met *The Bald Soprano*. We moved to the east coast in 1986, so it’s been awhile since we were regulars at your playhouse. Our kids were both born here, so they’ve never been to see the shows we remember and love.

Over the years we’ve quoted lines from the Sholom Aleichem shows to each other so many times that many little sayings (that I’m sure we remember badly) have crept into our vocabulary, and are a permanent part of the way we communicate to each other.

In fact, the prompt for this letter was explaining to our kids the source of the “Papa-Send Me Money!” response they get when one or both of them asks their mom for something and are denied, and then asks me and gets what they want. I blame you for this fissure in our parental resolve.*

And I can’t tell you how many times I’ve recounted “The Miser and the Thief” to someone; it is one of my favorite stories.

I also must thank you for countless nights in the theatre, a habit we got into when we could go off to SMP anytime we wanted for about ten bucks.

Now it costs a lot more, but we were bit by the theatre bug at your hands, and we go as much as we can. (In fact, next weekend [we] will be in London, celebrating my birthday with a long weekend of theatre.) Living in DC has put both Broadway and the West End—as well as a pretty lively theatre community here—within our reach, and we are fortunate to be able to see a lot of great stuff.

But Washington has nothing akin to the equity waiver theatres we loved in LA, and we have searched in vain for another Santa Monica Playhouse. We know now that it is unique and unparalleled; others have tried, but none have done it as wonderfully as you have. This is, of course, the conclusion we have reached after our own extensive research...

...Our kids have got the bug, too, particularly our daughter. They are both involved in theatre projects at their school, and have seen lots of plays and musicals. We’ve never had the chance to bring them to your stage, but we’ll work on that, and may try and get out to see the new show.

So this is a belated thank you that is heartfelt and sincere.

It is cold and snowy here in DC today, the schools are closed and the kids are jubilant.

Hope it is warm where you are—

The Tetz Family

** (To hear the full “Papa, Send Me Money” story, see “**Author! Author!—an evening with Sholom Aleichem**” next time it plays here)*