

14126 North
Houston Texas 77047
22 July 1983

To whom it may concern:

I am a Ph.D. in English Dramatic literature and a trained musician. My work is in the arts of theatre, music and literature. I have taught college classes, workshops, tutorials and music lessons in Texas, California and Hawaii over the last fifteen years. I am the editor of two college textbooks and the author of numerous plays, dramatic sketches and published poems, essays and articles. I've performed in numerous theatrical and musical ensembles. My career has brought me in touch with many men and women of genius in the arts, but there is one genius who stands out as the greatest inspiration of my life: Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

This utterly exceptional man has given artists and arts educators the most profound help, both through his written message (over three hundred books, each one loaded with insight for the arts) and through his silent presence and heart-to-heart communion with those who visit his extraordinary community in Oregon.

The working artist seeks technique, inspiration and self-expression. Bhagwan's teachings and his personal example — his silent presence at Rajneeshpuram — supply these three vital commodities in abundance. Just through being who he is, he has put me in touch with my ability to be at my best both as an artist and an educator. I couldn't even enumerate the multitude of times that his example has given me tremendous moments of expression as a writer, musician and stage performer. His words have given me more insight into the nature of the arts I practice than all I've ever read on the subjects of arts and aesthetics.

For the philosophy of art, his teachings constitute an explosion of new understanding that will require all of our artistic traditions to be re-thought. I have successfully used his practical meditation techniques to help my students open themselves to their creative potential. Bhagwan is truly a fountainhead of positive energy for anyone involved in the arts, and he must be ranked as one of the greatest geniuses not only of our times but of the ages.

The religious festivals I have attended at Rajneeshpuram have been tremendously beneficial to my professional work. The silent communion existing between Bhagwan and those who come to be in his presence is a very real, palpable phenomenon. Striking evidence of Bhagwan's impact on the arts can be found in the music performed at these festivals. The recordings produced by Rajneesh Foundation International over the past year — original music performed in the inspiration of his presence — show such technical brilliance, artistic inspiration and self-expression that they stand with the best music being produced in the world today.

In summary, Bhagwan's written teachings, his silent presence and the art produced in his inspiring community constitute proof of his genius and of his positive influence on the arts today. He has helped me in my profession more than any other single teacher, artist or historical figure in my field, and I am grateful for his being in my country.

Sincerely,
Robert A. Raines, Ph.D.