

PROGRAM NOTES

Spalding Gray

February 3 & 4, 1981 8:30pm

GOD IS DEAD MY RADIO

intermission

WHAT HAPPENED ON THE WAY HERE

Special thanks to the Wooster Group, Inc.: Jim Clayburgh, Willem Dafoe, Libby Howes, Elizabeth LeCompte and Ron Vawter.

SPALDING GRAY is a theater creator, performer and teacher, and has been a member of The Wooster Group at the Performing Garage for the past eleven years. Mr. Gray premiered his first three solo works--Sex and Death to the Age 14; Booze, Cars and College Girls; India & After (America)--at the Garage last year, and has since performed the pieces in Europe and cross country. He co-composed and performed in all four Wooster Group productions directed by Elizabeth LeCompte (The Trilogy, Three Places in Rhode Island and its epilogue, Point Judith) and was also featured in the company's other major productions, including Mother Courage, Tooth of Crime, and Cops. On tour, in schools and at the Garage, he conducts theater workshops for both adults and children. The focus of all three phases of Mr. Gray's work has been autobiographical, and he is recognized as a founder and prime experimenter in this form. Over the past several years, he has received playwriting grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, and CAPS, and conducted City-sponsored children's workshops in New York public schools.

RON VAWTER'S first brush with Spalding Gray occurred in the fall of 1967. Mr. Gray was performing in Christopher Fry's Venus Observed, while Actor-In-Residence at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. At the same time, Mr. Vawter was appearing in Christopher Fry's The Lady's Not For Burning at Siena College in Albany, N.Y., where he was taking vows toward his ordination in the Order of Franciscans (Minor). Since then, Mr. Gray and Mr. Vawter have performed together in Mother Courage and Her Children, The Balcony, A WING AND A PRAYER and The Tooth of Crime. In 1975, they both began a collaboration with Elizabeth LeCompte and other members of the Wooster Group at the Performing Garage which resulted in the composition of Three Places In Rhode Island, and its' epilogue, Point Judith. They are currently at work on the Wooster Group's newest collaboration, The Last Act, directed by Ms. LeCompte. Mr. Vawter also appears in a film by Richard Foreman, Strong Medicine, and two films by Michael Oblowitz, Minus Zero and the upcoming The Third Person.

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