

1815 Delaware  
Berkeley 3, California  
August 4, 1966

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I am enclosing a copy of my wife's play MacBird. As you can see from the attached list of endorsements, the play deserves to be published and would have been published if not for its assumption that Johnson killed Kennedy. Even the magazines won't touch it. Both Ramparts and the New York Review of Books considered publishing it in its entirety, but backed off from fear that it would somehow detract from the articles they are running on the Warren Commission.

After several months of fooling around with publishers, we have decided to go ahead and publish it ourselves. We are quite familiar with the printing end of the business, but we know nothing about distribution. Since you yourself have had a somewhat similar experience, and have had to distribute your own book, I thought you might be able to give us some advice.

We have a new edition of 5000 copies in the works. The new edition will be about a third longer, and much more professional-looking, than the present one. It should be back from the printers around August 20. We will then have to get to work setting up a distribution system, pretty much from scratch. We don't expect to make our fortune out of this, of course, but it would be nice if we could have a hundred dollars to show for every hundred hours of labor we put into it.

Not knowing the first thing about distribution, I don't have any specific questions to ask you----I'd really like you to tell me whatever you think is important for me to know.

Very sincerely yours,

*Marvin Garson*  
Marvin Garson

P.S. We really don't have the faintest idea who killed Kennedy. The play has Johnson doing it both because it flows naturally from the plot of MacBeth and because it makes dramatic sense.

Robert Brustein, Dean of the Yale Drama School, drama critic for  
The New Republic:

"MacBird is one of the best and most-needed political  
parodies of the post-war ~~war~~ period."

Eric Bentley, Professor of Dramatic Literature at Columbia Uni-  
versity; writer and critic:

"If I were a producer, I would produce MacBird at once in  
as many American cities as possible. I would then sell it  
for production abroad so that the rest of the world might  
(a) be warned against the "American way of life" and (b)  
take note that the warning came from an American writer."

Robert Lowell, Pulitzer Prize poet:

"I have nothing to say about the political truth of this  
play, but I am sure a kind of genius has gone into the  
writing."

Jason Epstein, Editor of The Modern Library and Vintage Books,  
Random House::

"One of the few really first-rate literary parodies in English."

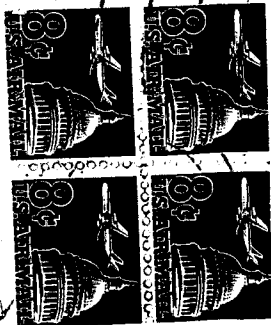
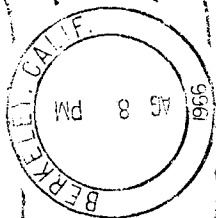
George P. Elliott, writer and critic:

"MacBird is a strange, wonderful mixture of the jolly and  
the macabre. Without the parody the plot would be merely  
implausible, but without the dark satire the parody would  
be merely fun."

Robert Silvers, Co-Editor of The New York Review of Books:

"a brilliant and exhilarating piece of writing, whatever  
one thinks of its political implications."

Garsen  
1815 Delaware  
Berkeley 3,  
California



Harold Weisberg

Hyattstown, Md.

20734

Air Mail