

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA 19104

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
33rd and Spruce Streets

August 31, 1973

Professor Thomas J. Scheff
Department of Sociology
University of California
Santa Barbara, California 93106

Dear Tom:


Thanks for letting me see your paper on Shakespeare.

It seems to fall into two parts: the first on "discrepant awareness." Evans is a complete gas, and fits, of course, perfectly with Aus' paper and with my stuff on frames. I was put onto him by Booth, whose RHETORIC OF FICTION you ought to look at if you haven't. Among other things, it contains some references to terrific sources that we should have been into all along. The second part deals with identification and catharsis and makes a nice use, I think, of the "stairstep of awareness" notion. But here you deal not with a narrow sociological issue but with something that the humanists write about in 1,000 journals we don't read. So here, it would be difficult for you to know how novel or sophisticated your remarks will seem.

One publication possibility is The Psychoanalytic Review. That is where it really belongs, I think. Psychiatry would also be a possibility.

I enclose an early draft of two chapters from my stuff on frames. The first of these covers with a term "information state" part of what you deal with. By the way, on soliloquies, asides, and the like you might look at the new Penguin-Harper paperback by Elizabeth Burns on theatricality. Do keep in touch.

Regards,


Erving Goffman

EG/LAC

Enclosures