

Ed de Grazia Playwright

I was interested in Ed de Grazia as lawyer, having met him at turn of a previous decade in Boston as witness for his legal scenario in defense of Naked Lunch, and the dialogue we improvised together in the theater of Boston courtroom is now published as part preface to the Grove Press edition of Burroughs' classic psychopolitical text. We travelled south by overnight train thereafter and talked Law and Art, I met his circle of libertarian friends in Washington, & followed his career as art & liberty-defending lawyer in cases involving Henry Miller's Tropic of Cancer and the film I am Curious (Yellow), & his adventures rescuing Norman Mailer and others from jail during anti-war peace protests & exorcisms at Pentagon in late '60's. Thereon he took an introspective turn, ("That's what justice is. Injustice." *The Swings.*), went through agonizing family changes, taught high law thought in various institutes, and ~~scholar~~ passed his nights and morns and maybe office and court hours too scribbling idealistic poems, mysterious man-woman babble plays, historical scenarios, epic pageants on Imperialism and psychological police state motifs drawn from his experience in jails courts forums books ~~and~~ newspapers and his open reading of the vast social ledger of the streets and houses and drawing rooms of Washington D.C. When a public law man turns public Subjective man, artist, the experience is at once painful & enlightening--painful to see ~~the~~ idealism frustrated yet expressed fully and ~~openly~~ openly, enlightening to witness the phalanx of social reasons & facts & arguments of law-economics ~~and~~ of culture ranged in full panoply by a professional mind for poetic display in ~~the~~ courtroom of Theater. Here in these plays is extensive results of that introspection and public honesty. I pray that his imaginations fare well, blown through the world on the leaves of this book. ~~the~~

Allen Ginsberg

28 March 1974