

JAPAN

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The system of communication which now covers the whole globe by means of thorough manipulation of 'non-animal' energy (electricity, oil, nuclear power etc.) seems to connect people with each other with maximum speed and equality. But it is dangerous to depend on it; we must beware of putting too much trust in it. For it can lessen the chances of interpersonal encounter and weaken the willingness for deeper mutual understanding which is perhaps made possible only through the direct sharing of the same space and time. It can thus generate a lack of imagination, a kind of insensitivity to those discords or inequalities which do exist in the world but tend to be concealed by this system.

Theatre is a form of activity which, through exercise of 'animal' energy within a limited space and time shared by a limited number of people, refines insights into man's nature, and searches for the meaning and possibility of human co-existence. As such, theatre will assert its increasingly powerful *raison d'être*: it will function as a cultural form embodying the healthiest and strongest critique of a system which threatens to devour the human mind in the twenty-first century.

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