

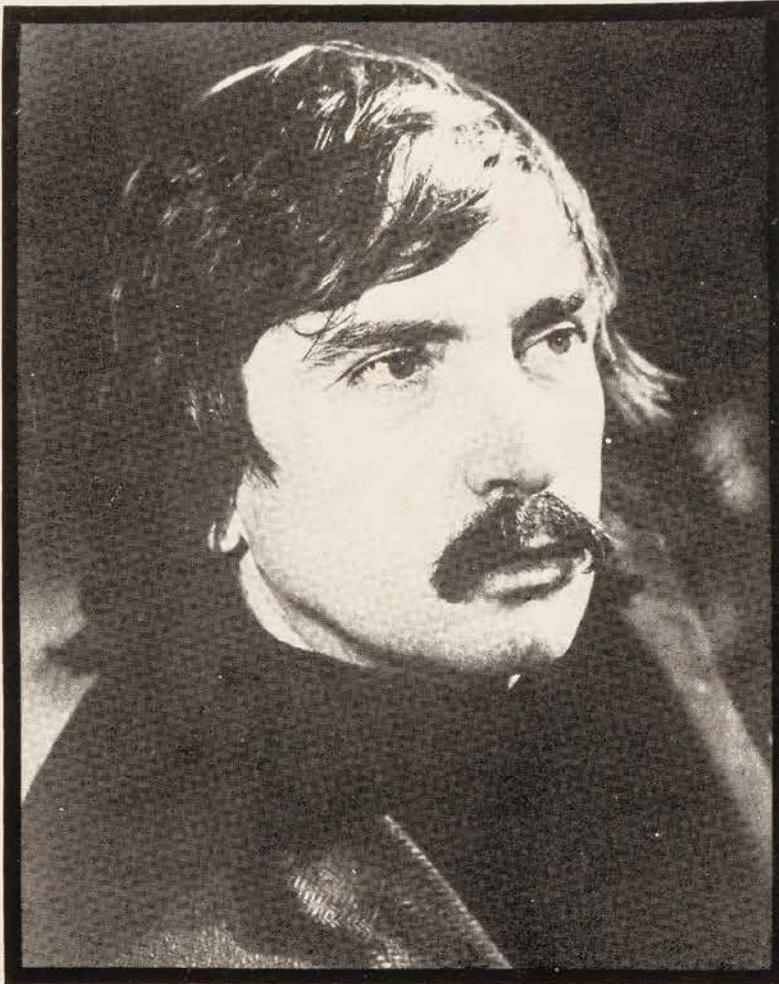


## Edward Albee

Archive for *The Wounding: An Essay on Education*

\$4800

# THE WOUNDING: AN ESSAY ON EDUCATION



BY EDWARD ALBEE

Autographed Edition

In 1981, Albee, the three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, was awarded a Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Charleston in West Virginia. His speech, on his own education, or lack thereof, and on how one is forever “wounded” by the responsibilities of an education, was published in a signed wrapped limited edition of 200 copies by Mountain State Press, with an additional 50 signed hardcover copies distributed by university professor William Plumley’s own Parchment Press.

This archive documents that publication. It includes:

1. Albee's hand-corrected typescript of his speech, 9 pages, with "The Wounding: an Essay on Education" listed as a "possible title." Approximately a dozen small corrections in Albee's hand.- an autograph note signed by Albee to Bill Plumley, dated July, 1981, transmitting the above, and asking Plumley to send Lolita back
2. An uncorrected photocopy of Albee's typescript, with a copy of the colophon as it is printed in the book.
3. Copy No. 1 of the 50 hardcover copies of *The Wounding*, signed by Albee. Fine in a fine dust jacket (and with three extra copies of the jacket, folded).
4. A copy of the typescript of the (unattributed) remarks used to introduce Albee at the commencement ceremony, with an envelope addressed to Dr. Plumley from "J.P." In the preceding months, Albee's Broadway play adaptation of Nabokov's *Lolita* had opened and closed after 12 performances (and 31 previews), and the introductory remarks attempt to diplomatically manage Albee's fall from theatrical grace.
5. Four periodicals from the time, each inscribed by Albee to Plumley on their covers: *The New Republic* (April 11, 1981); *Newsweek* and *Time* (March 30, 1981); and *The New Yorker* (March 23, 1981). The latter announces the opening of *Lolita*; the first three contain reviews of the play, one of which (*The New Republic*) is briefly quoted in the introductory remarks to Albee's speech.

An interesting archive, which documents a noteworthy commencement speech by one of the preeminent American playwrights of the 20th century, at the time that he has just experienced perhaps the most extreme critical savaging of his career. It is perhaps not surprising that the title of the talk, and the book, is "The Wounding" and that Albee takes great pains to express the wounding -- by civilization, by education, and by our own natures -- as something to be grateful for, that distinguishes us as humans, and makes us members of the same "club." The hardcover edition is rare; the archival material is unique.

A selection of images follows. [BTC#422750]

(possible title)

THE WOUNDING: AN ESSAY ON EDUCATION

by

Edward Albee

Whenever I listen to myself being introduced, I get quite involved, and I say, "Who is this interesting person that they're talking about? My goodness! Fascinating man!" Then, I realize that it's only me, and I become puzzled. My apologies to the worthy people to my back. One learns in the theater one should never turn one's back on anyone, but this is a worthy group. My apologies for my back, however.

There is some irony, I suppose, in my being invited to talk to you at this commencement, briefly, I promise you. You have been talked at, those of you graduating, for years now. You must be weary of it. There's an irony involved here--no irony, perhaps, in my receiving an honorary degree, a Doctor of Humane Letters, which only leads me to wonder that if perhaps were I a critic, rather than a writer, I might not receive a Doctor of Inhumane Letters. The irony is the fact that I am being asked to address you who are graduating, when I have never graduated from anything in my life.

EDWARD ALBEE  
THE OFFICE  
14 HARRISON STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10013

July, 1987

Dear Bill —

12 or 13 minor connections. Amosik,  
Ak.

I look forward to seeing you in December.  
Do send Chita back!

Regards.

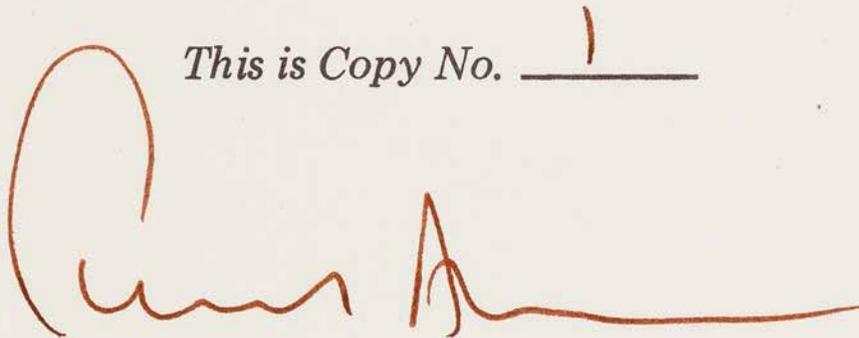
Edward

**THE WOUNDING: AN ESSAY ON EDUCATION**

*by Edward Albee*

*Signed in Limited Edition: 250 Copies*

*This is Copy No. 1*

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "Edward Albee", is written below the text. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

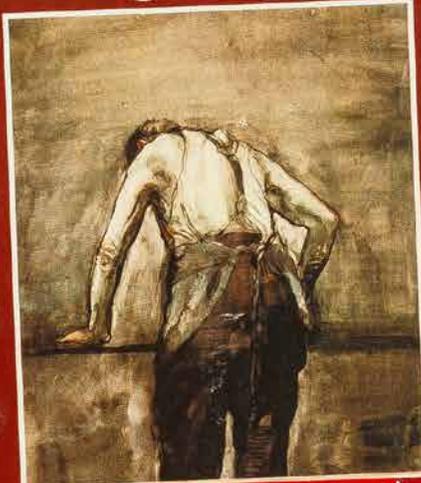
Presidents Under Fire • Third World Guilt Trip  
Before the Great War • Albee's 'Lolita' • Nuclearectomy

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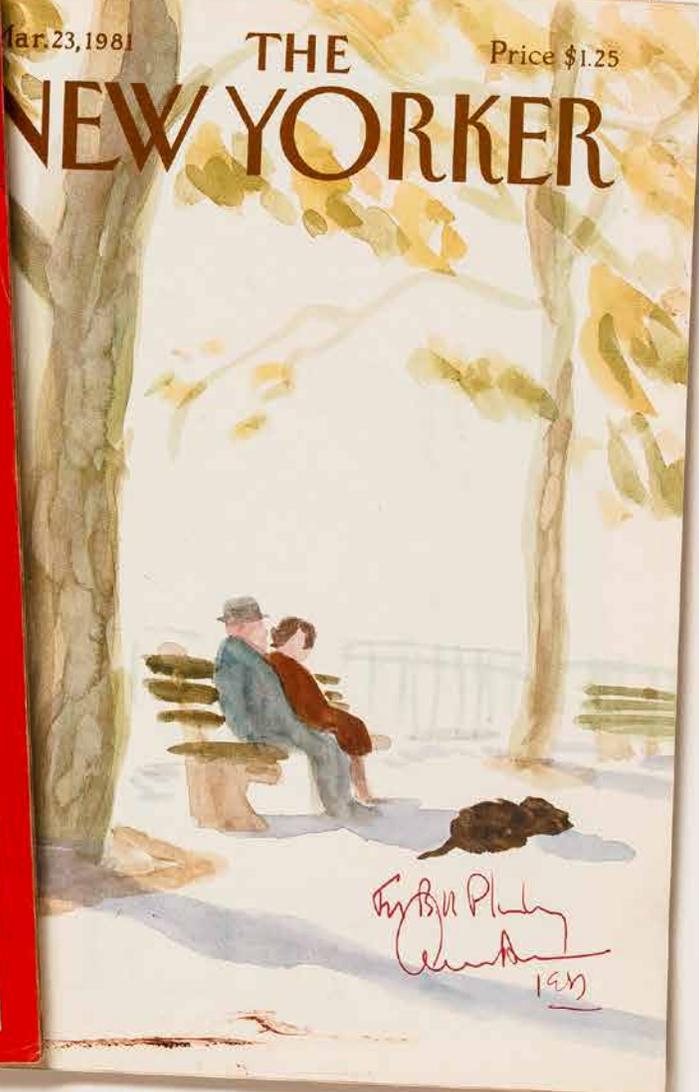


Bill  
1981

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# THE NEW YORKER



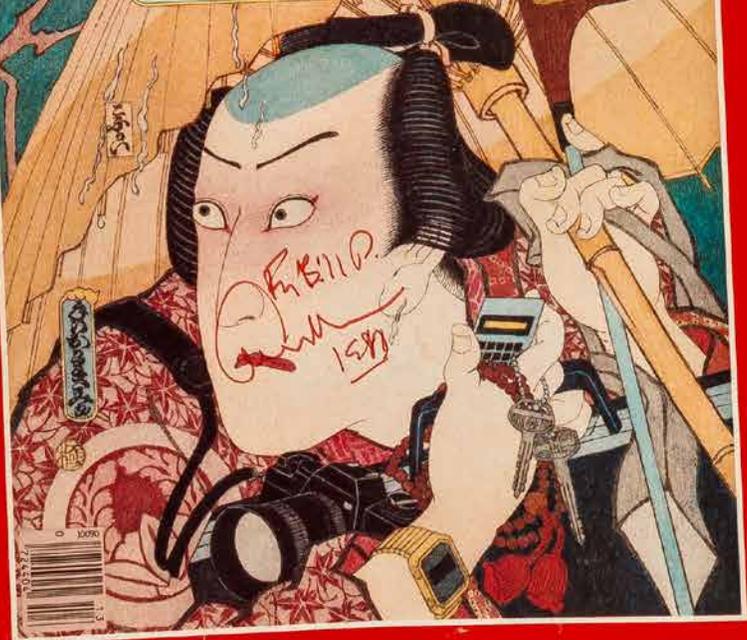
Bill  
1981

# TIME

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Bill  
1981