Tim Sheiner

1760 Alabama Street

San Francisco, CA 94110

USA

Sir Tom Stoppard

United Agents Ltd.

12-26 Lexington Street

London, W1F 0LE

UK

18 January 2014

Dear Sir;

I am a great admirer of Arcadia. I have seen three performances and read it countless times. I believe it to be a work of genius.

In addition to offering praise, I write to tell you that I use Arcadia as the introductory text in a design course I teach at California College of Art that introduces beginning interaction designers to the concepts and theory of system thinking.

Design students do not expect to do much reading in a studio course and certainly not of a dramatic play, however, I find it valuable to have my students read Arcadia for two reasons. The first is that it serves as an excellent systems case study. It is a complex narrative that treats systems thinking both explicitly and implicitly and so provides my students and I with a shared context to which we can refer for examples and discussion.

The second use is as a vehicle to frame the concept of systems thinking in terms of the human condition. The subject matter of the course is largely technical and teaches the analysis of systems in terms of a cool and rational process. However, by beginning the class with Arcadia, I make the point that regardless of the technical nature of any system we may design, the context of use is always human, emotional and magically unpredictable.

For your interest I have enclosed the lessons I assign based on your play as well as the overall syllabus for the course.

Thank you so much for the enrichment to my life, and my student's lives, that your work has afforded.

Best regards,

Tim Sheiner

Adjunct Professor, California College of Art