

## Notes from *JDTC*

### Sharon L. Sullivan, Assistant Editor

The spring 1997 issue included an essay entitled, "A Feminist Dialogue on Theatre for Young Audiences Through Susan Zeder's Plays." The article documents part of a conversation about feminist theories and children's theatre between Jeanne Klein and Gayle Austin, and Susan Zeder's response to the discussion. Two more responses to the discussion are included in the current issue of *JDTC*.

The first letter, dated August 27, 1997, written by playwright, screenwriter and actor, James Still, responds to statements in the essay from a male playwright's point of view. One of Still's original screenplays which he coproduced, *The Velocity of Gary*, is scheduled for release in 1998. His original screenplay of *Stairway to Heaven* has been commissioned by MGM and David Seltzer Productions. Still wrote the text and lyrics for *In the Suicide Mountains*, which won the Hawaii State Theatre Council 1997 Po'okela Award for Best New Play. Among other significant works, he wrote *And Then They Came For Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank*, and *Hush: An Interview with America*.

In the second letter, dated November 25, 1997, Dr. Iris Smith responds to some of the theoretical issues raised in the article. Smith is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Kansas where she teaches twentieth-century theatre and theory. Smith has published on avant-garde and epic theatre, intercultural performance, theatre semiotics, and feminist theatre in *Theatre Journal*, *Theatre Topics*, *New Theatre Quarterly*, *Semiotica*, *Genre*, *The Centennial Review*, and *JDTC*. She is writing the final chapter of her book, under contract to the University of Michigan Press, *Mabou Mines in the 1970s: A Theatre Company and Its Passionate Commitment to the Work*.