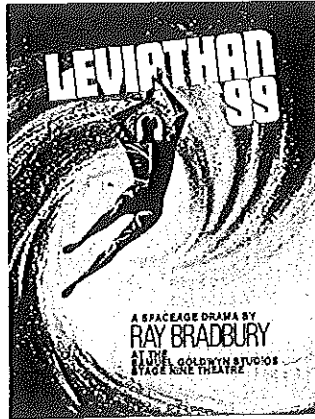


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JUNE
 10, 1974

Dear Brian Sibley:

This will have to be short. Sorry. But I am deep into my screenplay on SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES and have no secretary, never have had one..so must write all my own letters..200 a week!!!

Disney was a dreamer and a doer..while the rest of us were talking ab out the future, he built it. The things he taught us at Disneyland about street planning, crowd movement, comfort, humanity, etc, will influence builders, architects, urban planners for the next century. Because of him we will humanize our cities, plan small towns again where we can get in touch with one another again and make democracy work creatively because we will KNOW the people we vote for. He was so far ahead of his time it will take us the next 50 years to catch up. You MUST come to Disneyland and eat -your words, swallow your doubts. Most of the other architects of the modern world were asses and fools who talked against Big Brother and then built prisons to put us all in..our modern environments which stifle and destroy us. Disney the so-called conservative turns out to be Disney the great man of foresight and construction.

Enough. Come here soon. I'll toss you in the Jungle Ride River and ride you on the train into tomorrow, yesterday, and beyond.

Good luck, and stop judging at such a great distance. You are ~~hbk~~ simply not qualified. Disney was full of errors, paradoxes, mistakes. He was also full of life, beauty, insight. Which speaks for all of us, eh? We are all mysteries of light and d-ark. There are no true conservatives, liberals, etc, in the world. Only people.

Best, *R.B.*

P.S. I can't find that issue of THE NATION, or the NEW REPUBLIC, which ever it was, with my letter in it on Disney. Mainly I said that if Disneyland was good enough for Captain Bligh it was good enough for me. Charles Laughton and his wife took me to Disneyland for my very first visit and our first ride was the Jungle Boat Ride, which Laughton immediately commandeered, jeering at customers going by in other boats! A fantastic romp for me and a hilarious day. What a way to start my association with Disneyland! R.B.

Pandemonium II Productions

P.S. Can't resist commenting on your fears of the Disney robots. Why aren't you afraid of books, then? The fact is, of course, that people have been afraid of books, down through history. They are extensions of people, not people themselves. Any machine, any robot, is the sum total of the ways we use it. Why not knock down all robot camera devices and the means for reproducing the stuff that goes into such devices, things called projectors in theatres? A motion picture projector is a non-humanoid robot which repeats truths which we inject into it. Is it inhuman? Yes. Does it project human truths to humanize us more often than not? Yes.

The excuse could be made that we should burn all books because some books are dreadful.

We should smash all cars because some cars get in accidents because of the people driving them.

We should burn down all the theatres in the world because some films are trash, drivel.

So it is finally with the robots you say you fear. Why fear something? Why not create with it? Why not build robot teachers to help out in schools where teaching certain subjects is a bore for EVERYONE? Why not have Plato sitting in your Greek Class answering jolly questions about his Republic? I would love to experiment with that. I am not afraid of robots. I am afraid of people, people, people. I want them to remain human. I can help keep them human with the wise and lovely use of books, films, robots, and my own mind, hands, and heart.

I am afraid of Catholics killing Protestants and vice versa.

I am afraid of whites killing blacks and vice versa.

I am afraid of English killing Irish and vice versa.

I am afraid of young killing old and vice versa.

I am afraid of Communists killing Capitalists and vice versa.

But...robots? God, I love them. I will use them humanely to teach all of the above. My voice will speak out of them, and it will be a damned nice voice.

Best, R.B.

I AM NOT AFRAID OF ROBOTS. I AM AFRAID OF PEOPLE

RAY BRADBURY to BRIAN SIBLEY
June 10, 1974

In 1974, English author Brian Sibley wrote a letter to his favorite science fiction novelist, Ray Bradbury—the man responsible for writing, most notably, *Fahrenheit 451*. In it, Sibley spoke of his deep admiration for Bradbury's books and posed

some questions related to Disney, a subject close to his heart.

"If I remember rightly," explains Sibley, "I expressed doubts about Disney's use of Audio-Animatronic creations in Disneyland. At the time, I had still to visit a Disney theme park and had probably read too many sci-fi stories about the danger of robots taking over our human world—including, of course, some by Ray—and so saw it as a sinister rather than benign experiment. But what joy to have one's ill-formed and prejudiced

views exploded by such a wordsmith. How wonderful that he bothered to take the time to ignite that explosion and how miraculous that its after-shock was a more-than-30-year friendship!"

Bradbury's letter is indeed wonderful, in both generosity and content, and comes with a postscript in which he elegantly and poetically questions Sibley's fear of robots in a way that only he could.