



RITA ROMILLY

1900 — 1984

Rita Romilly was a student of G. I. Gurdjieff from 1922 until his death in 1949: Rita Romilly was called Rita Rita by G.I. Gurdjieff because she was two: Rita Romilly was G.I. Gurdjieff's official reader of All and Everything at meetings in English long before it was published: Rita Romilly also studied Gurdjieff's teachings with A. R. Orage: Rita Romilly was an actress in New York appearing in productions from George Michael Cohan plays and films to Eva Le Gallienne's Repertory Civic Theatre: Rita Romilly was a teacher of acting at The Theatre Wing: Rita Romilly was a founder of and a teacher at The New York Gurdjieff Foundation: Rita Romilly was my teacher at The New York Gurdjieff Foundation from 1956 to 1964: Rita Romilly was a very big pain in the ass: I hated her: I still do not know how much I hate her: I wanted to turn everything up side down to see the truth: I wanted to learn how to go without sleep long enough to allow the big mind: The dreamer: The seer of a million flashing color prisms: The drinker in the circle of total vision: The fountain of intuition and spontaneity: The deep pool of the heart of the heart of the mind: I wanted the giant mind that sleeps at night available to me during the day time: I wanted it to be conscious: To awake: And it did: Rita Romilly taught me how to act in order to get around the system: Rita Romilly taught me how to get free: Rita Romilly who breathed the crystal light of Mahhattan taught me how to earn a living with my little finger: Rita Romilly and her husband Martin Benson who breathed the marrow of the sun also taught me the way in to my Self: And showed me the way to fabulous inner treasures well beyond trips to the moon on gossamer wings from well beyond the stars that spell out all happiness is earned in that night sky of existence of which few people ever possess a glimpse: I do not know if Rita Romilly set me free or if the successor to G.I. Gurdjieff: Jeanne de Salzman set me free: Or if both of them set me free: When on an ice cold winter night in early 1962 after my few years of arduous struggle culminated in my Being crashing through the lead wall of sleep like a panic dragon and my attaining a permanent attention and presence to Self: At a meeting of a hundred or so people at the Gurdjieff Foundation I had asked the Question of Henri Tracol: Why is it that whenever I try to do this Gurdjieff Work I feel like a new born baby: Henri Tracol answered me for twenty minutes: One of the things the kind Henri Tracol said to me was: I must aim to not want to do what ever I want but I must aim to want whatever I do: Then Jeanne de Salzman interrupted for 20 minutes: At the moment Jeanne de Salzman said: "Your Self is calling up to you to live! Taste it! Live!" Rita Romilly flew across the room and although 60 years of age glided quick through the air to the feet of Jeanne de Salzman in a pose exactly duplicating the one in the attached photo on page two of Rita Romilly in George Michael Cohan's The Tavern: 1921: And tears in her eyes Rita Romilly pleaded: "Madam de Salzman! Please take David to Paris with you:" Jeanne de Salzman smiled: "Non! David will do it himself:" And I did: And I was free: I would learn to be more than I or anyone else had or will or could ever be able to hope to imagine: What you cannot imagine I became that: I'd searched for my Self: I'd found my Self: I would follow my Self: I would live from my Self: I would become my Self: And I never had to take shit from anyone ever again: And I have lived into this very moment forty five years later in a brilliant sublime peace prosperity and happiness: A few years later I had a chat with Rita Romilly in her apartment: I was saying how I had a deep wish to share what I had learned with other people: "If you were a church goer you would realize you have no right to teach people what I've taught you!" Rita Romilly roared: "OK I won't." I consciously lied quietly: "But Listen: You're not King Lear and I'm not Ophelia: If people can't be friends what's the use of anything?" Suddenly: Rita Romilly quieted: Paused: Bowed her head: Paused: Sighed: Paused: Stage whispered: "Very well spoken Dear:" I got up to leave: Then her Rosenkrantz and Guild erstern came out of the room from where they were listening to us: I said goodbye to them and then to Rita Romilly: She said: You'll have a good life but you're going to be a funny old man: I said "I hope so: With all my heart: With all my mind: With all my Body:" This was the last time I saw Rita Romilly: And in the fabulous subsequent years I have shown one thousand and one human beings how to breathe in the daytime the way they breathe at night: And now I will say farewell to you: And I will sing of another grand roaring woman of the theater of exquisite diction and fineness of sociability of light fantastic moxied physical stamina and heartbreak and ecstasy and cleverly used strength of will and depth of feeling and sharpness of the crystal light of New York Fontainebleau Mendham Armonk and a variety of theatrical touring companies in the old amber glow of wild enchanted entranced heart breaking dew eyed infinitely clever wild dull opening closing pearl dome sun musk cities pleine de buckets of charm darling on the eye starry road too:



