The Many Hats of Robert Altman: A Life in Cinema

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Born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, Altman spent much of his youth listening to the city's jazz musicians. These early experiences inspired him to create an ode to Kansas City's raucous 1930s nightlife, its dirty politics, and the jazz played in the hottest downtown clubs in Kansas City (1996). Altman's film embodies the spirit of Kansas City jazz with its spontaneity and exciting storyline. Above all, it brings back a poignant nostalgia to natives of Kansas City and those deeply invested in the jazz music scene.

Letter from George Burt to Robert Altman, June 3, 1996,

George Burt
3807 Kansas Drive
Kansas City, MO 64114

June 3, 1996

Dear Bob,

What a nice note! My deepest congratulations to you for having been awarded the Legion of Honor. I always and I was thrilled to hear about it and to see your name among the greats. Altman, in fact, has been known to say that "we talk about love, we talk about jazz, but we really play it." That goes double for me and Bob.

I'm glad Kansas City is coming out! I've always loved the going home in the middle of the afternoon and coming home in the middle of the morning, and a year later without stopping a beat. The spirit of the thing and the way you can seem to play and the way you can seem to be in sync with the music, that's what I really love about it. That goes double for me and Bob.

By the way, it was lovely of you to say hello. I am coming back to California for the next few weeks, and will visit you in Santa Fe. In the meantime, I will be sending my regards to you and your wife. I hope you and your family have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

George Burt
