

December 3, 2008

Ricky J. Martinez  
New Theatre  
4120 Laguna Street  
Coral Gables FL 33146

Dear Ricky,

I wanted to write you to tell you how much I enjoyed my experience with New Theatre when you produced my play *The Rant* this fall. I was proud to become a part of the New Theatre family and in particular to participate in the National New Play Network's Continued Life Fund project.

New Theatre showed vision and insight in the choices you made in casting, staging, and framing the play. I always felt in our conversations that I was dealing with a theatre that shared my artistic goals and wanted to bring to life the complex ideas at the center of my play with honesty and forthrightness. You found a collection of skilled actors, who made bold choices to bring the play to life. While actors were able to surprise me (Patrice DeGraff-Arenas brought humor to the role of a mother who had lost a son, and Ricky Waugh was at times vulnerable as a steely reporter), the surprises were bright and invigorating, helping to bring out contours and complications in the play.

Most importantly, I appreciated the passion that you showed for the core of the play, and the support you showed me as a writer and artist. During every conversation we had about the play, I could hear the real enthusiasm you had for the work and for its message, and that showed in the devotion that you put into producing the play. While I always felt you had support for my descriptions of the meaning behind the play, your production was guided by your own personal responses to the play, which resulted in a production infused with life and energy.

Finally, I would like to thank you and everyone at New Theatre for the combination of professional hospitality and community support you showed me while in town. Eileen Suarez was professional and thorough, Betsy Paull-Rick did a great job as the production stage manager. More importantly, they and everyone at New Theatre made me feel like a welcome member of your artistic family, which I greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and devotion to *The Rant*. I look forward to working with New Theatre again.

Best,

Andrew Case