

1/29/09

Dear Ricky:

I wanted to write and send you a formal letter of thanks for the extraordinary work that you and the New Theatre team did on the professional World Premiere of *Kissing*. I could not have dreamed of a more creatively satisfying, and thoroughly marvelous send-off for my play.

The process was extremely rewarding: I felt that you were both sensitive to the needs of my play, allowing me that rare opportunity of seeing and hearing the play exactly as I intended it; but on the other hand, your own unique creative contributions were so invaluable in helping me understand where I was in the evolution process for this piece (Ricky, I will be forever thankful for your incredibly perceptive suggestions about the final moments of the play!!! Brilliant! Dead on!) Even though I had never worked with you before this collaboration, I was immediately put at ease in our earliest of communications about the play, and I knew almost instantly that my script was in very capable and nurturing hands. I was proved right. When I first met the cast I was enchanted by your keen casting of the roles. I was also thrilled with New Theatre's production values, which were top-notch. I have seen too many meager, barebones renditions of new works, so that I was actually startled to see how fully realized the setting was for my play.

But perhaps what I was most impressed (and moved) by was the passion that both you and Eileen seem to just naturally radiate when you talk about the work you are doing with new works and new voices. Your enthusiasm is infectious!!! You are doing fantastic and important work at New Theatre, not only for your own community and state, but for the greater good of the American culture. I find it almost impossible to find the words to properly express how grateful I am for your tireless dedication to helping writers like myself reach an audience. And I could not believe my good fortune when you announced that you will be producing another of my plays next season. Like I'd hit the Mother Lode!!! The theatrical gold mine of Southern Florida—right there in the heart of Coral Gables at New Theatre! You are an invaluable asset, ensuring the health and vitality of American Theatre for the future.

For your brilliance, your generosity of spirit, the warmth and hospitality of your company, your high professional standards, and for one of the most memorable and rewarding experiences of my creative life I can only say ... my thanks, my thanks ... and yet again, my thanks!

Robert