

To whom it may concern,

I write to share my most unique experience working with New Theatre on my world premiere production of my play, *The Gates of Choice*, showcased during their 2008-2009 season. From the start of the journey, Artistic Director, Ricky J. Martinez, welcomed me into the developmental process with open arms, spending ample time analyzing the script and providing crucial feedback. Through Ricky's direction, I was led into rehearsals feeling confident about my work and the fact that his greatest interest was to defend the integrity and voice of the piece.

Once the auditions began I knew that New Theatre was distinct in that I was not simply handing my script over, but I was invited and encouraged to be a part of every step of the production from casting to even having suggestions on the production itself. It is so very rare that a theatre will allow a playwright to have such a voice and fully promote the collaborative effort.

New Theatre initiated this group effort at the start of the rehearsal process, devoting the first full week to "workshop" the new script - Which may I add, is the most incredible gift a theatre can give a playwright! During that week, the actors analyzed and questioned their characters – giving me a chance to answer, cut, or sharpen any open-ended questions, inconsistencies or weaknesses with the script. When we left that first week of rehearsal I felt assured that we had a little gem in our hands, not to mention we had formed a family bond that would only strengthen over the course of the production.

As for New Theatre's professionalism they are first rate. From their stellar marketing of the play, to their top notch box office staff they were consistent, resourceful and always working to achieve the success of the production. Theatre staff worked vigorously to meet patrons' needs as well as the artists. From entering the theatre it became obvious, that patrons who attend New Theatre feel as though they are entering a family member's home – and their embracing experience starts at the door where Ricky J. Martinez lovingly greets them.

Another rarity of New Theatre is their weekly Sunday talk-back – where patrons may respond to the work. I made an effort to attend all talk-backs- as again, this is a gift this theatre gives to a playwright. There is no better way to see how your work is understood, appreciated, or received then to speak with the audience members directly and hear their questions, concerns, or encouragements.

And that last term is basically all I received from New Theatre – the "encouragement" to keep this script moving and to see it grace as many stages as possible. It is with their trust in placing this play on the map that I graciously thank New Theatre - for their commitment and for their stunning vision of this work that will forever be engrained in my mind... and the mind of their patrons.

It is my great honor to share these monumental experiences in working with this great theatre. I support them in every mission, effort and success they achieve!

Warmest regards,

Michelle Rosenfarb

Playwright, *The Gates of Choice*