



November 11, 2002

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Recommendation for Magical Rain Theatreworks

I am very pleased to write a letter of support for the Magical Rain Theatreworks. In my five years in Michigan, I have had the opportunity to see many of their performances, attend several of their workshops, and have even worked collaboratively with them in selected projects. Their work is professional, well rehearsed and very, very good. Most recently I was able to attend a performance in Holland, Michigan that was part of the Tulipanes Latino Art and Film Festival. It was perhaps one of the best performances I have seen in quite some time. It was topical, funny and very engaging.

I am the Founder and Executive Director of the New Latino Visions Theatre Company in Kalamazoo. We produce plays in English about the Latino experience here in the United States. Last season, Magical Rain founder and actor, Irene "Ike" Vasquez, was part of a five-person cast in the production of "Cesar Died Today." As an actress her work was outstanding. She performed the lead role of the "Mother" in the production. I hope that she is available next spring when we produce our next play.

Magical Rain also conducts a series of workshops and training for local schools and students. It is impressive to see their work with youth. One piece of work I viewed was at Covert High School in Covert, Michigan. Although they had worked with a group of students for only a limited period, their performance was quite good; and as a producer, I was very interested in a couple of their student performers. Although most of the students they worked with at that school had never performed on stage previously, I would have no problem casting some of them in one of our productions. They were that good, and they were that good because of the work that Magical Rain completed with them.

What also is very impressive about Magical Rain is their growth. I first viewed their work in 1997 when they were conducting a workshop with youth at the Hispanic American Council in Kalamazoo. Their work was good back then, but it is even better now. Most cultural and theatre groups do not grow in their artistic skills, but that is not the case with Magical Rain. Their growth artistically is phenomenal.

Finally, as the Executive Director of the New Latino Visions Theatre Company, I hope we can continue our working relationship Magical Rain Theatreworks; and I hope there will be opportunities for our two theatre groups to collaborate. I would be very proud to have them on stage with us. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John Fraire". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

John Fraire
Executive Director
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