



NAACP

Brooklyn Branch

November 20, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

James Baldwin once said, “All art is a kind of confession. All artists, if they are to survive, are forced to tell the whole story. Artists are here to disturb the peace, educate, uplift, and above all, tell the truth.” His prophetic words sit at the very heart as I enthusiastically write this letter in support of Letter of Marque Theater Company.

This dynamic, multi-ethnic, gifted American theater company’s work and spirit embodies both high art and activism. They are a multi-cultural, multi-disciplinary ensemble that embraces numerous, diverse voices in storytelling within their work. Letter of Marque Theater Company’s mission aligns with the mission of the NAACP Equity in the Arts & Culture Committee and our continued fight for social justice, inclusion, and equity for all in the performing arts. We proudly stand in solidarity with Letter of Marque Theater Company and support them as they continue to enrich the American theater through passionate storytelling, inventive community outreach, and robust educational programming.

Throughout the theater company there is a powerful atmosphere and commitment to embrace all people and ethnicities in their craft and as citizens of the world. Their work is not only beautiful, but delivers a deep heartfelt message about the power of the human spirit to overcome. Letter of Marque Theater Company, like the NAACP Equity in the Arts & Culture Committee, sees the empty space as an opportunity for social change and civilized discourse to occur. One of the few sacred places left in a far too noisy, often divided world where human beings can still sit in the quiet dark together, think a while, and be awakened.

Both organizations firmly believe that entertainment and high art, when it works best, reflects the world we live in and the wide gamut of human experiences. It allows us to have a shared communal experience that bears witness to who we are and what we hope to aspire to be in the world. To gain a richer connection to the fragility of beauty and pain that exists in all art and life.

Letter of Marque Theater company collaborates with a wide, diverse, range of artists, activists and educators whose works are sophisticated, naked and universal in their themes. Letter of Marque Theater Company's cannon of theater radiates integrity and reveals a very honest portrait of the human experience layered with grace, compassion, truth, wit and love at its core. This is quite evident as you look at their years of commitment to providing platforms and safe spaces for artists, particularly those of color, to tell stories that have been historically bypassed in the American theater for far too long.

Respected and trusted are words often connected to Letter of Marque Theater Company in the artistic process because of their genuine concern and total commitment to their artistry and the artists that they support. As a powerful fresh voice in the American theater, Letter of Marque Theater Company is dedicated to forcing a new conversation, a new dialogue, a new community, and a new change that will explore and acknowledge the complex world that we all live in.

As we continue to look to the future of our industry, Letter of Marque Theater Company is a maverick and trail blazer for artists and activists. Their voice is determined to find the light, even in the darkest parts of the human experience, to remind us all through brave and unapologetic storytelling that we are all more alike than different. Letter of Marque Theater company inspires me. I look forward to seeing how they continue to change and enrich the landscape of American theater through bold, courageous storytelling in the years to come. I hope you will support them as they continue to create platforms and open doors particularly for American theater artists and activists of color.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email me at third-vice@brooklynaacp.org or arts_equity@brooklynaacp.org.

Eyes on the prize!



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