



Boston Medical Center
Cancer Support Services
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Robert David, Coordinator
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To Whom It May Concern:

I've seen approximately 35 performances of True Story Theater. About 30 of these performances are ones that I have programmed in my capacity as coordinator with three different organizations in Boston during the past 10 years: the Cardinal Medeiros Transitional Housing Program (for homeless men in recovery); the Side-by-Side Community Circle (for the formerly incarcerated, their loved ones, people in recovery, and others interested); and the Cancer Support Services at Boston Medical Center (for those who are being or have been treated for cancer and their families and friends). The clientele served represent considerable cultural diversity and are predominantly economically disadvantaged.

Over these years I have seen True Story Theater consistently deliver novel performances that accurately and insightfully portray audience members' experiences and stories. The troupe has repeatedly surprised me with its ability to key into the issues of the challenged populations described above with sensitivity, depth, humor, dignity, and respect. Over and over I have witnessed audience members who struggle in a variety of ways express a sense of deep recognition and relief that their stories—that *they*—have been heard. Of course, at the same time, the rest of the audience is moved as they relate to yet another expression of the human condition. The wide range of issues addressed has included addiction, violence, discrimination, sexual abuse, family, parenting, incarceration, work, sickness, caregiving, and more. Every show has had good variety and balance, been fully engaging, and tapped a range of emotion.

True Story Theater has offered to these communities a gift that they would not find otherwise. Healing and entertainment value have both been very high. I feel the intensity of the subject matter presented has most always generated strong reciprocal energy in the room. As the actors have risen to the occasion, the audience has genuinely responded. I believe they have mutually inspired one another. Personally, I am very grateful that True Story Theater is local to us and we have had so many opportunities to experience their 'magic.' I look forward to continued years of this rich collaboration and seeing so many people benefit from and appreciate True Story Theater's powerful performances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert David".