



The 16th Street Theater, NFP
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Dear friend of 16th Street,

Just before our debut at the end of 2007, I received a phone call from a woman in Stickney who had read in the *Sun-Times* about the new 16th Street Theater in Berwyn.

“Don’t you want anyone to come to your theater?” I thought, oh no, I am already causing trouble! “Why, yes, I do.” I replied.

“I’ve never heard of *any* of these plays. ***The Ascension of Carlotta***...what is that?” My first reaction was to get her off the phone. We would not see eye to eye, so why bother? But then I took a step back. After all she was opening the door to dialogue by calling, so who was I to shut her down? And she had a good point...

“You’re right. These are all new plays,” and then it occurred to me: “But remember... *The Glass Menagerie* was once a new play no one had ever heard of. And how about *that* for a title!”

There was a pause ...

“Well, now that’s true.” I was thrilled. We were talking.

I do not know if the woman from Stickney made it past our doors, but I do know over **10,000 people** have come and been engaged by such unknown plays as Teatro Luna’s ***Machos***, Arlene Malinowski’s ***Aiming for Sainthood***, Anna Deavere Smith’s ***Fires in the Mirror***, Rohina’s ***Unveiled***, Brett Neveu’s ***The Last Barbecue*** and Tanya Saracho’s ***Kita y Fernanda***.

Thank you for making our first two seasons so incredibly successful and rewarding. We love sharing these diverse writers and their words with you. We love hearing your thoughts during the post-show dialogues. Diversity is strength when people seek common ground, and an entertaining theater production gets people talking!

Though ticket sales account for just **half** of our income, we believe theater should be for all, and so we are committed to keeping our ticket prices at \$16. For the rest, we turn to businesses, grant-makers, and to those of you who can afford to give **a little extra once a year** for the benefit of ALL in our community.

Thanks to the North Berwyn Park District and the City of Berwyn, 16th Street is graciously housed in the Berwyn Cultural Center. This means **your donations go directly to the artists that bring you the shows you talk about on the walk or drive home**. Our goal this season is to raise \$10,000 to keep these artists coming to Berwyn.

Will you consider making a tax-deductible contribution in an amount that works for you? It takes *all* of us in the community to support the things that bring us joy, make us think, engage our imagination and bring us closer to our neighbors.

Thank you for your consideration to make a donation to your theater on 16th Street. And if you are the woman from Stickney: Thank you for adding your voice to the conversation. It’s all about dialogue.

See you at 16th Street Theater for Season Three!

Ann Filmer,
Artistic Director

The 16th Street Theater, NFP is organized to operate exclusively for charitable purposes that qualify under section 501(c)(3) including lessening the burden of government by providing fundraising and financial support to the 16th Street Theater. 16th Street is a theater program organized and operated by the North Berwyn Park District to foster cultural enrichment and education for all members of the community through the development and presentation of diverse works and writers for the stage.



Yes, I would like to support *The 16th Street Theater, NFP* and the upcoming Season Three 2010: *What is Home?* *Please Print.*

Name _____

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Comments: _____

Please indicate below your support level:

- \$ 500+ *16th Street*
- \$ 250+ *Roosevelt Road*
- \$ 100+ *Cermak Avenue*
- \$ 50+ *Depot District*
- \$ 25+ *Ogden Avenue*
- \$ _____ *"Every bit helps" Place*

Please make checks payable to
The 16th Street Theater, NFP.

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Thank you for your support!

Please mail to:

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THE THINGS YOU SAID IN 2009:

“My mom LOVED **Fires in the Mirror** on Saturday! She asked if we could go back on Sunday to see it again before she left town and was disappointed there wasn’t another show. She thought your performances were amazing and can’t stop talking about it.” — Kristin

“...I cried and laughed and thought about things that I still talk to Bob about... I just wanted you to know how you and 16th Street Theater helped us, and how much we love it. We will be renewing for many years to come.” — Ken

“Last night my daughter and I went to see **Blurred Vision** at the 16th Street Theater in Berwyn. It was touching and funny, unexpected and surprising. Go see it!” — Diane

“**Unveiled** was unforgettable.”

“Thank you for a season of plays that stirred emotions and helped us to think out of the box!” — Mary

“The 16th Street Theater appears to be committed to staging plays that are edgy, honest and in the here and now... You ought to call your theater the 16th Street Oasis.” — Joe

THE THINGS THEY SAID IN 2009:

“Terrific... an intellectually engrossing work of theater” — Chicago Tribune

“**Best Emerging Theater**”
— Chicago Reader

“a provocative, insightful, uplifting theatre experience” — Pioneer Press

“Spectacular! Don’t miss it!” — WBEZ

“Storefront theater at its best” — Time Out Chicago