

11 January 2010

Recommendation: **New Line Theatre**

New Line Theatre brings to St Louis audiences a range of unique musical and issue-oriented performances offered by no other local theatre group. I value New Line as I build the schedule of shows for my annual Theatre in St Louis course at Maryville University. The theatre experiences my students have at New Line are always of high quality; the scripts and details of production show them theatrical possibilities I can't find for them elsewhere. No other group would bring us a resurrection of *The Cradle Will Rock* or *The Nervous Set*; none could match the ensemble spirit and edginess and humor of New Line's *Bat Boy* or *Robber Bridegroom*.

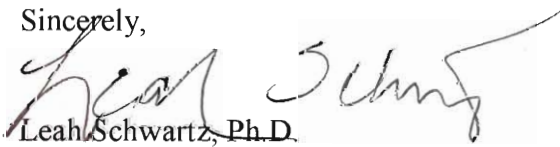
New Line always gives bang for buck, producing shows of reliable quality on a tight budget with quite dainty salaries, with attractive group rates and student tickets that my Theatre in St Louis classes and students in my other classes appreciate. The staff is always welcoming and helpful. My students (of various colors and ages) see themselves in the various ages and colors on stage in New Line shows.

Scott Miller is a very effective leader of New Line and an asset to our metropolitan area. He is generous with his time and knowledge, graciously taking a morning to speak with my honors class in theatre at Maryville. I am impressed with his resourcefulness and depth of knowledge. The plays and books he has written as well as the variety and quality of information he makes available on the New Line website indicate a firm grounding in theatre practice that supports all that New Line does.

I am tickled at Scott's tenacity. The show (and the season) will go on, even when the group was forced to find a new theatre venue mid-year. The arts are a merciless mistress; Scott Miller's decades-long enthrallment with musical theatre makes New Line a labor of love indeed. The fruit of that labor is easy pickings for the rest of us, food for our spirit, a share in a life of dedication we can purchase for a mere coin or two.

New Line Theatre is a community asset worthy of strong support.

Sincerely,


Leah Schwartz, Ph.D.
Professor of English

January 12, 2010

I am pleased and privileged to write a letter of support for New Line Theatre. I have been a admirer of Scott Miller and his amazing shows since he presented them in the basement of St. Marcus church in south city. That space was not particularly conducive to performance, but Scott's productions do not depend on externals. New Line's "production values" rest in its artistic director, his vision, and the fine local talent he recruits.

New Line Theatre brings to St. Louis a quality of musical theater that cannot be found anywhere else in this region. Shows I've seen before in other venues take on a new and most often powerful perspective under the guidance of Scott Miller. Shows that are new to me are a source of thought-provoking entertainment, a rare gift that New Line always provides.

New Line's productions are daring, provocative, and immensely creative, often addressing controversial subjects and usually taking risks that other theaters don't care to tackle. The steady growth of New Line's fan base proves that many in the community approve of this boldness, imbued as it is with a deep respect and appreciation of what makes good theater.

New Line Theatre is assuredly deserving of support, and I am happy to express mine.



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