

CAROL HALL

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Mr. Michael Kahn
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To Whom It May Concern:

I first met Gary John La Rosa when he wrote to introduce himself and to tell me he was going to be directing a play of mine, TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, for the St. Bart's Players in New York last March.

This play had been first produced at the Williamstown Theatre Festival and then Off-Broadway in New York and directed by Geraldine Fitzgerald. It had received good reviews but, sadly, had run only four months. As a result, I had the kind of mother-tiger protective love for it that made me more than usually concerned about how it was presented in regional theatres.

Mr. La Rosa asked if we could meet and discuss the play, and I was delighted to do so. I was even more pleased, when we met, to discover that he had done his homework. Not only had he seen the play in New York, he had thoroughly thought through the subtext of each of the characters, had prepared an excellent group of questions for me, was developing his own concept which he wanted to "bounce off" me, and in all ways had come to the meeting completely prepared as a director.

Through his weeks of rehearsal we spoke from time to time, and although Mr. La Rosa would occasionally call me with comments or questions, clearly he had his own vision and was using me only as a touchstone - a point of reference -



and I appreciated that greatly. I've spoken to a number of directors as this play has been done around the United States, and of them all, Gary John La Rosa was the most independently creative.

When I saw the show at St. Bart's, I was not a bit surprised that I was delighted with it. It's not an easy play to do, being both funny and serious, but I found it completely true to my own vision and hopes for it, as well as full of Mr. La Rosa's touches and insights. I was thrilled and pleased.

(And by the way, having once worked with the St. Bart's Players, I would like to add that, though earnest and enthusiastic and often talented, THEY ARE NOT PROFESSIONAL ACTORS.... and it is difficult to get them to focus their energies in a truly professional manner. Mr. La Rosa managed to make them look very good indeed.)

As a writer, as a member of the Dramatists Guild Council, and as someone who serves on the boards of several successful New York theatre enterprises, I meet many young directors. Consequently it is with great confidence that I recommend Gary John La Rosa to Juilliard. I think he would contribute as much to the Directing Program as it would give to him.

I recommend him to you most highly.

Sincerely,



Carol Hall

