

Received: Friday 24th November 2006

RE: STEREO

To Gillian Christie - Education Director - Tricycle Theatre

This morning I accompanied 10 students from the KS3 PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT where I teach, to see the performance of STEREO and simply wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for such a wonderful time as well as pass on my own and perhaps more importantly student comments about the play and the issues it aroused.

Students found the material relevant, engaging and entertaining: this was born out by the way it captured their attention for the duration as well as their comments afterwards. One student said it was, "tough" while another asked if we could do a similar play, which is a compliment indeed! Another student said it made him think - I believe he was speaking for all of the students when he said this.

For myself I found the performance a refreshing experience of theatre, which too often can fail to move those who arguably have most need for it. All stage performances were stunning but particularly those of Carlton and his mother: who could not be moved by the dilemma that faced both of them? The use of music throughout the play worked beautifully, the language - which could be forceful - suited the themes perfectly, and the way the play moved effortlessly from past to present all inspired to make this a performance we will indeed be talking about in the classroom next week and indeed beyond.

Thank you for allowing young people to experience 'real' theatre dealing with 'real' issues using the voice of their own experiences. We look forward with anticipation to future performances and in the meantime will be urging others passionately to go and see this!

Best wishes

Leila Alkunshalie - KS3 ENGLISH TEACHER - PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT