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Cheryl Katz
Associate Artistic Director/
Director of Play Development
Luna Stage
555 Valley Road
West Orange, NJ 07052

Dear Cheryl:

I want to thank you for inviting me to be a part of the “talkback” at the end of Nikkole Salter’s play “Carnaval” last week. It was a great pleasure to be part of a remarkable evening and a remarkable play.

I have never seen such a realistic and both hair-raising and yet banal depiction of how men think about the bodies they buy when they engage in sex tourism. I think it is a play that could have an important role in getting conversations started among men about how they think about women’s bodies and especially the license they feel they have when they travel and can act in ways that they would not consider at home. I think Nikkole did an amazing job of making the characters sympathetic, complex and yet true-to-life.

Those of us who work in the field of anti-trafficking often are at a loss as to how to get more men involved in the discussion. I would love to cooperate with you in finding ways to use the play as a conversation-starter for groups of men. This play might be a catalyst for those discussions.

Congratulations to you and Nikkole on an amazing production. I look forward to finding ways to work together.

Sincerely,

Carol Smolenski
Executive Director