

KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND  
NEW YORK



UNITED STATES SENATOR

November 6, 2011

John P. McEneny  
Piper Theatre Productions  
332 Fifth Street  
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Mr. McEneny,

Congratulations as you gather for this year's event and launch this season of Piper Theatre Productions. Over the past thirteen years, you and the tireless staff of Piper Theatre Productions have many accomplishments to be proud of, including a steadfast commitment to increasing access to the performing arts for Brooklyn families through free productions and children's educational summer programs. This work has introduced hundreds of children to the wonderful world of theatre.

I also want to recognize Marc Wolfe, John Walsh and Mary Harron for their patronage to Piper Theatre Productions, including their work to create a film program for young people. We need more filmmakers and story tellers committed to communicating critical stories about our changing world. The film, Don't Ask Don't Tell, is a powerful and lasting narrative about all those that have been deeply affected by this unjust military policy.

I hope the young people of Brooklyn watching this film at Littlefield and those who are trying to help create this film program will be inspired to look at the injustices they see in the world, write their own stories and make their own films to address these important issues with thoughtfulness and creativity. The best films and plays are those that challenge us, make us think deeply, and help us see other points of view.

Thank you to everyone for attending this important viewing. Piper Theatre Productions are designed to be accessible to all families. And the rich, multi-ethnic heritage of Park Slope, its distinctive neighborhoods, diverse culture and beliefs that for over three centuries has made Brooklyn so wonderfully unique and enriches our lives.

One of the greatest privileges of our great nation is our freedom to express ourselves and be heard. It is encouraging to see Piper continuing that great tradition. I wish you every success as you continue your fine service.

Sincerely,

*Kirsten E. Gillibrand*

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