



Stimulating Arts in Northern Minnesota

September 19, 2008

Tim Behrens
Penguin Productions
2801 E 12 AV
Spokane WA 99202

Dear Tim:

Please think of this as a formal/official letter of gratitude and high regard for the work you did here at the Reif Center yesterday and last evening. Your "A Fine and Pleasant Misery" played to two truly discrete audiences---middle school kids in the afternoon, a largely over-40 crowd at night---and you had both groups right where you wanted them, figuratively on stage with you, from start to finish.

We learned anecdotally out in the lobby, before the show, during intermission and afterward, that there were lots of Pat McManus fans in the house during the evening performance. These are not generally folks we see here for string quartet concerts or Shakespeare tragedies or ballet or even rock-and-roll. As one of our primary longterm goals is to broaden and diversify our audiences, a production like yours does make a measurable difference for us.

A terrific show, wonderfully well delivered: energetic, nuanced, smart. Thank you, too, for the post-production pitch for the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Constitutional Amendment. We have to be so careful how we at Reif talk about the issue, for the reason that we receive considerable financial support from the Minnesota State Arts Board, and by law they can't fund an organization that lobbies or advocates for or against the legislature's policy-processes. You can. Thanks again for that.

Hope the rest of your Minnesota tour is misery-free---or, if it isn't, that you derive some satisfaction from *that*.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Steve Downing", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Steve Downing/Development Director