



Cerritos College

1 May, 2016

Letter of Reference for Mr. Ian Ruskin

Dear Reader,

Artistic, educational, entertaining, and profoundly inspirational are adjectives that characterize Mr. Ian Ruskin's portrayals of Thomas Paine in "To Begin the World Again: The Life of Thomas Paine" and Harry Bridges in "From Wharf Rats to Lords of the Docks".

Our History Department had the honor of hosting Mr. Ruskin's performances of the aforementioned plays. The educational value of these masterful performances is that Paine and Bridges are depicted accurately as three dimensional persons, complete with their shortcomings and frustrations. Ruskin reveals the courage, perseverance, and heroism of these men in the face of adversity.

The student body of Cerritos College consists mainly of working class students of Latin American origins. Many, like Paine and Bridges, immigrated to a new country to improve their lives. Our students' challenges stem from centuries of social conditioning and poverty. Ruskin's performances of Paine and Bridges are the kind of motivational stimuli our students need to encourage personal development. His interpretations provide a platform for further group discussion and writing assignments. In other words, they can be used to engender reflection and critical analysis.

The History Department, therefore, strongly encourages you to invite Mr. Ruskin to present his plays at your schools, colleges, and organizations. We are certain that those who experience these artful renditions will find them beneficial in many ways.

Yours Most Attentively,

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