

August 21, 2019

Dear Committee Members;

The Brookings Public Library has been fortunate to have the Traveling Lantern Theatre Company perform several times as part of our Summer Reading Program. Their performances are always of the highest quality. The pair of actors from the troupe arrived promptly and were professional in their demeanor.

As to their performances, this summer's play "My Mother the Astronaut" had the kids captivated. It was interactive and engaging for an audience with a wide variety of ages. For many of the audience members this was their first live theatre production and they were enthralled. The adults, myself included, were impressed with the amount of scientific knowledge interwoven into the performance. I have many kids tell me later that is was their favorite performance of the summer.

I hope you strongly consider approving their grant funding. I think this type of performance is wonderful for the families in South Dakota.

Sincerely,

*Katherine Eberline*

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February 7, 2015

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter of support for the Traveling Lantern Theatre Company (TLTC) and their Yosemite theater program titled, "Ranger Ned's Big Adventure!".

I have been involved with Traveling Lantern since I began working for Delaware North at Yosemite Interpretive Services in 2011, taking over management of the theater in 2012. Having worked with them over time, I can speak to their exemplary performances and management. There are a number of aspects of the company that should be of note, if you are considering bring TLTC to your park or venue.

As we develop our ability to reach out to park visitors, we more deeply understand that we must find innovative ways to share park messages. TLTC came to the table with a desire to provide educational messages in a non-traditional format. The Ranger Ned script is based on solid information which has been directed and informed by both Delaware North and National Park Service naturalists and rangers. Topics included orientation, park history, interpretive themes, and safety information. TLTC has taken this information and woven it with whimsy, humor, and emotion, such that the experience of the play is one of story, mirth and adventure while giving our park's meaningful messages.

Yosemite has been increasing its focusing on outreach to children in the last few years. Ranger Ned has been a wonderful out-of-the-box interpretive opportunity for children who are visiting the park. In addition to being child-friendly (dramatic, playful, and silly with inventive, colorful costuming), the play is interactive, bringing children onstage and into the production throughout the show.

Given our remote location and rustic housing, one might imagine finding quality actors that would be appropriate for this venue to be a challenge. Despite this, the actors who have been selected for Ranger Ned have been enthusiastic, skillful, expressive and amusing. In fact, in 2014, one of the actors volunteered his time to put on a weekly improv class for the community. Each season, TLTC trains and coaches the actors for quality assurance.

The management team is exceptionally professional, cooperative and communicative. Working with TLTC has been a pleasure. We are so pleased with our relationship with the company that we have been in discussions about bringing a second Ranger Ned show to the park in the next few years.

We receive effusive support from the Yosemite visitor community on the production and find visitors will come back annually and watch one, if not many repeat, Ranger Ned shows during their visit. There are numerous local families whose children get their parents to come to Curry Village to see repeated presentations of the show. The National Park Service and Delaware North management are also in strong support of the production.

I can't say enough good things about the company, show or cast. We have been lucky to have TLTC in our park and I would strongly recommend you consider developing your own children's theater production. It would be my pleasure to speak to you in more detail if you have any questions.

Warm regards,

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