

Friis, John

From: Lili Barsha [lili@redmonkey.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 2:42 PM
To: Friis, John
Cc: eca_pace@yahoo.com; losanum@gmail.com
Subject: HB6666, Section 5

To: John Friis
From: Lili Barsha
Re: HB6666, Section 5 & the Education Center for the Arts, New Haven, CT

I am a graduate of ECA and I write to urge your support of HB6666, Section 5 - Support for Part-Time Teachers at ECA.

A lot of what I learned in order to fashion a life & career as a creative artist came from the instruction at ECA. I was in the theatre department and there, under the warm light showing thru the windows of what used to be a temple, I had the good fortune of studying with experienced professionals in the arts.

You have to understand that this makes all the difference in forging a career in show business. It's a business. And it's important to study with professionals. The legislation being considered would shut off that vital access to the teachers and instructors who come to the classroom bearing the professional experience that comes from work, as opposed to study.

I would not have gotten into Yale had it not been for the guidance and instruction I received at ECA. Extra-curricular activities and the room to excel in my chosen field are what made my application stand out. If I hadn't been given the chance to attend an arts high school, I would surely have drowned in the regular school... suffocated - because there was no room or professional experience embedded in the curriculum that honored the craft.

Today, I can call myself an actor because of ECA. Today, I make a living as a performer/writer/director in a highly competitive field and because of what I learned there, I am able to compete. I can dance because of ECA. I know how to direct a play, write music and build a set. Thanks to my instructors (part-time teachers/full-time artists) Linda, Bob, Bridgett, Jim, Jamie, and Jeff, I am a contributing member of an artistic industry - happy and creative.

It was in that temple, by the way, (the present home of ECA) that Marilyn Monroe married Arthur Miller. Do you really want to be the elected official responsible for the end of this inimitable flow of art history?

Please support HB6666, Section 5!

Sincerely,

Lili Barsha
CEO, BOB Productions
Studio City, California