



PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY State University of New York

May 1, 2007

Program Committee
University Auxiliary Services, Inc.
UAB - 232

Dear Committee Members:

It is with our deepest appreciation that I send this letter to you in regards to the \$500 that you granted to the Performing Arts Center (PAC) in support of the spring residency by Squonk Opera. This was a rather large project and UAS funding certainly helped in making it happen.

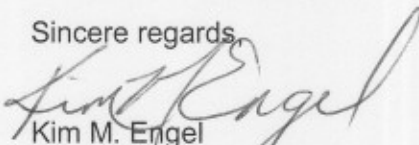
After much advance planning, the residency kicked off in February with a two-day visit from Squonk's artistic directors, Jackie Dempsey and Steve O'Hearn. During this time, we held many planning meetings and toured Albany. Jackie and Steve also gave a free presentation which included info on the ensemble and details on the *Albany: The Opera* project. In March, Jackie and Steve returned with two of the company's videographers for a week long visit to rehearse with 35 local performers, conduct interviews with three dozen people who live and/or work in Albany, gather historical information, shoot footage of the city and offer Squonk Talks, a free mini-lecture series. The last visit happened just recently in April when the full company (13 members) came to campus for a half a week for the final rehearsals of the show and two performances of *Albany: The Opera* – one for an audience of students from area schools and the other a Saturday evening premiere for the general public.

Reviews of the show were very favorable. THE GAZETTE described it in these words: "*Albany: The Opera* was a congratulatory account of why Albany is such a great place to live. The show is an amalgamation of created visuals and views of Albany, along with 36 taped interviews of regular people and of such local luminaries as author William Kennedy and Assemblyman John McEneny. Lighting effects, projected local artwork, historical information about the city, puppets, dancers and singers from the student body, 10 young ballroom dancers and an original rock score that involved the company's six musicians and a couple of student percussionists were also a part of the production." And the TIMES UNION had to say this about the show: "The multimedia evening was, as the advance publicity promised, a roast as well as a toast. 'Smallbany' got its due, as did tulips, Nipper, the U-Haul on a stick, Washington Park and the state Capitol, and even the eternal methane flame out on the Thruway."

For your records, I have enclosed the promotional materials from the residency that included a funding credit to UAS. If you have a need for any more information or documentation, please let me know.

Again, I'd like to express our most sincere thanks for your support of this project. The belief and confidence in our programs that is expressed through your financial assistance is most welcomed and appreciated.

Sincere regards,



Kim M. Engel
Assistant Director

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