



Dear Educator:

March 3, 2006

Firebelly Productions, a local theatre company that focuses on the training and development of young adults in the world of theatre, presents *To Kill a Mockingbird*, based on the book by Harper Lee, April 27 to May 14, 2006 at Theatre on the Run 3700 South Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington.

With our signature blend of both young (age 10) and older (more than 50), Firebelly recreates this ground-breaking story of a young girl's coming to terms with racism and intolerance. Our performances of this Pulitzer Prize winning piece of American literature are targeted to students and their teachers to help them collectively develop a better understanding of this work, the dramatic arts, and this period in our American history.

In addition to 12 evening and Sunday matinee performances, **Firebelly offers a series of daytime performances specifically targeted to middle school audiences and 8<sup>th</sup> classes on May 2, 3, 9, and 10 at noon.** These performances not only include the full production, but offer students and teacher opportunities for direct question and answer sessions with the actors, technicians, and director following the performance as well as provide specific targeted teaching materials to help prepare students for analysis and participation of this often-required reading. We also we help prepare your students for their participation in a "black box" theatre.

Unlike the traditional auditorium or full proscenium stage performances that students are most likely to envision or experience, a black box theatre is small, intimate, and more engaging than larger venues. Our audience is nearly part of the performance, so their conduct and respect for the actors and others is necessary. Complete with lighting, set, costumes, and sound, a black box emerges its audience into the action in a way that large theatres cannot.

Our combination of this classic drama, our record of high-quality acting and productions, and our performances set in a black box theatre can truly engage your students in live theatre. Often, a theatrical experience is one that students will remember long after the book is finished, the film is over, and class dismissed. Sometimes it is a theatrical experience that changes their lives and view of literature and the arts.

You and your class are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. With our timing close to the end of the school year, what better way to re-focus students on literature and analysis as well as offer some out of school time to energize and expand their last weeks of classroom work? Firebelly offers classes group rates of only \$10 for each student or teacher ticket.

*We hope you and your students will participate.* Seats and performances are limited. Let us know by April 7, 2006 if you are interested in attending, if you can commit to specific dates, or need additional information. Please complete and return the enclosed form.

Should you need additional information about Firebelly Productions, please visit our Website at [www.Firebellyproductions.net](http://www.Firebellyproductions.net) to view our past performances, reviews, our previous cast or "progeny," and other information about our season (*One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* is scheduled this summer) or contact us directly.

We truly look forward to working with you and your students.

Kathi Gollwitzer, Artistic Director  
Barbara Walthall, Producer

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