

City of Greenville, Mississippi

City Council

Errick D. Simmons
Mayor



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Monday, June 5, 2023

To Whom This May Concern:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of support for the New Stage Theatre. As an advocate for the arts and youth involvement, I have been ecstatic to witness the power of theater on the community. The organization's actors and actresses fully embody their characters while teaching the community valuable lessons.

During the month of February, the City of Greenville celebrates Black History Month. All month long, the City encourages citizens to reflect on the past as we continue to work our way towards the future. Therefore, when Mrs. Betty Wong expressed her interest in bringing a play to Greenville that touched on Black History, I was more than happy to jump at the opportunity. In February 2023, New Stage Theatre brought *Anne & Emmett* to Greenville. *Anne & Emmett* told the story of Anne Frank and Emmett Till in a relatable way. Students around the Greenville area were invited to the play to learn about their history. Many students left with reflective thoughts of how life would have been different for them during the time frame of each character's storyline. Several students have expressed gratitude for the struggles their ancestors encountered to pave the way for their descendants to live a life that permits equitable opportunities for all.

In addition, New Stage Theatre also brought *Click Clack Moo: Cows that Type* to Greenville. This play targeted younger children, but it was still able to make a positive impact on all viewers. The younger viewers thoroughly enjoyed this production. Several teachers who viewed the play stated that the cast members processed high energy that captivated the students' attention. The production allowed the children to be immersed in literary learning while having fun simultaneously!

The New State Theatre provides an experience viewers can keep with them for a lifetime. From cast members to intricately written dialogue, every production that has been shown in the city of Greenville has been described as a masterpiece. The City of Greenville looks forward to partnering with the New State Theatre again in the future to give citizens of all ages another opportunity to be enlightened!

Sincerely,

Errick D. Simmons

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Errick D. Simmons". The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops and a prominent flourish at the end.

Mayor