



NAACP

Shasta County
Redding Branch No.1056
P.O. Box 990973
Redding, CA 96099

July 19, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Last April, I was very pleased to be asked to introduce one of the performances of *Lucasville: The Untold Story of a Prison Uprising* at Shasta College in Redding, California. This extraordinary play by national playwright, Gary Anderson, brings to life the events and issues surrounding the longest prison siege in American history, which was ended peacefully.

The NAACP's mission has been to work for equal justice, to inform the public of the adverse effects of societal and racial oppression and discrimination in order to seek its elimination. *Lucasville* resonates with these themes.

Lucasville tells the stories of the inmates involved in the negotiations who chose to put aside their racial prejudices and work together to end the siege peacefully. They were also committed to publicizing the problems they had with what they felt was inhuman treatment by the prison administration. This play also illustrates the problems these inmates faced after the riot, due to the State's use of wrongful convictions obtained through the use of coerced and false informant testimony.

I enthusiastically recommend this play as a theatrically compelling way to open minds and hearts as well as keeping these issues before the public.

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