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To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Action Racket Theatre workshops lead by Joanie Fritz Zosike and Lois Kagan Mingus. I have worked with these two highly talented women for the past three years, and am always amazed at the creativity and enthusiasm that they are able to bring out in young people. As a Supervising Youth Services Librarian for the Connecting Libraries and Schools Program (CLASP), I have seen many programmers and programs come and go. Youth is a time of exploring diverse interests; kids may enjoy a particular program, but by next week they are interested in something entirely different. It is often difficult to get young people to commit to a 2 or 3 part workshop. It is something of a small miracle that many of the same kids who attended the first Action Racket Lab workshop over 3 years ago at our library have attended every 5 part Action Racket Workshop since then. I consider this a testament to Lois and Joanie's teaching abilities and love of the theatre. Their passion for theatre is contagious; a number of the teens they have worked with here have gone on to apply to high schools that specialize in theatre. The workshop Action Racket Theatre offers helps young people develop their writing skills as well as their acting abilities. I have been moved by the beauty of some of the performances and astonished at the heart and creativity displayed by the participants.

Any school, library or institution that works with youth should welcome Action Racket Lab with open arms. The students that have worked with Lois and Joanie come into the library anxious to know when they will be returning. Thanks to Lois and Joanie, I have gotten to know some special young people. I feel privileged to have witnessed their blossoming talents, which deserve an outlet. Action Racket Theatre provides that outlet as well as an atmosphere of positive support. Ms. Mingus and Ms. Zosike have the magic touch that makes young people believe in themselves. I encourage your organization to work with these talented women who will bring out the best in the youth that you serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Salerno".

Jennifer Salerno, Supervising Youth Services Librarian, FXR CLASP

