



CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Jeff Key
1420 N. Detroit St., #305
Hollywood, CA 90046

Dear Jeff:

Although it has been more than a week since your outstanding presentation of *The Eyes of Babylon* here at Chapman and I have already expressed my thanks and appreciation at length in our conversations since, I have waited this long to state my reactions formally until I had a chance to see my students' journal responses to the event. As I have mentioned before, when I saw the play in Hollywood last year, I found it to be one of the most powerful and moving evenings of theatre I have ever experienced, and I found it to be equally so last Monday. Therefore, I was not surprised to learn that my students heartily concur. Most of them thought it was the highlight of the semester and felt it was a wonderfully fitting way to conclude our study of "War and Human Nature." Thus, I am more than ever grateful that you were able to present *Eyes* here and that I could bring such excellent writing and performance to my students.

I could, of course, summarize my students' responses for you, but I think I would rather have you hear them in their own words. Accordingly, I have obtained their permission to share their responses with you, and I will send you copies of a representative selection of them. But in the meantime, here are a few typical quotes:

When *The Eyes of Babylon* came to its close, my response was one of silence. I was, to put it simply, in awe. I couldn't believe what I had just seen. I consider myself to be a lover of the theater, and I'd be had pressed to think of any play I've ever seen, Broadway and West End included, that has... made such a profound and provocative statement as EoB did.

From the opening scene, I was hooked. The realism, the frankness, and the style of the writing were all top notch.

Jeff Key's *The Eyes of Babylon* was an engaging and emotionally affecting piece of theater.

He is a magnificent writer, not afraid to wield words with their full powerful potential.

This was one of the most moving experiences I have ever had in my whole life.

He has written a beautiful reflection of his own experiences in Iraq. I found his performance outstanding and the words he spoke very moving.

Both entertaining and thought provoking, Jeff Key's one man play *The Eyes of Babylon* was a great addition to our course. Although the idea of a one man play did not excite me initially, I was quickly captured by Key's strong writing and superb acting.

The Eyes of Babylon was incredible!! Jeff Key has an amazing story, and I am so grateful that we had the opportunity to listen.

Jeff Key pulled you into the performance by sharing his experiences and thoughts so openly. It was...amazingly honest.

I was truly touched by his performance. What a terrific opportunity!

Overall, the entire experience was great and I feel lucky that I got to experience it.

His openness with his thoughts and feelings made the experience so real.

And finally:

WOW! That play was amazing! It was so incredibly moving and so intriguing. I was hanging on to every word he spoke, and I was so into his story... I give it 5 stars and I recommend it to anyone and everyone.

As you can see, Jeff, my students were every bit as much impressed with *The Eyes of Babylon* as I was, and interestingly, much to my surprise, many of the most effusive comments above and throughout their responses came from the young men in my classes, both liberal and conservative, a tribute to the appeal of your work to all students, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, or political persuasion. So, I think your play really makes a profound connection with the youth of our nation, and I can only hope that you will be able to bring your moving performance and powerful message to many more college students as well as general audiences throughout the country. I only wish that I could be there for every performance.

With much heartfelt gratitude and deepest appreciation, I am

Sincerely,



Anthony Garcia
Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature