



City of Beverly Hills
Dept. of Community Services
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

July 28, 2022

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing in regards to the wonderfully talented dance/theater company, Mixed eMotion Theatrix. I am the Director of Community Services for the City of Beverly Hills. MeMT presented their site-specific performance, *Gatsby Redux*, at the City's world famous Greystone Mansion. This was the first time the City has used the mansion for a site-specific work moving from location to location and was also the first time that lighting was incorporated into an evening performance throughout the grounds.

I originally met with Artistic Director, Janet Roston in 2019 to discuss the feasibility of presenting this Gatsby inspired work at Greystone. We both were excited by the idea of utilizing the mansion and grounds, built in 1928, to bring to life the roaring 20's and the world of *The Great Gatsby*. When the pandemic hit in 2020 the project was put on hold. Janet and MeMT's Executive Director, Ryan Bergmann, were persistent, checking in from time to time to keep the project moving forward. Finally in late 2021 I was able to find funding and scheduled the production for a week of performances in April of 2022.

Janet and Ryan met several times with Greystone Venue Coordinator, Sara Scrimshaw, to work out a viable path through the tiered grounds of the site. They also met with Stage Labs, based in Los Angeles, to work out lighting in each location as well as solving any connectivity issues. The dancers rehearsed several times on site, which provided our city residents, invited to witness the process, the opportunity to catch a glimpse behind the scenes. Working with Janet, Ryan and the entire MeMT team was effortless and everything ran beautifully. They are organized, resourceful and have a positive "Can Do" attitude. Their performers were respectful of the space and truly a delight to work with.

Approximately one month prior to the performances tickets were put on sale through the City's website and the available tickets quickly sold out. As word got out about the fantastic performance the phone wouldn't stop ringing! We could easily have sold out many more performances. The production itself was outstanding. There are so many words I could use to describe it: fun, touching, humorous, romantic, entertaining, powerful, luminous. The lighting made the production magical and the final performance scene, complete with fantastic projections on the walls of the mansion, were spectacular. The audience and our staff felt they were a part of something very special in hosting this event.

As they travelled from location to location to view the show many audience members remarked that either this was the first time they were visiting Greystone Mansion or that they were viewing it with new eyes. I think that a show like *Gatsby Redux* is a wonderful way to highlight the beauty of a site and bring in a new appreciative audience. City residents have asked if we can bring it back and we are hopeful to schedule it again for a longer run in Spring '23. I couldn't recommend Mixed eMotion Theatrix or their beautiful work, *Gatsby Redux*, more highly!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Rogers", on a light grey rectangular background.

Jenny Rogers
Director of Community Services, City of Beverly Hills