

The Theatre Alliance of Greater Philadelphia was the proud host of the Spark meeting for 2/14/05 @ 6pm on 2nd Stage (2030 Sansom Street)

Subject: *Woe is me - My date with Theatre testimonials!*

What we asked for: Keep positive - inspire others with your story of why you are in the business of theatre and what keeps you going.

****Or tell us why it sucks and how you can't live without it.**

****Show us your feathers... strut your stuff... and let's see who can crow the loudest!**

What we got: We got it all!

Greg Campbell, chair of the Spark committee, welcomed us with some introductory remarks and reassurances that the Spark meetings will take place even in the face of a holiday. He also let all those in attendance know about **eight** other events taking place later that evening. Philadelphia theatre is alive and well!

James Haskins, Executive Director of the Theatre Alliance of Greater Philadelphia, commented on the purpose of the evening. We were all there to share why we are in this business and as Jamie so aptly pointed out, that even on a Monday night Valentine's Day, we have a constant standing date with theatre. After welcoming everyone with these remarks, Jamie shared with everyone how and why he was here today and why he believes in theatre. Here are the others who followed Jamie's lead:

Greg Campbell (Luna Theater)	Joel Johnson (Individual Member & Dodgy Theatre)
Karen DiLossi (Theatre Alliance & Madhouse Theater)	Mary McCann (Individual Member & Alexander Technique Teacher)
Melanie DiPietro (Intrepid Theatre)	Bill McKinlay (Brick Playhouse)
Karen Getz (Tapestry Theatre)	Reb Neddoff (Vagabond)
Jessica Graham (Theater Catalyst)	Darnelle Radford (Individual Member & Represented Theatre)
Jessica Graham reading a letter from Joe Koroly (Theater Catalyst)	Jay Wojnarowski (Individual Member & Tribe of Fools)

Everyone had stories about how theatre had, in some ways, altered our lives, brightened our lives, given us hope while at the same time trying our patience and making us ask "why do we do this?" But from the shared stories, the laughter, the seriousness, and probably aided by some wine, we all remembered what it is about this medium that gets us excited.

Why were we all there on Valentine's Day? Ultimately, from everyone's responses, it seemed we were all there as a testament to the strength of theatre in our lives and how it impacts the world around us.