

January 24, 2007

Dear Coming Up Taller Awards Panel:

Hello, my name is Jim. I am a new member in the TADA! Resident Youth Ensemble. TADA! Youth Theater is a free youth development theater arts program as well as an after-school and out-of-school program. TADA! is a great experience for everyone. For me, TADA! is like my second home. Everyone is so positive at TADA! when the Resident Youth Ensemble comes together, I really feel as if "we're family," just like we sing in the TADA! theme song. TADA! has helped me grow as a person. I learned that we all have the same passion for theater and we can just be ourselves doing what we love to do.

Everyone is different and yet when the Ensemble comes together you can't really see that. We all become one. We learn from each others culture and customs and relate to each other in our own way. I live in the Bronx in NYC and in my high school and community I don't have access to any theater or arts programs. TADA! is where I get all of my training from. I live in a homeless shelter and I am not fortunate as some kids. When I come to TADA! I learn a lot from everyone. The kids of TADA! are perfect examples of a great bunch of kids. The staff is so supportive as well as my peers which make the TADA! experience easier with all of the intense training. At the end of the day, when we see our Mainstage shows come to life, we all can agree that our hard work contributed toward it and that the shows were well worth it.

My learning experience at TADA! has been great and although I am a new member I have learnt a lot! I'm sure I still have much more to learn and with more time at TADA! I'm sure I'll learn all I can.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim".

-Jim
TADA! Ensemble Member