

April 25, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

When I was asked to write about how the Marietta's Theatre in Square, I had to sit and think about what I would say. Not because I didn't know what to write about, but because there are many things I could say. I chose to write about my nieces, the triplets.

The very first time Raul Thomas met my triple girls it was on Mother's Day, they were 5 months old. Whenever I saw Mr. Thomas, he would always ask about my girls. He would see them every now and then. Years went by and I walked in the theatre not knowing who the owner was. The first person I saw was Mr. Thomas, the first thing he asked about were his Triplets, as he likes to refer to them. By then the girls were 10 years old and broken. They were very shy, quiet, afraid of their own shadow. When I informed Mr. Thomas of how his girls were, without hesitation he invited them to the summer theatre classes. I was embarrassed to let him know I couldn't handle the payment. He saw my hesitation, he proceeded to tell me not to worry about the cost. I wasn't sure how my girls would react to his invitation, but they agreed (with my insistence) to attend the summer sessions. Those classes changed them for the better. They opened up about their trauma. Those classes got them to speak and write about the unfortunate experiences they lived. They were asked to write a monolog about themselves. Not only did they write it they read it in front of the stage where there was an audience. With their story there wasn't a dry eye in the house. I don't think they would have ever told their story so soon after being removed from their home to come live with me. This was the beginning of their healing process. This is what Marietta's Theatre in the Square brings to the community, I don't think their healing process would have started that summer were it not for those classes.

Since that summer the girls have continued with their healing process and continued to flourish. They are now 18 years of age, driving, graduating from high school, receiving the hope scholarship, and attending college come August. I am eternally grateful for what the theatre and the kindness of everyone at the theatre for what they bring to the community.

Sincerely
Jeannette Ortiz