



May 13, 2004

Dear Friends and Family,

As all of you know, I lost my brother Tom to AIDS several years ago. He was a brilliant actor, director and writer who had so much talent to explore. I have always wanted to do something in his memory, but never quite figured out exactly what I wanted to do.

My inspiration finally came from my daughter, Isabelle. Last July Isabelle took part in a summer theatre camp called "CREATE – A –PLAY". Two young men, Stephen and Adam Jacobs, taught a five week course where a group of 25 children wrote, produced and acted in their own original musical.

Isabelle loved this program for many reasons. Stephen and Adam created an atmosphere of collaboration. All ideas are good. There were no bad ideas. The kids worked together to come up with a story line, write the lyrics to the songs, paint the scenery, make their costumes etc.

As the five weeks progressed, I would get daily reports of the creative venture. One day Isabelle described her day as ... "Mommy, I feel like I am exercising my brain everyday!". Her words actually sent chills down my spine because I thought it sounded so much like something Tom would say.

The five week camp culminated in a performance of the original musical "*Mr. Clown and The Day the Sun Got Wet*". It was so amazing to see what Stephen & Adam were able to create with 25 kids in 5 weeks – an entertaining, fun and very well performed musical! And most importantly, the kids had so much fun and felt such a sense of accomplishment.

As I watched the performance, it seemed so clear to me how much Tom would have loved doing theatre like this with children. From there the idea was born of the "**TOM CIANCUTTI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND.**" My goal is to raise \$6,000, enough money to send three kids to "Create-A-Play" camp this summer. The scholarships would, of course, go to children who otherwise would not be able to afford camp.

I am writing to ask for donations in Tom's name to create the scholarship fund. (All donations are of course tax deductible. Kids Creative, which houses Create-A-Play, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.) Any small donations would be appreciated. I want to honor Tom and the creative energy he put out into the world and to pass on some of that creative energy to an eager child.

Please make donations payable to **Kids Creative 404** and send to:  
The Tom Ciancutti Scholarship Fund  
c/o Carol Ciancutti-Leyva  
315 Riverside Drive, #7D  
New York, NY 10025

Thanks so much.

With Love,

Carol

