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The Jerwood Theatres at the Royal Court Theatre
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To whom it may concern,

It is my pleasure to write to you in support of Ciara Cassoni's application.

I first encountered Ciara's writing when she submitted *Giddyup's Way* to the Royal Court through our script submissions process. The play was flagged by a reader for a second read by the Literary team; only about 20% of submissions make this stage. It was a real pleasure to be the person who got to read Ciara's script. The play subtly and thoughtfully exposes the crises of hidden homelessness; it is full of heart whilst showing Ciara's immense writing promise.

Getting a play staged professionally is, of course, an incredibly important step for a writer, and one which often happens at a fringe or studio level. The learning that comes from first having work in front of an audience and the collaboration with a director and actors is an invaluable experience necessary to improving a writer's work that cannot be achieved in any other way.

I hope it will be possible to support Ciara in getting this play produced. This year, more than ever, writers at this exciting stage are set to suffer as plays struggle to be produced in smaller spaces and meet the necessary health and safety requirements during the pandemic. But without these plays being produced, a whole generation of writers, including Ciara, could be lost. Writers at Ciara's stage often have to make that nearly impossible leap of dedicating the time and energy to build on their craft whilst needing to earn an income from other work. Ciara having this financial support would mean that she would be able to work with collaborators to get her script produced. The work she wants to make feels more urgent than ever and this fund would support a production of a script that demonstrates Ciara's incredible writing potential.

On our part, we look forward to continuing to engage with Ciara as she develops as an artist.

Yours sincerely,

Ellie Horne
Literary Associate
Royal Court Theatre