

To The Editor:

I am writing to express my deep thanks to your newspaper for its support and coverage of the play "I Am First A Human Being" based on the prison letters of Krystyna Wituska, which was presented by the University of Detroit – Mercy theater department in conjunction with the Piast Institute on February 16, 2007. About 225 people attended the performance.

The event was notable because it presented a remarkable joint effort of many of the leading organizations and institutions of Polonia. Media support came from not only the Polish Weekly, but also the Polish Time and the Hamtramck Citizen. The Polish Varieties Radio program hosted by Mr. Rozalski was particularly supportive. We also received support from the Friends of Polish Art, Priests Conference on Polish Affairs, the Polish American Congress, the Polish National Alliance Group 122, the Polish Roman

Catholic Union Society 87, Central Citizens and the Polish Century Club. The National Polish Alliance national office was also generous in its support.

In addition, the community owes thanks to Banka's Collision as well as to individuals who gave time, talent and money including Annette and Waldek Radzkowski, Monsignor Stanley Milewski PA, Virginia Skrzyniarz and Zofia and Andrew Ladak. The stunning poster that announced the play was the product of Andy Ladak's creativity. The program was designed by Dominik Stecula.

The play, with a profoundly moving performance by Marissa Thorndike as Krystyna Wituska, was directed by Courtney Burkett and produced by Yolanda Fleischer. Because of the demand for another performance as a result of positive word-of-mouth reviews, we

will try to schedule another performance in the Detroit area. It is already booked in Cleveland with two other out-of-town performances pending.

Krystyna Wituska's story will engage an audience of all ages, but the heroism and maturity of this young Polish girl as she faces death at the hands of a brutal inhuman Nazi regime is especially suitable for young people. Krystyna is a hero for all times.

Future performance will be announced in this paper and other media.

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