

## COMMENDATION TRANSLATION

Havana, February 6 2009

We show our fine approval for the work that Seth Panitch, professor of the University of Alabama, actor and theatre director has done with the mounting of *The Merchant of Venice* with the participation of Cuban actors. The experience not only was a success in its results on stage, but it became a process of learning for all the participants involved in the project. The work of Mr. Panitch permitted the actors to have an encounter and deep study of Shakespearean practices and theory, an encounter of profound theater and a very interesting perspective of professional theater. The balance of the work is favorable furthermore as an experience of cultural interchange and we feel very pleased and proud to have been part of this project.

We salute you sincerely,

Rafael Perez-Malo  
Vice President of Programming Communication  
National Office of Scenic Arts  
Ministry of Culture