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Mr. Ian Ruskin  
The Harry Bridges Project  
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Dear Ian:

Thank you for bringing your wonderful, riveting, and highly entertaining performance, “From Wharf Rats to Lords of the Docks” to Harvard Law School for the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of our Trade Union Program. Your performance was without question, the absolute highlight of our conference. I knew you had to sense this from both the sustained standing ovation that you received at the conclusion of your performance and the fact that the audience insisted on staying to talk with you for over an hour to discuss Harry Bridges, the role of the labor movement in U.S. society and various thoughts and opinions on immigration and immigrants then and now. All these topics and many more were provoked from your thoughtful and entertaining performance.

Your portrayal of Harry Bridges brought the man alive, giving us a clear sense of his strength, determination and humor as well as of the struggles that he faced in both his public and private lives. I was particularly impressed by your ability to reach our very diverse audience. As you know, in addition to our program alumni we opened the performance to the Harvard and greater Cambridge community. In spite of an audience that spanned from retirees who were contemporaries of Harry Bridges to young college students and even a sprinkling of High School students, you managed to hold everyone’s attention and bring labor history to life.

For the younger members of the audience in particular, you presented a very important slice of American labor history; events that had far reaching impacts on the American union movement and society. In addition, it was evident that although this is an historical work, it deals with many public policy issues that we are still facing today. We can all take inspiration from the story of these “wharf rats” as they fought great odds and won.

I would strongly recommend your performance, complete with your archival images, footage and music, to any group looking for a dynamic presentation that educates as it entertains.

Sincerely,

Elaine Bernard