

Hi Ken and Voters,

Here's why you should invest \$10,000 in my play *Breaking Out of Sunset Place*.

Before I joined the Inner Circle, I was floundering around, trying to get *Breaking Out of Sunset Place* produced for years. It had been dormant since 2001, my only production in Connecticut... so the play had been sitting on my computer for all that time. I knew the ending was wrong, but I didn't know how to fix it. I knew that this play would be a good vehicle for great older actresses but I had no contacts. The play had readings in NY in 1992 and LA 1993 with everyone putting their finger in my pie, rewriting the play. "Somebody has to die," they said, but I didn't want to kill anybody. Then after the production in Connecticut, (nobody died, by the way) I couldn't get a production.

I had to turn away from writing for a long time, had to start a business, Massage Therapy Services in 1995. I learned business, networking, all the stuff for running a business. For a long time, I didn't write. So, I had to get my writing feet wet again and I began writing children's play for Express Children's Theatre, a touring company. They commissioned me to write and I was back in the writing game. I wrote 4 new shows in 3 years from 2012 to 2014. I got 4 of my plays published by well-known publishers.

I knew I was a good writer, but I wasn't in New York. I had no clout, no connections. I love the characters in *Breaking Out of Sunset Place* and I knew everyone would love them, too. I knew that everyone would identify with these ladies of Sunset Place. But how could I get anyone's attention in NY and across the country?

Then I found you, Ken. Perhaps it was an answer to a prayer that went something like: "God, what the hell do I do with this damn play now?" You know sometimes you gotta be tough with God. Then I saw your picture and I thought that's a good face and is he really saying he wants to teach us what he knows, how to produce?

I knew that you, Ken Davenport, were my last chance to get to NY. Otherwise my play was dead in the water (or in the computer drawer.) So, I sent you *Breaking Out of Sunset Place* for a critique and paid you a nice chunk of change. (Did I mention that I had to get a divorce to get to NY? And that I had to learn to invest in the stock market on the road to you, Ken?) I knew that I had to see you face to face and I was scared but I had to just breathe and find out what you had to say.

You said you liked my characters, my writing. You said, "You have written the classic Greek Journey, that everyone will see themselves in these ladies of Sunset Place. You just need a few more obstacles." You also said, that I have that rare ability to fire on both sides of my brain, business and creative. You invited me to be one of the four new artists that you work with in the Inner Circle. I knew this was graduate school in theater and I jumped at the chance. I did a major updating rewrite as you guided me along.

The next steps to NY, inspired by you, Ken Davenport, on my journey to Broadway:

- Invited Donna Cole to be my co-producer. I paid for her to be part of the Inner Circle. She is the business connection, CEO of a multimillion-dollar corporation Cole Chemical, with international connections. She came with me in Feb, May and August. She helped me with the readings to invite the right people.
- Had a reading of *Breaking Out of Sunset Place*, August 9, 2018 at the Ensemble Theatre (professional African-American theatre) with Eileen Morris, the artistic director directing. The audience loved the play and its diversity.
- On July 10, 2018, had a reading of BOOSP at the River Oaks home of Deborah and Monte Stavis, benefactors to the arts. People from stage and film were present. Two producers of the 10 Tony award-winning musical *The Band's Visit* loved the play. "So familiar, yet so different," one said. Also present was the artistic director of Houston Queensbury Theatre who wants to produce the play.
- Producers' Pitch in NY July 12, 2018 with Michael Alden, Lauren Doll and Yael Silver. All three asked to see the play. Michael Alden said he loved the story.
- July 15<sup>th</sup>, Meetings in Houston to set up a production company Pantheon BOOSP LLC to produce the play first in Houston, then take to NY Off Broadway, Broadway, make a movie (I'm writing the screenplay), then possibly television, a book and a musical, etc.
- In August & Sept, we had meetings of the newly formed Pantheon BOOSP LLC (myself, Donna Cole and Deborah Stavis) as co-producers with Queensbury Theatre, an equity theatre to co-produce BOOSP, Jan 26 through Feb. 10, 2019.
- Now I have an LLC for PlayItStore for producing my work.
- I am working on producing BOOSP in NY Off Broadway, looking at potential venues through Davenport Entertainment for 2019 or 2020.
- Everywhere I go, I tell people about the play. (Like you taught me.) I watch them react when I say it's a geriatric *Thelma and Louise* + 1 comedy. Their faces light up, especially the women! They want to see this show!!
- Is BOOSP the next *Driving Miss Daisy* or *Steel Magnolias*? Yes, it is! A vehicle for older actresses that need good roles, from NY throughout the US.
- I have learned to push past my fear and ask. I know that people need the positive message of this play. They need to laugh and be moved emotionally.
- Next, I will be asking for money to invest. But because I have been in Ken's Inner Circle, I now know how.

Inner Circle has been for me the networking, cheerleaders of the theatre business. I have made great connections and good friends. Because of your belief in my work, I know that I can make it. I am successful. I have never written so much. I am on fire creatively, with 2 new plays and a musical in the works ... plus on fire promoting all my work, including my kid's plays. Because of your advice, I am creating websites for every one of my plays, even publishing some of my kids' plays on Amazon. Had I not taken the chance and submitted my play *Breaking Out of Sunset Place* to you, Ken Davenport, I would not be a producer, taking my play(s) to NY to Broadway and beyond!