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IMMIGRANT THEATER GROUP PERFORMS SECOND ORIGINAL DRAMA
Depicts Political Asylum Experiences of Immigrants and Refugees Escaping Death

Malden, Mass -- The Immigrant Theater Group (ITG) at The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) today unveiled its second original drama about immigrant experiences entitled *From Darkness to Light* at the Malden Public Library. Under the direction of ILC teacher Kathleen Klose, a prize-winning playwright, the play portrays the experiences of immigrants and refugees who come to the United States to escape certain death in their native countries and risk death in their journey. This new play was co-written once again by Ms. Klose and ITG students.

The ITG's mission is to open the gates of communication between today's immigrants and the descendents of yesterday's immigrants, all of whom came to America seeking opportunity and a better life for their children. The ITG was founded in 2003 as a way to help ILC students improve their English skills, give expression to their experiences and educate the public about the positive impact that immigrants have on our culture, communities, economy and the nation. The ITG will do several live performances of this production in the Malden community in 2004 as well as tape a performance for cable television.

Founded in 1992, the ILC is a not-for-profit adult learning center that provides free classes to immigrant and refugee adults in English as a Second Language, Adult Basic Education, Family Literacy and Computer Literacy. Preparation for citizenship, GED (high school equivalency), TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language required for college entry) and other professional exams is offered as well. The school is fully enrolled with 350 students and has a wait list of more than 900 individuals. Since its inception, the ILC has served more than 3,200 individuals from 65 countries, living in 58 Greater Boston communities and who speak 40 different first languages.

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