

Appendix IV.1.25
Sample Director's Note

Sanya is sixteen years old and enjoys writing. Ever since she was eleven years old she used to spend her time writing stories about things that would appear in her mind. She grew up in San Diego and she is planning to move away from the city in a few years. She came from Memorial Academy and from her past experiences there, she felt inspired to write *Straight From the Hood*, a play that represents some of her past experiences. She now attends High Tech High International in the tenth grade and that was a risk she took to make her life better than it was before. Being the director of this play is also one of the biggest risks she has taken.

Director's Note

Straight from the Hood is about how people live the hoods ("barrios") where there are a lot of problems. In this play Flaca is the main character. She is a seventeen year old girl who is going through hard times in her life. She has only one brother, Chato. They live in a barrio where there are two gangs that hate each other: West Side Thugs and South Side Brown Pride Clika. She's a gangster from the side of Brown Pride Clika and she has been through many hard times and doesn't want her brother to make the same mistakes she has made. Her best friend Vanessa, along with some other gangbangers from her side of the hood, are victims of many conflicts with the West Side Thugs. Flaca doesn't want the gangbanging in her Barrio anymore but for this to happen she loses the peoples she loves the most.

I was inspired to write *Straight from the Hood* because I want people to see how hard life is for some teenagers. They try to fit in and maybe they are doing bad things like getting into gangs because they don't have the love at home and they feel like they are in a family when they are in gangs because they all have one another's backs and they care for each other. Maybe this is what they need at home is to have their parents care for them so they won't get into bad things at home. Peer pressure also plays a part. For example, one of their homeboys tells them to go kill someone and deep inside the person, he doesn't want to do it but he does it because of peer pressure. Many end up ruining their life just by trying to be someone they are not.