

A.C.T.

To The Management of "Galatoire's"

My name is Arthur Mendoza. I am the owner and for the past 11 years have been the Artistic Director of Actors Circle Theatre in Los Angeles, California. I was the former assistant to Stella Adler of New York for many years. I co-own a creole cottage in the French Quarter with Laurence Fishburne. He and I have had a home in New Orleans for five years. I am an acting coach and have escorted such actors as "ER's"-Khandi Alexander and Peta Wilson of the television program "La Femme Nikita" to your wonderful restaurant. Each time I have asked to be seated in Gilberto Eycaguiere's section. I was first introduced to this wonderful waiter upon my first visit to "Galatoires". I have been to so many restaurants all over the world. Working in the film industry offers me that opportunity and I must say that Gilberto's excellent service stands out in my mind. It was brought to my attention that Gilberto was released after over twenty years of service. I can't imagine what could have happened. I was told it was after a complaint of a new employee. I would hope that there would be another way for management to handle a staff problem between a NEW employee and an excellent seasoned waiter. I was explained when I first visited your restaurant that at one time there were only male servers allowed. I was appalled but I can now say perhaps some of the "Southern Customs" that have perplexed me in the past now storm clarity. I don't know what could cause "Galatoire's" to commit such a drastic action. As a local and devote customer I ask that you reconsider and reinstate Gilberto Eycaguiere. He has given both Laurence and I such excellent service and that detail is also leaving the South as are many of her other traditions.

With heartfelt thanks, Arthur Mendoza

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