



Mayfield Secondary School

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May 19, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

It has been my honour to have known Shailyn Pierre-Dixon for the past four years as a Regional Arts Drama student. Shailyn lives and breathes both theatre and film. She has an extremely bright future as an artist. I am writing this letter of recommendation for Shailyn, in support of her scholarship application.

I have had the immense pleasure of teaching and mentoring Shailyn throughout her creative development as a performer, writer and director. I've admired her dedication to her education, her passion for personal excellence, and her commitment to be a memorable contributor to our program.

Over Shailyn's four year journey, she has sought every opportunity to participate, learn and grow in her craft. An annual fixture in the National Theatre School's yearly stage festival, performing in supporting and lead roles, she aspired to write and direct her own play for NTS in her graduating year. Despite a pandemic, Shailyn succeeded in her endeavour and has also had her short film, *Checkmate*, selected as a Mayfield representative for the 2021 NTS Dramafest virtual festival at the national level.

In addition to being a highly talented performer in class and an enthusiastic leader among her peers, Shailyn is also an honour role student, an award-winning athlete and a community role model. An accomplished professional actress, Shailyn has been recognized and honoured locally, nationally and internationally for her outstanding work. She is the recipient of several award nominations and has been recognized as the youngest TIFF Birks Diamond Tribute Honouree to date, was featured in the Headwaters "25 Under 25", and is the youngest female Canadian Screen Award Winner for Best Supporting Actress in a Dramatic Series. Beyond daily class and extracurricular involvement, Shailyn has been an active youth leader volunteering over 300 hours within her community; participating in food drives, community cleanups, women's shelter initiatives, rallies for environmental change, as well as education and racial justice.

I'm excited for my student as she transitions into this new chapter of her life. She has always expressed a desire to train more intensely and I have the utmost confidence that with the right support and opportunities she will excel beyond measure and accomplish more than we can imagine. I know that Shailyn will make her future alma mater proud, just as she has done ours. I wholeheartedly endorse Shailyn as an outstanding candidate and worthy recipient of your scholarship.

Sincerely,

Ms. Joanne Bethune
Drama Department