

August 26, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this recommendation for Michelle Seaton. I have had the pleasure of knowing Michelle for almost four years, both as a student and as a colleague, since she first interviewed for admission to the Mason Gross masters program. As her advisor and Head of the Directing Program at Mason Gross, I witnessed the growth of Michelle's talent, the growth of her professionalism and the growth of her skills as a director.

Michelle's strength lies in her intuitive abilities. She is an innately compassionate person who cares enormously about those around her and about whatever it is that she is doing. She works from the gut, she has a very good theatrical sensibility and a strong visual sense. She understands process for actors as well as designers. She searches for "truth", works hard and brings compassion and humour to the collaborative environment.

During her tenure at Mason Gross, in addition to working on a multitude of scripts by professional writers (including CLOUD TECTONICS by Jose Rivera, VOIR DIRE by Joe Sutton, and STOP/KISS by Diana Son,) Michelle worked with graduate playwrights on their original plays. She successfully collaborated and encouraged her writers to explore telling their story clearly and imaginatively. Her work in this and other areas grew enormously during her time at Rutgers.

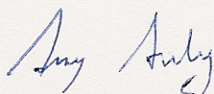
Michelle also served as Producer for the Jameson Project, our studio theater, where MFA directors do most of their first and second year work. She was extremely resourceful in this position, organized and able to accomplish a great deal toward the organization and running of a 7 production (and 15 play) season manned completely by students. She was among the best producers that we have had in recent years. In her last semester she worked as an assistant to the General Manager/Administrator of the Theatre Arts Department and again proved to be highly organized, contributive, proactive, discreet and extremely helpful.

In her last year at Rutgers I asked Michelle to assist me on a production I was directing at the Repertory Theater of St. Louis. She proved to be a wonderful assistant – sensitive to what was going on at any given time, highly organized, proactive in very helpful ways, doing research and –when asked - giving useful feedback. She was highly attentive, got along well with the actors and stage manager and became an integral part of the production.

I hope you work with Michelle. She is an extremely committed, hard worker, a good person, and a growing talent. She's also fun to have around.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Amy Saltz
Head of Directing
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