

To Whom It May Concern:

Allison Hetzel is an incredibly unique theatre instructor. I have had the pleasure of taking both an advanced scene study class and two vocal-focused classes, covering dialects and IPA and healthy vocal production. Because the only classes I took with Allison were upper-level classes, all of the material covered was at least partly familiar to me, but Allison equipped me with new approaches to scene and play analysis and preparation. I was especially happy with the work I did in her dialects class because of Allison's teaching style and the exercises she put us through. By asking her students to practice the dialect first in various little presentations rather than a monologue, she helped us work with the dialect in real time, not just memorized pronunciation. She engaged us in conversational exercises and singing in the dialect which made me feel more versatile in my use of the dialects learned.

As someone who hopes to teach someday, I learned new techniques and teaching tools from being a student in Allison's classes. Despite the fact that none of the classes I took with her were focused on teaching me to teach, I learned so much about teaching theatre (or anything) from Allison. Her chime is a gentle way to ask the class to focus in on class and leave the chatter and phones and anything else to the side during class. It also is an incredible way to get the attention of the class when it's time to stop an exercise or get back on topic without shouting. That not only saves the teacher's voice, but it feels kinder and gentler than a teacher shouting for attention. I definitely plan to steal this idea for my future teaching endeavors.

Allison loves what she does and cares deeply for each of her students. I have always felt comfortable coming into her office to talk about anything going on in my life, school, and career. I have talked to her about different career choices and opportunities, deciding between stage management and acting, illnesses, general questions, cats. She genuinely loves advising and supporting students and actors, and any student should be incredibly grateful for her open door.

If you have any questions or want to hear stories about class with Allison, feel free to reach out to me; I am always happy to recommend her.

Sincerely,

Julie Newton

559.981.6162

jnewton3@crimson.ua.edu