

February 23, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a proud alumna of the University of Alabama and it is my privilege to write this letter in support of Allison Hetzel. In December 2015, I graduated with a BS in Finance and a BA in Theater and I can honestly say that my degrees would not have been possible without the guidance, support, and knowledge I received from Ms. Hetzel. As both my academic advisor within the College of Arts and Sciences and my professor in numerous classes, Ms. Hetzel has had a tremendous impact on me as a student and an actor.

Ms. Hetzel “adopted” me as her advisee when I came to her office hours as a completely distraught freshman that had gotten lost in the advising system (and had never been coded as an Arts and Sciences major). She already had more than her fair share of students to advise, but she took the time to help me overcome my obstacles, and guide me as I planned ahead. This outstanding advising support continued throughout my entire collegiate career, as she took the time to get to know me, understand my specific goals, and went out of her way to help me succeed whenever possible. In my four years, I knew that Ms. Hetzel genuinely cared about my future success and would make sure I was never overlooked (just as she does for all of her students) which is extremely rare at a school the size of UA. I can say without doubt that Ms. Hetzel gave me more support, guidance and genuinely wanted me to succeed more than all of my other professors at UA combined.

In addition to serving as my advisor and mentor, I had the pleasure of being in several of Ms. Hetzel’s acting courses. In one of my favorite classes, Acting III: Advanced Scene Study, Ms. Hetzel introduced the class to Archetype work and taught individuals how to read between the lines of a script and create a unique interpretations of a character and a scene. She used her expertise in archetypes to teach active and engaging classes that introduced our class to a new creative way to create multi-dimensional characters. My absolute favorite class of college was Ms. Hetzel’s Stage Dialects course. In Dialects, she used her Fitzmaurice certification to train young actors on the proper and most effective way to work the voice. Her knowledge of the International Phonetic Alphabet and experience with the dialects gives her students the invaluable ability to understand and perform authentic accents and dialects, rather than merely imitating. Ms. Hetzel expects the best from her students and in every lesson, gives proper tools and training to make the switch to the professional world.

Ms. Hetzel’s love of theater helps her students thrive every day. She is truly an amazing professor and has positively impacted so many students. As I head toward law school in August, I can only hope to encounter a professor as genuinely caring as Ms. Hetzel and I cannot imagine an educator more deserving of this award than her. If you have any questions, or if I can sing her praises any more, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

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