

Thank You for Being You
John Silvera <jbsilvera@crimson.ua.edu>

Dear Allison Hetzel,

I can't believe it has almost been a year since I graduated. Around this time last year I was still a student at UA and taking your Acting 3 class for a second time. If I could have taken it for a third time I would have. Every time I have the honor of taking one of your classes I not only learn more about the text, but about myself. Over the years you were the only one I could say I trusted when it came to advise as an actor. The only one who would tell me straight up how it was going to be and if I wanted it I had to work for it and that's exactly what I did. Going from no experience whatsoever in high school to being able to understudy in two productions at UA and have the opportunity to attend the New York Showcase my senior year, which ended up giving me the opportunity to attend a callback for a Broadway musical, was all thanks to the words of encouragement inside and outside the classroom from you. From the moment I saw you in the UA production of *Appropriate* I knew you were different. The way you used the acting techniques taught in class was so flawless, but yet so effortless at the same time was powerful. It was something I as an actor strived for. I looked up to you the whole time and wanted you to look at me the same way I looked up to you. To this day I still use all the warm up techniques taught by you as well as caring for my voice as if it were my own child.

Now being out of school for less than a year I can say things are going well. I have been able to work on multiple shoots while living in Atlanta. Meeting people from all around the world trying to achieve the same goal we all are, to be seen. In trying to achieve said goal I talk to anyone and everyone and see what they are doing that I can do as well. This year my goal is to get a professional reel put together. So far I have 5 student films from different schools and directors as well as an Independent film. I will keep working on this as hard as I can while keeping a collected mind and not getting overwhelmed.

All this being said I mainly reached out to you to say thank you for not only everything you have done for me and what you continue to do for future UA acting students, but for being you. For being the kind hearted person you are and your love for your students. A love that can not be taught in the classroom. It is something special and unique to you. If I believe any teacher at UA deserves more it is you. Promotions deserve to go to teachers that show a true passion for what they do and no one shows that more than you do. Hope to hear from you soon and please keep me updated with everything going on at UA.

Sincerely, John Bruce Silvera