

February 7, 2018

To Whom it may Concern,

My name is Ian Andersen and I am currently a third year MFA Acting Candidate at the University of Alabama. It is with great enthusiasm that I would like to write this letter in support of Professor Allison Hetzel.

Over the last three years I have come to know Allison as a truly exceptional teaching artist; a collaborative leader with a unique capacity for compassion and communication. During this time I have had numerous opportunities to work with Allison in a multitude of capacities, all with exceptional results. Whether working with her as an instructor, an advisor or an artistic collaborator, I am continually inspired by the dedication, insight, and passion with which she seemingly approaches all projects. Her commitment to the continual development of her students is unquestionable.

As an instructor, Allison displays a genuine excitement that is highly infectious in the classroom. She possesses the rare ability to establish high level of expectation for her students, while simultaneously allowing students the space to come to their own conclusions on complex topics. She cultivates an environment of curiosity and exploration in all of her classrooms. She has an innate ability to work with students of varying levels of proficiency and experience and possesses an enviable balance of intellectualism and the ability to successfully communicate a thoughtful process to her students.

Allison's dedication towards mentorship is unquestionable. Her door is always open to her students and she is a source of intelligence in our rapidly changing industry. In my experience her combination of compassion and insight is truly unique. I can personally attest to invaluable nature of Allison's guidance. She has been a principle teaching advisor for all of the courses that I have taught on campus; she is one of the first people I go to with questions about curriculum development, classroom standards and practices, and student concerns. As my time at the University of Alabama is nearing its end, and I am entering the academic job market; Allison has proven to be an invaluable and seemingly limitless resource. Her dedication to my future goals is deeply humbling.

As an artist, Allison's accomplishments are as diverse as they are impressive. She brings such a unique set of skills to our department that her contributions are essentially unmeasurable. She has lent these talents to multiple productions, functioning in a variety of capacities. From acting to voice coaching, her artistic acumen has proven to be visionary and motivating. No matter the genre of the given piece; her process, preparation and professionalism are an inspiration to all who work with her. She steadily gets exemplary work out of the students and her contributions to the productions are consistently well received.

Allison's resume speaks to her extensive experience and I can vouch for her ability to excel as an instructor in the classroom and a collaborator on the stage. Furthermore, Allison is the kind of person any department would be fortunate to have; her diverse skillset, unrelenting dedication to student success, and innate collegiality are an inspiration.

Sincerely,



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