

February 18, 2020

Alexa N. DiGiovanni
1418 10th Avenue
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Professor Allison Hetzel
348 Stadium Drive
Tuscaloosa AL 35401

RE: Professor Hetzel's Teaching

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing this letter to commend the teaching and mentorship of the University of Alabama's theatre professor, Ms. Allison Hetzel. I had the pleasure of being in Professor Hetzel's Acting 141 course in the Fall of 2018. Professor Hetzel's presence in the classroom is incredibly palpable. It was evident within moments of meeting her that Professor Hetzel has a strong desire to inspire and challenge her students.

Professor Hetzel has an excellent ability to make the classroom an open space for innovation. She began each class with a chime bell, which allowed students to take a breath, center themselves, and focus on the class ahead and not about the external forces that affect students. Professor Hetzel would then start classes by physically getting her students to move. She emphasized that all actors use their bodies as instruments, and thus they need to be fine-tuned; this physical component of the course allowed for an excellent connection to the mind and body. Professor Hetzel also worked on basic acting techniques from Stanislavski and Barton. While she presented all the critical information found within such techniques in a clear and comprehensive format, she had all students actively participate in such techniques. Through performing and observing other students, it created a new perspective on learning such acting skills. When performing in front of Professor Hetzel, she had criticism not only in terms of the physicality of the performance, but she had a focus on the emotional challenges of the character by dissecting the character's objective, motive, and choices. Her perspective allowed for new ways to connect in acting. She often challenged students to new acting avenues, which generated an entirely new and exciting performance.

Aside from Professor Hetzel's incredible teaching, she is an extremely compassionate professor. Whenever I attended her office hours, she was very helpful, attentive, and constructive, by offering advice for both in and outside of the classroom. Overall, to have Professor Hetzel as a teacher is a tremendous opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alexa DiGiovanni". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and connected.

Alexa DiGiovanni