

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Theatre and Dance



April 19th, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

Allison Hetzel, Associate Professor of Acting and Voice at the University of Alabama, remounted her new work, *Step Mama Drama* at New York's The United Solo Festival on Sunday, November 3rd, 2019 after having a successful run of the solo show at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2018. Between these two performances of the piece, Allison continued to hone and fine-tune the work at the University of Alabama.

As a certified teacher of the Michael Chekhov Acting Methodology, I worked directly with Allison on character development by exploring Psychophysical Action and Centers – tools that are part of the foundation of the Chekhov technique.

Allison was extremely open to exploring the methodology in order to strengthen the physical differences of each character she was playing in *Step Mama Drama*. She was fearless in her exploration of her work.

I believe that the strongest educator is the human that is open to the implementation of new tools and ideas. During my time in the rehearsal space with Allison, she demonstrated her devotion both to her original play and to her artistry. I was delighted to see her working tirelessly to engage her creative process.

I was so moved by Allison's performance and commitment to her artistry in *Step Mama Drama* that I asked her to play Amanda in a stage reading of *The Glass Menagerie* that was scheduled for April 1st, 2020. It was intended to be in celebration of the play's 75th anniversary and the University of Alabama's connection to Tennessee Williams. Unfortunately, the performance was postponed due to Covid-19; however, I look forward to exploring the play with Allison when we are able to.

Best Regards,

Matthew Davis, MFA, CTMCM

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