



Performing Arts

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To Whom It May Concern,

I have known Joanna Hayes for the past 3 years as she has pursued her undergraduate degree in Theatre Education at Emerson College. In my capacity as Head of Undergraduate Theatre Education and Graduate Program Director in the Department of Performing Arts, I have had the opportunity to work with Joanna as a student in three classes. These classes involved performance and directing work, written work, and curriculum design and implementation. Joanna excelled in each area.

Joanna is a bright, engaged, inquisitive student. She is an energetic, thoughtful, humorous presence in class and is a valued member of the community. She has strong leadership skills and states her opinions without apology, yet can allow less forthcoming class members the opportunity to participate as well. She is able to work effectively individually, and in small or large groups, and her intelligence, her analytical skills, and ability to clearly state complex concepts make her a valued partner in group work. Joanna is characterized by her motivation to excel. She is indefatigable, encouraging others to do their best at each task.

Each of the classes Joanna took or is taking with me include academic work and work in performance and directing. She excels in both areas. The careful preparation and committed participation that mark her academic work are equally apparent in her theatre work. Generous with her fellow performers, she is able to share her ideas without insisting on them. As a director, she is firm yet collaborative. Joanna is also a gifted

actor and dancer. Her knowledge and abilities in theatre are extensive and impressive, and she has a passion for theatre that is clear in the outcomes of her projects.

Joanna also has the beginnings of a committed and engaging teacher. She has a talent for curriculum development, and designs and implements curriculum which fully engages her students. She communicates her passion for the art form, her deep caring for her students, and her commitment to helping them achieve in everything she does in the classroom. She establishes and maintains high standards and expectations for all students, and is skilled at helping them meet their goals. Joanna also has a quick sense of humor that is evident in her teaching style. Others are instantly drawn to her, and she clearly enjoys teaching them.

Joanna Hayes is a bright, passionate, committed educator. Her motivation, drive, and impressive skills, both academic and theatrical, make her an asset in any educational setting. I recommend her highly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bethany Nelson".

Bethany Nelson

Head of Undergraduate Theatre Education

Graduate Program Director

Department of Performing Arts