

May 7, 2018

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Jen Alison Lewis for your position. I had the pleasure of having Jen as an assistant director on our production of *Pride and Prejudice* for Emerson Stage this past fall.

In rehearsals, Jen was an invaluable addition to the room. I quickly began to depend on her. Always respectful and thoughtful, Jen voiced her opinions and suggestion with clarity and focus. She did not sit back and wait to be told what to do, but rather looked for opportunities where her work and perspective could add value, and offered what she could do. In all of these cases, Jen was absolutely astute in her observations, and her work aided the process and the actors immeasurably. (In addition, she's terrific at choreographing Regency-era ball dances. A specific skill to be sure, and one you may not need, but still - she's wonderful at it.) The student actors were always thrilled to be working with her, and to receive feedback from her.

I will add the following story: there was one actor in particular who was struggling. Jen went far and above what was required: she worked closely with the actor both on her lines and - perhaps even more importantly - feeling confidence in herself. When performances were frighteningly near and we were still unsure of whether or not this actor would be able to perform, Jen began to prepare to step into the role herself.

Now, I don't share this story simply to say, "Look! She was willing to act." I share it with you because I believe it illustrates some of what Jen does best: she supports the students with whom she is working with - no matter what that requires. She will put in the extra time, the extra effort, though to her is not extra: it is just what is needed. She is truly there for her students.

And of course, Jen is a consummate professional. She is smart and caring, but able to be both critical and honest in a manner that is always helpful and clear.

I do hope you will allow yourselves the pleasure of getting to know Jen and considering her for your position. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

*Courtney O'Connor*

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