

DEN DANSKE
SCENEKUNST
SKOLE

THE DANISH
NATIONAL SCHOOL
OF PERFORMING
ARTS

24 June 2021

Re: Stacy Alley, Promotion to Full Professor

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jonathan Flom. I am currently the Head of the Danish National School of Performing Arts, Musical Academy in Fredericia, Denmark. Prior to coming here and taking over the leadership of this education, I served as Musical Theatre Program Director/Associate Professor of Theatre at Shenandoah Conservatory (2007-2016) as well as Program Director for Musical Theatre at Slippery Rock University (2019-2020). In addition, I have served as both Vice President for Conferences as well as President of Musical Theatre Educators' Alliance (MTEA). It is through MTEA that I came to know Stacy Alley, on behalf of whom I am writing this letter of support.

I first met Stacy when she attended our annual MTEA conference in Austin, TX in 2011. Since then, we have attended many conferences together, both regionally and internationally, and we served together on the Executive Board from 2014 to 2020 – Stacy was a Regional Director when I was Vice President; she was then elected Vice President when I became President; and she was President immediately after my term. All of that is to say that we have worked very closely over the years. I have also had two opportunities to teach master classes for Stacy's students at UA, where I was able to observe first-hand the training and the atmosphere that she has created.

In short, I have always been impressed with Stacy's broad knowledge of musical theatre and all of its components. Although her teaching work resides primarily in dance/choreography, she has a deep knowledge of acting/directing and musical theatre in general. She has also clearly demonstrated great leadership skills, continuing to build and grow the reputation of Alabama's program on a national level, while honing her own artistic development and scholarship.

When I organized the 2016 MTEA conference in Oslo, Norway, I invited Stacy to participate as a co-choreographer/co-director of an International Student Showcase. That was my first experience seeing her

artistic work first-hand. Needless to say, I was very impressed. Stacy is clear and focused in her work. She is efficient in her time management. And she commands respect from all of the artists that work with her. She is also immensely collaborative, which is perhaps the most vital skill in our industry. I think her collaborative skills also make her a stronger teacher and program director, because she can lead by example, helping her students understand how the business works and how important teamwork is in what we do.

When I became Artistic Director of a new Musical Theatre summer intensive at the Peace Center in Greenville, SC in 2019, my immediate first choice for a collaborative partner was Stacy. Together, we built a curriculum and gave our young students a great artistic and educational experience. Stacy contributes so much to any process she undertakes, and I definitely benefitted from having her as part of the team. We were both invited back for a second summer, but unfortunately, it was cancelled due to Corona.

In August of 2020, I arrived in Denmark to begin my new leadership post. The culminating experience in our three-year, pre-professional education is a "Showcase", where we present a musical with our graduating students in the lead roles, on the stage of Fredericia Musical Theatre, Denmark's primary home for musicals. This year, I decided to take on Michael John LaChiusa's *WILD PARTY*, a mammoth production with complex characters, challenging subject matter, and extremely difficult music.

There was no question for me that Stacy should be brought in to direct and choreograph the show. We had our premiere on 15 June, and I could not have been more satisfied and impressed with Stacy's work. She delivered one of the most dazzling productions I have ever seen outside of a major professional theatre. Her process was clean and efficient; the student performers and the hired production team respected her immensely; and the feedback from both the community and the industry has been tremendous.

Stacy has all of the qualities one should expect from someone at the level of Full Professor: She is an effective and inspiring teacher; She is an artist in constant pursuit of personal scholarship and development; And she represents and serves The University of Alabama both in Tuscaloosa and out in the world. It is with unquestionable certainty and great joy that I recommend her wholeheartedly for promotion to Full Professor. Should you have any questions or require any further information, you are welcome to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Flom

Head of Education, The Danish National School of Performing Arts, Musical Academy Fredericia

+45 2750 9006

jofl@scenekunstscolen.dk