



University of Colorado at Boulder

**Department of Theatre and Dance**

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March 11, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

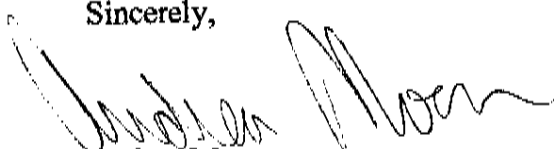
I am writing in regards to Stephanie Blair. I have had Stephanie as a student in two classes here at the University of Colorado at Boulder: Approaches to Physical Acting and Playwriting. I have also seen her perform both here at the university and with a theatre company in Boulder. I have known Stephanie for only a year but in that time she has quickly become one of my favorite students; it doesn't take long to be won over by her passion for learning, her genuine warmth and her boundless creative spark.

Stephanie takes true joy in learning about the theatre. She is one of those students that make being a teacher worthwhile—obviously out to wring every little bit of knowledge from every situation, constantly questing to improve herself as an actor and a human being, without guile or bitterness in her interactions with her colleagues and professors. In my Approaches to Physical Acting class I teach a version of Suzuki training taught to me by master teachers Robyn Hunt and Stephen Pearson. Suzuki training is a challenging physical training for the actor developed by Japanese director Tadashi Suzuki; it teaches, among other things, depth of focus and power in body and voice. Because Stephanie seems so soft and gentle in her daily interactions, it was especially gratifying to watch her rise to the challenge of discovering her innate physical, vocal and spiritual power in the class. In my Playwriting class, Stephanie is writing a play that is a refreshingly mature attempt to expand her vision beyond her own life, grapple with the question of suffering in the world and with what it means to be human.

As a performer Stephanie's sparkle and passion for life comes through in each part she plays. She is a solid presence onstage and is very serious about improving the depth and range of her acting skill. Even in the one-year that I've known her, it has been remarkable to watch the evolution of her performance ability. Stephanie learns quickly and is excellent at incorporating what she learns into her acting. Her natural empathy for other people informs her creation of rich and real three-dimensional emotional characterizations onstage. This empathy also makes her an easy person to work with.

Teaching her, directing her and watching her work with others, I have discovered that Stephanie is an wonderful collaborator. She is cooperative and willing to try anything while, at the same time, unafraid to throw her own ideas into the creative stew. Stephanie seems to carry a quiet flame inside of her that shoots out in her passion not only for the theatre, but also for larger ideas of social justice and the place of art in our lives. She is a consummate artist and a caring human being. It has been a joy to teach her and to know her. I can say unequivocally that she will make an excellent addition to any organization.

Sincerely,



Andrea Moon  
GPT Instructor

February 10, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing a letter on behalf of Stephanie Blair whom you may be considering for a position. How do I describe how wonderful Stephanie is? Her capabilities extend beyond what one would expect for her age. She is detail-oriented, punctual, responsible and organized; -- these are just the professional qualities I have experienced in having Stephanie provide child care for my family.

Her personal qualities would be an asset to any organization she works with or belongs to. She is thoughtful, gentle, and kind to the very bottom of her heart. She can be stern and have excellent boundaries at the same time that she is being compassionate and warm. I found Stephanie to be a wonderful asset in our family, our children adore her and while we accept that she is moving on after graduation, there is a hole in our lives that will be hard to fill. I always felt so relieved to arrive home to a home that was calm, tidy and to find the kids happy and always sad to see her go.

I feel that Stephanie will put herself entirely into anything she does. She is capable of overseeing other people and demonstrating leadership. She is capable of fun as well as taking her commitments seriously.

Whoever hires Stephanie will be very fortunate. I am happy to answer any questions verbally if you would like to call me at 303-579-9995.

Sincerely,



Dr. Mary Shackelton, MPH, ND  
4755 Shoup Place  
Boulder CO 80303

Jonathan Bender  
WholeSpeak  
2435 Topaz Drive  
Boulder, CO 80304

February 6, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Stephanie Blair. Stephanie was a student in LA Bound, an acting class I taught for six months in 2005. These classes focused on acting from a physical perspective, integrating Laban Movement Analysis, Suzuki, Stanislavski, and vocal work.


From the very beginning, she displayed a number of admirable qualities. Yes, it was clear from the beginning that she possessed talent. However, having taught acting for ten years, I have long known that talent is nothing without dedication and perseverance. She was consistently willing to do the work necessary to keep improving. As well, she was consistently very reflective. I have never heard her say anything negative about anyone; she is always supportive and looks for the best in people.

During my tenure as a teacher, I've had many students go on to become teachers at camps and schools. As a good judge of character, I can honestly say that Stephanie has the talent, patience, and disposition to be an excellent one. For theaters with internships, for these same reasons she surely would be an excellent team member in any capacity.

Since the end of the class some time ago, Stephanie and I have kept in touch. I can easily characterize her as kind, strong, and very competent. Any staff would be lucky to count her among them.

Please feel free to contact me at (303) 775-5883, or via email at [jbender@wholespeak.com](mailto:jbender@wholespeak.com), should you desire.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Bender