

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Ally Bryant and I am currently a Sophomore Musical Theatre and Philosophy double major at the University of Alabama. It is with great honor and delight that I recommend Stacy Alley for this award. There is no one more deserving than her at this University.

From the moment I arrived at The University of Alabama Stacy Alley helped to make me feel at home. Coming from California I could have quickly become overwhelmed had it not been for Professor Alley's guidance and support. My first semester on campus we had our departmental auditions where I was not called back for any of the shows. Being a freshman this was not out of the ordinary, but I was soon questioning whether I had made the right decision in coming here. I decided to audition for the show Stacy was directing at Theatre Tuscaloosa that same semester which turned out to be the best decision I have ever made. I will always be grateful that she decided to take a chance on a freshman who felt very much like a fish out of water. This show allowed me the opportunity to work with Stacy who has become one of the most influential people in my life.

Having gotten the chance to work with Stacy in two shows, her passion and love of what she gets to do is extremely apparent. She inspires those around her to work harder and push themselves to be the best they can be because she puts in just as much time and energy to make sure that what she has envisioned is brought to light. She gave me the courage to make bold choices by creating a safe space where I could learn and explore throughout the process of putting together the show. Her knowledge, creativity, organization, dedication and work ethic are authentic and genuine. The rehearsal process is always valuable and productive, with the outcome of exceptional work and her vision and creativity in every detail.

Coming to Alabama I knew that the area I needed the most growth in was dance. I had always been very unsure of myself and believed that I would never be a good dancer. Stacy has made a tremendous impact on me by always being positive and encouraging in regards to my dancing ability. She is one of the main reasons I continue to push myself and truly believe that I can and will improve. I have taken MT dance style I, and tap classes from Stacy and her approach to teaching students with varied levels of abilities is tireless and helpful to all. She gives equal attention to all of her students and is never grading us solely on how well we perform the steps but on how much we improve and how hard we work.

I have personally benefitted from Stacy, and I know many of her other students have as well, as when it comes to class work and teaching she is always prepared and readily available to help students outside the classroom as well. She is always willing, if someone is struggling with a combination or a step, to find the time to meet and figure out the best way to help them. I have never seen her give up on a single student since my time at UA. She has taught me the value of hard work, teaching her students the value of showing up to class and giving 100% every day that you are physically able to by example.

Though small in stature Stacy Alley is one of the fiercest women I know. Her honesty and straightforwardness are some of her most redeeming qualities. When she gives you a compliment or tells you what she thinks, you listen. She never says anything she doesn't believe and everything that you need to hear. She has become a second mother to me here at UA and I truly do not know what I do without her in my life. Her advice, wisdom, acceptance, and mentorship have allowed me to grow more than I could have foreseen in such a short period of time. One thing that I deeply appreciate about Stacy is that I feel as though I can tell her any of

my fears without any judgement on her part. She is a calming force in the turbulence of my life and I can always count on her to talk me down. Her honesty is an anchor that has allowed me to place great trust in her opinion. She is one of the main reasons why I feel like I have a second family here within the department.

This recommendation comes extremely effortless for me as Stacy Alley is unquestionably outstanding not only as a teacher, but as a mentor and overall human in all that she does. Her commitment, time, and personal devotion to this program and its students is extremely apparent. Every day she is finding the time to not only make our program better but also make her students more prepared to go off and face the real world. She has truly touched so many lives past and present and will continue to do so for many years.

Sincerely,
Ally Bryant