

To whom it May Concern,

Stacy Alley, one of the most influential people to have entered into my life, is the most outstanding teacher, no question. I have no idea how I functioned without her knowledge and experience. She gave me the skills to be a true triple threat and increase my probability of getting professional work in the musical theatre business.

Before ever meeting Stacy, I was extremely naïve, had big dreams, but no pathway. I was a freshman musical theatre major at the University of Alabama and “faking it until I make it.” I was cast my first semester in the University of Alabama’s *Young Frankenstein* directed/choreographed by Stacy Alley. Stacy saw a fire inside me and put her faith in me. From then on, she instilled in me the skills to be a professional in this career. There is an extraordinary work ethic required from her students. She demands perfection, countless hours of research, and my complete dedication to the work. One of the best characteristics Stacy carries is her ability to be honest and real. This field is tough, extremely difficult, and flat out brutal, and without her consistently critiquing our technique I would not be prepared to go out into the musical theatre world. I can say that Stacy honestly cares about her students and their success.

Because of Stacy’s work on me, I have increased my ability to work professionally massively. After my first year learning from her, I was the only freshman to go to the South Eastern Theatre Conference (SETC) and receive seven callbacks along with acquiring four professional job offers for the summer. I was offered to be in a total of seven shows across the country. I have directors who say they will consistently cast me and provide work for me. Her efforts to increase my growth as a performer have allowed me to work in several dance productions and even land a principle role, Mike, in the University of Alabama’s *A Chorus Line* as a sophomore. Stacy has propelled me to go out into the world with total confidence and exhibit this sense of “you need to cast me.” I recently auditioned for The Muny, the largest outdoor regional theatre in the country, and made it past all the audition rounds, which I could not have done it without her. Because of Stacy, I get to go to New York City and audition for professional theatres and be taken seriously. She has helped me brand myself in my resume and headshot, which helps immensely when casting directors are trying to find a true sense of who I am as a person. I have been cast in Newsies this summer, my dream show, solely because of Stacy’s training. I am already guaranteed a job before the year is over. Stacy brings professional directors, producers, casting directors, choreographers, cruise lines, etc. to the University of Alabama in order to allow us to learn from those working now in the world. Those connections potentially could get us more jobs when we leave school.

The business of musical theatre changes on a daily basis. Show styles, choreography, audition etiquette, audition material vary each year. Stacy ensures that her students know exactly what the new trends are nowadays. Her passion compares to no other. The University of Alabama has always represented itself as a school encouraging endless possibilities to live a successful life. Stacy Alley is the epitome of that statement. Her unconditional dedication to make my dreams become a reality speaks wonders about her true character, not only as a teacher, but also as a person.

Jonathan Bryant