

The University of Alabama
Department of Theatre and Dance
318 Stadium Dr.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

May 2nd, 2021

To the Committee,

I write to you today in support of Stacy Alley's application for Full Professorship. As the first graduated candidate of the returned and revamped Stage Management concentration MFA, I worked with Stacy on the production level at least once each school year over three years, in a professional capacity during my summer with SummerTide Theatre, and as a student as I took her Beginning Tap class with the Musical Theatre and Acting students.

As a director, she allowed the student designers to explore their vision for each show while still being firm on her overall vision. She created space for Actors to explore their characters while maintaining high expectations for choreography. And, as a Stage Manager, Stacy engaged in collaboration and trust that I would not have expected given to someone assigned to work on a production. She trusts implicitly until given a solid reason to do otherwise.

At SummerTide, I witnessed Stacy craft a simple show into a performance showcasing the actors' abilities with personality, heart, and some show-stopping tap numbers. Stacy crafts these ideas and compositions in a manner that appears easy to those around her, but I have witnessed the time and dedication and thought she has put into a production many months in advance of a first meeting. It shows in the performances that grace the stage. As the Associate Business Manager of SummerTide Theatre in 2018, I spoke with audience members night-after-night who were floored at the level of production, the performance, and the craft that took place on stage, and they were all wanted to tell Stacy how much they loved it.

As a student, my initial thought taking Tap Dancing would help with my future in Stage Management. If I understood the difference between a Buffalo and a Maxie Ford, I could have an advantage in dance notation for Musical Theatre and help with my future employment as a Stage Manager. Stacy treated me like any of her students. She also understood where I was starting vs where others started. I witnessed teaching and feedback given in a straightforward manner that allowed us to see where we were making mistakes and how to fix them, meeting us all on our own levels, and grading us against ourselves. On a specifically frustrating day, I was simply not getting something before class, I pulled Stacy aside to discuss where I was going wrong. I expressed my concern for my physical abilities, and in that moment, I experienced more support and understanding than I have ever had regarding my physicality. With Stacy's belief in me and my capabilities, I worked harder than I thought possible and came out with more ability than I thought possible.

In my three years at UA, I experienced support and understanding from Stacy Alley that I needed to continue my education. She may not know it, but it was conversations in her office, conversations during times of emotional distress and duress, that influenced me to keep working and fighting for my education. She accepted and took in everything I could not necessarily articulate. She never spoke ill of others, but instead, expressed the support I may not have known I had from those around me. It was

with that conversation that I knew I could help make the program better for not only myself, but for future MFA Candidates.

Stacy Alley truly cares about her students and their education. She will teach them what it takes to make a living as a performer in Musical Theatre. Just as important, Stacy will show her students the support and belief she holds for them at the most crucial times. These are often the daily encounters we overlook which make the greatest difference, and where she truly shines as an educator: Inspiring students to believe in themselves, giving them the foundation to build upon and the container from which to grow. It is with great enthusiasm that I support Stacy Alley's Full Professorship.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Harris', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amanda Harris
MFA Theatre
c. Stage Management May 2020
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