

February 24, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing this letter in support of Kelley Schoger, Assistant Professor of Acting and Movement here in the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Alabama.

I recently served as assistant director and dramaturg for her production of *The Servant of Two Masters*, and was consistently impressed with her work. Kelley is a smart, obviously well-trained theatre artist who uses her professional background to create rehearsals both artistically demanding and generously supportive. *Servant* is a very complex play to direct, and Kelley's thorough research and preparation helped prepare her to helm this tricky piece. I observed that all involved quickly learned that they could depend on her research and knowledge about this play and of the form of Commedia Dell'Arte to support their varied duties and processes.

Kelley displays an awareness of being the leader in the room, but recognizes that a servant-leader most quickly gains the trust and faith of a group. She made it obvious to me, and I think to us all, that her mission as director was to best serve the play, the story, and all the artists involved. She used her natural warmth, kindness, and intelligence to help guide the dozens of people involved in this process toward a common goal, communicating to her team that she supported and valued their contributions to the process.

I found Kelley to be an excellent communicator; while she is a consistently kind and patient person, she also never hesitated to articulate changes she desired. She communicates very clearly, and recognizes that she needs to speak with different people in different ways in order to best serve them. I have not taken a class with her, but suspect that her years of experience teaching helped her communicate clearly and effectively with all parties involved.

When I asked Kelley about how much she had directed here at UA, I was surprised when she said that this was the first time she was doing so since directing was not part of her original job description. I watched Kelley skillfully and generously figure out what the show needed from her, in a similar way to how I imagine she listens carefully to her Alexander Technique students and makes sure she's giving them what they most need. I was impressed with her artistry, leadership, intelligence, and hard work. It was my pleasure to be part of this process.

Sincerely,



Karen Sabo