

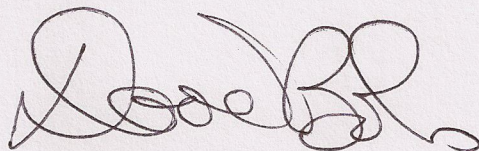
This is a letter of wholehearted and unreserved recommendation for Seth Panitch.

After being his student, cast member, and University Fellows “mentee,” I can say without exaggeration that the time I have spent in his classroom and on his stage has changed my life. Every moment of it has been an invaluable educational experience and a source of profound personal inspiration.

He has the well-deserved reputation around the theatre department of having high expectations for his students. Indeed, he expects his students to be well prepared to work in class, to leave their personal baggage at the door, and to approach his subject with the same professionalism and dedication that he displays. His expectations are a challenge most theatre students need to meet in order to realize any sort of progress in acting; he makes it clear to his students that theatre as a career is an unforgiving one that rewards hard work and thoughtfulness—it cannot be treated like a carefree high school hobby. His classes are designed in such a way as to allow each of his students multiple performance opportunities and one-on-one feedback, a structure that is ideal for any performance class but that I’ve rarely seen in practice. The exercises and improv he teaches are helpful in and of themselves, but he also shows the class how to interpret and recycle these techniques for use in any conceivable scene or professional performance opportunity. Always mindful that acting is a demanding career, he equips his students with the technique and insight necessary to act at a professional level.

He brings his professionalism to the stage, creating works of art that speak for themselves. When directing a show, he shows great respect for his actors at every opportunity. When giving specific directing notes to a character, he will often draw the actor to the side, a professional courtesy which one can’t fully appreciate until it *isn’t* done on a regular basis. His respect for the actor fosters a mature and professional attitude in the actors.

He is available to his students at the drop of a hat and has helped me outside the classroom on numerous occasions with class work, issues with a performance, writing projects, and graduate program advice. He is honest with his feedback, hard-working, and a skillful actor. Most of all, Seth Panitch is a dedicated mentor and the greatest teacher I have ever known.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Bolus', with a stylized, cursive flourish extending to the right.

David Bolus
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