

March 6, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to nominate Professor Seth Panitch for the 2010 Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award. I have been under Seth's instruction—as a director or professor—nearly every semester, a privilege I do not take lightly. All of the acting students fight for seats in his classes each semester. After having other directors and professors, I can clearly see what distinguishes Seth: his determination to elicit excellence from each actor. In his first class each semester, he tells students that his job is not to determine whether we will “make it” or not, but rather to treat each one of us as if we are all destined for success. As a result, I realized his genuine concern for my career goals, and I decided to make them my priority. Seth also emphasizes the value of our class time, reminding students that classes are a privilege that we pay for, not a chore to be idly endured. This heightened my participation and attentiveness in all of my classes, helping me to excel academically. He teaches students to find the best aspects of other students' work in class and learn from it, rather than waste time disparaging each other's work. Not only has his philosophy helped me discern what is better in others' acting, but also to recognize people's unique gifts, not their flaws. Seth's training prompted me to find the courage, discernment, and self-motivation—invaluable skills for me as a student and one day as a professional.

The hallmark of Seth's teaching—aside from his wit—is that he practices what he preaches. Anything he teaches in class is something he has used to become a better actor. In every class and rehearsal, he demonstrates the same work ethic, positive attitude, and preparation that he demands of his students. By emulating his example, I have built the skills, diligence, and confidence I need in order to achieve my professional goals. I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to learn about acting, and life, from him.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Regan Stevens". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and legible.

Regan Stevens
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