

To the Leadership Board Faculty Award Committee-

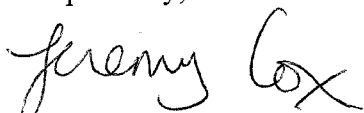
Three years ago, I was faced with a difficult decision in selecting a graduate program to continue my theatre education. My decision was based on two factors, the financial package (which the University provided a quality one) and a faculty that had the experience and desire to build on my undergraduate training. I can state without question that Seth Panitch was my primary reason for committing to the program here at Alabama. He put forth a level of professionalism that was unparalleled by any of the other programs that I fielded offers from.

Upon my arrival, I was confident in my selection. Through his professionalism in the classroom and his own experiences professionally (as actor, director and playwright), he has shaped a program that is graduating and placing, talented and professional young people into the theatre world. Through various auditions and showcases, I have been complimented on the level of professionalism that I bring forth in auditions and callbacks and that is Seth's training. With his passion to educate young actors, he is making connections in the theatre world that are benefiting the former, current and future students of this university.

One of the greatest experiences of my life (not just of my training) happened because of Seth. My first year, there was the opportunity for two graduate students to accompany him to Cuba to witness the educational process of the Cuban actor. He selected me. Being that I had a fear of flying, he pulled me aside and told me something that I will never forget. Seth said, "You cannot let your fears keep your future and your potential grounded." That has been something that has stayed with me nearly three years later and has not only made me a more confident actor, but a confident person. I believe that it is important as an educator, to have the ability to not only educate, but to assist in the development of the person as a whole...Seth does that.

Through three years of classes, five productions (including *The Merchant of Venice* in Havana, Cuba), several community outreaches with area middle schools/high schools and interdepartmental collaborations, I have been given a truly unique education and I have Seth to thank for that. He has given me the invaluable tools, in hopes that one day I will educate the future students in this field. Because of the education that I received from this university and Seth, I will never be complacent with my education. I will always strive to continue my education, for it is important, not only for me, but for the future students that I hope to effect and educate in the same vein as Seth Panitch.

Respectfully,



Jeremy Cox

MFA Candidate '09

Acting & Pedagogy