

April 30, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jeremy Windham, and I am a graduating senior from the University of Alabama. I would like to recognize Seth Panitch, Professor of Theatre and Head of the BA/MFA Acting Program, as the best acting trainer under whom I have ever studied, and one of the finest educators and advisers I have ever known.

Seth's way of teaching acting is different from any other instructor I have encountered. While many teach "the process of acting," Seth teaches each individual student numerous skills in order to be personal on the stage. Every student receives the knowledge and confidence that s/he can, at a fundamental, basic, and important level personalize and connect with written characters. Before Seth arrived at UA, I was not confident in my work as an actor or in my future as one. I received my basic acting training under other teachers. After having Seth for several advanced classes, I knew I had to take his basic acting class in order to gain the tools and confidence I needed. Having recently completed it, it has exceeded my expectations. I am excited about what I can do, and I demand nothing less of myself than the way he showed me to approach acting.

Seth's classes are excellent preparation for students who are serious about careers in theatre. They require dedication and professionalism. Students do not take his classes expecting a break from their busy schedules: They take them knowing they will learn and grow. Every class he teaches is filled quickly, and he is always accommodating to allow in more students. He is so knowledgeable, experienced, and passionate about what he does that it carries on to his students. Students who have cared little about styles such as Shakespeare and Shaw have grown to love and appreciate them. He demands that you give your best for yourself in order for you to reach the potential that he sees. He truly wants you to succeed in whatever you do, whether it is involved with theatre or not. I

have come from his classes with more respect for the art and a level of professionalism that will carry me in the professional world.

There is continually a line of students at Seth's office door waiting to talk to him. He is always willing to discuss the steps that you need to take in order to grow as an actor. He is happy to advise you on your life and career after college. He seeks out auditions and jobs for students and is always fighting on their behalf in these opportunities. He has an extensive knowledge of graduate schools and professional companies and gives students the information needed to make decisions for the future. I am leaving college excited about the future, and I am blessed to have Seth as a resource if I have any future uncertainties. He implores all of his former students to keep in touch with him and contact him any time.

In truth, I could not imagine what I would be doing now or in the future had I not had Seth as an acting teacher. He has an incredible dedication and loyalty to the Theatre Department and especially to its students. He has certainly made an impact on my life, and his students are trained to respect and make an impact on the art of acting or any other career path that they choose.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Windham
windhamjj@yahoo.com
334.300.7916