

## SERVICE EVIDENCE

**This letter was sent in Spring of 2021, in response to the ON THE BRINK reading of my one-person show, *Mary Magdalene Smokes a Joint*:**

Hello Dr. Lewis and Saffron,

I know the both of you are incredibly busy and I don't want to take up too much of your time, but I really wanted to reach out to you both and let you know just how much last night's live stream of *Mary Magdalene Smokes a Joint* impacted me. That has become by far my favorite most treasured piece of theatre in my entire life, it just blew my mind. I won't bore you with my life story but I'll sum it up by saying that I struggle with a lot of religious trauma and within the past year I've been trying to sort myself out in regards to my personal experience with religion and spirituality and this piece couldn't have arrived at a more perfect time in my life. Pass on my praises and love to Ben Jolivet for creating such an awesome piece.

Saffron, your performance made me cry more than once and I want to thank you for helping me feel truly seen and heard for the first time in a very very long time, spectacular work! Thank you.

Dr. Lewis, I know you mentioned at some point posting the video for folks who were not able to make it to the live stream - will you be posting it on Canvas or sending it to individuals? If you're sending it to individuals, may I please ask if you could send it to me? I would love to watch it a second time!

I'll stop bothering you two now, I just wanted to pipe up and say thank you and let you know that I've really been enjoying this reading series!!!

Bo Burkhardt (She/Her)

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**This letter was sent in Spring of 2020, during our recruitment efforts, before the pandemic settled in. This was from a parent, whose daughter ultimately chose CSU, and will be starting her Sophomore in Fall 2021:**

Hi Noah and Saffron,

We met at the theater visitation day and at the theater audition day. My daughter, Kelsey, auditioned and was the first to go. I have been reflecting a lot upon that day and the discussion you held afterwards and debating whether or not to send off an email. But the educator side of me decided to go for it, as I always appreciate the positive feedback! (I've been a k-8 educator and administrator for 25 years.)

As a parent of a senior who has chosen theater as her life work (or did it choose her, I wonder), it is quite a scary prospect. I have watched her passion develop her entire life and know this is her path, but taking this next step into the reality is breathtaking and simply arduous. So many auditions, and essays, and interviews and decisions. But sitting in the room with the two of you, listening to the passion and excitement you both have for your work and for your hopes for the blossoming program you are growing, it truly helped this parent see the way and catch her breath.

I am so appreciative of you sharing your passion and your vision of the program. I appreciated hearing your insights into "the business" and the expectations and dreams you have for the students who will be placed under your direction and care. Thank you so much for that, and know that what are doing is excellent work and is so helpful for parents of seniors!!

Also know it is not like this everywhere. Not all professors hold the same passion for their work with students and for their programs and as a parent, this is disheartening, as you want to know your "child" will be looked after and challenged in the right ways as a person entering the theater world. But not all programs take the time to do all that you have done for students and parents, and I want you to know that you have a great thing going! (Teachers need to be told these things :)).

Kelsey is thick in the process. She is auditioning and talking and thinking, and the ultimate decision is up to her. (I know what I would choose if it was my choice!) But she must choose her path, but I do hope it leads up back so that we may meet again!

Have a wonderful day! Thanks for your time!  
Lisa McKercher

**This is evidence from service work done at Miami University. The first is a letter of thanks for The BRINK Theatre Company's involvement in the Humanities Center Symposium through a staged reading Of WIT by Margaret Edson:**

**From:** "Hamlin, Kimberly" <[hamlinka@miamioh.edu](mailto:hamlinka@miamioh.edu)>  
**Date:** November 28, 2016 at 11:38:53 AM MST  
**To:** Saffron Henke <[henkesa@miamioh.edu](mailto:henkesa@miamioh.edu)>, Ann Elizabeth Armstrong <[armstra2@miamioh.edu](mailto:armstra2@miamioh.edu)>  
**Cc:** Cynthia Klestinec <[klestic@miamioh.edu](mailto:klestic@miamioh.edu)>, "Melley, Timothy" <[melleytd@miamioh.edu](mailto:melleytd@miamioh.edu)>  
**Subject:** Wit was amazing. Thank you!!

Dear Saffron and Ann Elizabeth,

Wow. What can we say? The staged reading of "Wit" last Tuesday was among the most moving pieces of theater that many of us have ever experienced. The performance wildly surpassed

our expectations and was the ideal accompaniment, in ways we had not even fully anticipated, of the themes we are exploring in this year's Altman Program.

Saffron, your performance was breathtaking. Thank you for sharing your time and talents with us. Thank you also for involving your theater company in the production. Ann Elizabeth, thank you for all the work you did to make this show possible-- you thought of every detail and I love how all the trains run on time when you are the conductor! It is such a pleasure to work with you.

We are so very grateful to you both for your willingness to put together this production as part of this year's campus-wide discussion of "Medicine and the Humanities." Please extend our thanks and appreciation to the rest of the cast and crew who worked to make this performance of "Wit" such a success.

With warm thanks and best wishes,

Kimberly Hamlin

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**The second is a sample of the letter written by theatre department chair, Julia Guichard, that garnered a service award for bringing in guests to teach and audition students in the department.**

#### **Excellence in Career Development Award (Awarded)**

2016 Awarded by the student affairs division, this award recognizes faculty who actively support the development of the Miami University career community, forge career-related partnerships and provide exemplary direct delivery of career development services to undergraduate students. Nominated by Julia Guichard, Theatre Department Chair.

In her recommendation letter, Professor Guichard cites:

*"Saffron has leveraged her own extensive professional network in the interest of the students and has worked tirelessly to connect current majors to working artists at the highest level and to our alumni in the field...Saffron Henke has in a very short time proven her commitment to*

*students' career development. She has already built a strong network of partnerships that I have no doubt will continue. She does not view career preparation as something separate from classroom instruction, but seamlessly integrates artistic growth with professional goals every step of the way."*