



March 17, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I first met Shane Lutz, when I came to Wake Forest University to see his production of *Electra* as director since my daughter was in his cast. I instantly felt a kinship to him, both from the standpoint of the astoundingly original and relevant art he created onstage as well as to his dynamic, effervescent personality.

His production was cast in an anti-realist, politically modern light, bringing this Greek tragedy into a relevant sphere. It was compelling in every way.

As a professional in a regional equity theater house, I'm always intrigued by budding talent, and so attended Shane's production of *Dancing at Lughnasa* later that year so see his treatment of that work. Again, I was duly impressed; he had imbued this play with contemporary relevance, especially poignant in our volatile political climate.

When Shane graduated from Wake Forest, I began looking for areas in the Arts Center in which he could fit. Post interview, the result was that *every* department wanted him. The education department wanted him to be a drama workshop director (and he succeeded in fulfilling that, directing a production of "Narnia" for middle school aged children and teaching drama workshops on certain Saturdays); the box office requested that he work in their department, and learn a brand new ticketing software (he did so, became the point person, and trained the rest of the seasoned staff); patron services asked that he become a house manager in the evenings (he did so, and numerous patrons now tell us "he is their favorite"); the executive department – our CEO and COO – have requested that Shane work in their offices after his box office hours, assisting with special projects (he has risen to their exacting needs as well, and is personally requested by them almost daily in some capacity or other).

Needless to say, he is in high demand. Aside from his tireless work ethic, Shane has an adaptable and vibrant personality, and his magnetic energy draws others to him.

I've had the privilege of getting to know Shane beyond the workplace as well over the past several years and have found him to be a young man full of integrity and intelligence. He's kind to everyone he encounters and has made friends with so many people no matter where he goes. He is unafraid of change and challenges and is excited for the opportunity to explore new places and new opportunities.

I can't wait to see the path that Shane Lutz blazes in this world! I'm certainly glad he's been a part of mine for a time.

Sincerely,

Andrea Gannon
Vice President, Marketing