

To Whom It May Concern,

Ms. Barkl taught me the essence of theater. And the only reason I still remember what Shakespeare did to influence many playwrights, tell the difference between Eastern and Western cultured theater, and express what a playwright's character is feeling on stage, is because of this great passion that exists within her as a practitioner.

Her students are her audience. If she feels that a student is distracted she'll get everyone to stand and do an ~~long~~ exercise where no one will fall asleep (if that were ever possible). Sometimes I even thought that she had this ability to know what everyone in the room was doing without looking up from her desk. A great quality when there's over twenty inmates in the room! Most, if not all people, view us as outcasts, monsters, men that don't deserve what Ms. Barkl brought to us. To a classroom that didn't come close to looking like one to me. But she transformed my thinking when she told us that we "were" college students. When she said that the room went silent. They were strong words to me. She had waken me up to a truth I had ignored. ~~that~~ That wouldn't be the ~~last~~ time she did that either. All of this happened in intro to Theater. It was only the beginning learning how to become a playwright was another one of her influential classes. I laugh, became angry, and almost ~~cried~~ cried and it was all due to that class. I laughed

and had fun when we read eachothers scripts assigning certine people in the class to play the characters; anger overwelmed me because I couldn't handle critizism very well but she put up with it, tried a different approach which made me become even more passionate about the course; and finally, I almost cried when I created a play that I would later in that quarter enter into a contest. She believed in us so much that she thought we could compete with playwrights all across the nation!

And then there was acting. Wow! One of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. We were a mess. We weren't a team in the beginning. Yet she managed, again, to transform us into one. I learned about organic approaches of acting which is a less overexaggerated vision of the latter. The latter being artificial, similare to the Elizabethian acting of the 16th century. My experience was like that of a medical student who studies medicin so that some day he/she can help others. I'm sure there's a major difference between studying something and actually doing what you study. Yet I learned a great deal about theater. But when I stood in front of that small audience of men, acting for the first time, I knew some of us in Ms. Barkles class had changed. And like that once medical student now doctor we stood infront of our patients taking them away from their prison

cells, curing them of their current position. You want to know what Ms. Barkle's teaching abilities are? What her course content contains, her teaching methods, and how that benefited my success in learning? Her teaching abilities are legend, her course content is influential, and her teaching methods, need I say, will change her student's lives! Some students might not say it. Yes some will even deny it. But I stand as proof. She changed the way I view life beyond theater. Now I believe that I do have a chance to succeed. And if you can't see that you're a fool!

Godspeed Ms. Barkle

Sincerely,  
Francisco Javier Pinto #870938

