

March 19, 2017

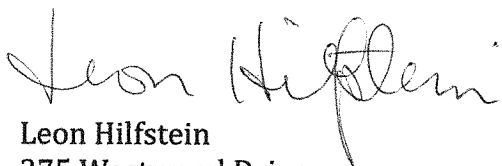
To Whom it may concern,

This letter is in reference and support of Ms. Jessica Barkl.

I have known Ms. Barkl since December 2015 in conjunction with two musical performances, Ragtime and Assassins presented in 2016, during which time I served as music director and pianist. During preparation in advance of performances, I had the pleasure to work with Ms. Barkl and observed her interaction with students and faculty. She was consistently well prepared for each rehearsal giving direction to actors and staff in a positive, growth oriented manner that instilled confidence while allowing for individuality. Ms. Barkl approached direction with humor and specificity to nurture group cohesiveness. To this end she used theater games and exercises and modeled desired behavior. She gave direct feedback and followed up with detailed notes daily. In my role as music director I felt her confidence in me, and her deference to my area of expertise, making the end collaborative product, performance, successful.

Theater arts requires specific knowledge of acting technique as well as aspects including staging, program preparation, lighting, sound, script interpretation, role development, and history related to a particular work. Ms. Barkl exhibited expertise in these and related areas that showed the highest level of excellence and achievement. She was adept at modeling on stage behavior with ease and patience. Her fluency in the theater arts resulted in helping her students achieve increasing competence and ability based on my direct observation.

It was a joy and privilege to work with Ms. Barkl on theater productions.



Leon Hilfstein  
375 Westwood Drive  
Hurleyville, NY 12747