

Susanne Hobbs Reed

Richmond, CA, 94804 || 510-501-3929 || susannehobbsreed@gmail.com

March 1, 2023

Dear Selection Committee:

It is my honor to write this letter of recommendation for Ms. Jessica López-Barkl.

I met Ms. López-Barkl in 2002 when we attended graduate school together at Sarah Lawrence College. I have worked with her as an actor, a director, a designer, but most importantly I have known Jessica as a collaborator committed to diversity, and the inclusion of many voices seldom heard in today's theater.

In our time at Sarah Lawrence College, I was able to witness Ms. López-Barkl's directorial work with college aged students. She has a knack for selecting compelling stories to tell, and finding the right folks to tell them. She directed what was to be a staged reading of, "And the Violins Stopped Playing". Her cast was so inspired by the story, and Jessica's passion and enthusiasm, that when opening night arrived, no actor held a script, and all were dedicated to what truly was a full production of the text.

As an artist colleague, Ms. López-Barkl was a constant source of support and reflection for me during graduate school, but also in the years that have followed. She was a willing participant in readings of my work, and as a lightning designer for my show, "Marisol" by José Rivera. In that show she articulated through lighting choices and stories of the author, me-the director, and the world that was created.

Fast forward sixteen or so years. The world is in the midst of a pandemic, and theater as we've known it for so long has seemed to evaporate. Ms. López-Barkl in her role at SUNY Sullivan finds opportunity in this moment and brings the theater program online. This alone is an amazing feat, but in addition to this, she reaches across space and time to former colleagues and creates an intergenerational program. I had the honor to be a part of three SUNY Sullivan productions during the school closures, and was delighted to work with aspiring actors, which such an inspirational director that Ms. López-Barkl is, and always has been.

I extend Ms. Jessica López-Barkl my highest recommendation, secure in the knowledge that she will perform in a superior manner regardless of the task. You have the opportunity to work with an exceptional artist, I urge you to bring her passion to your organization.

Susanne Hobbs Reed

Richmond, CA, 94804 || 510-501-3929 || susannehobbsreed@gmail.com

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susanne Reed". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Susanne Hobbs Reed

susannehobbsreed@gmail.com