



December 29, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my great pleasure to write a letter on behalf of Hope Villanueva for the position of Resident Production Stage Manager. Hope fulfilled what seems to have been a very similar position at Honolulu Theatre for Youth and while I know every theatre is unique in environment and I can only imagine that the duties of a PSM are extremely specific to an institution I welcome the opportunity to speak to Hope's personality and her experience in Hawaii and should it be useful to continue the conversation by telephone I'd be delighted to do that as well.

As you must already know, Hope is a very keen stage manager. Not only does she care for an artistic team and carefully walk the fine line between supporting, motivating and nurturing a process and a group, she authentically cares about the people she works with and this shows in the way she bridges the world of the rehearsal room with institutional realities and details. I can only imagine that these skills have even continued to grow as she has been touring internationally and working non-stop as an SM since leaving HTY. While here, she mastered and improved on a very specific set of institutional and organizational demands (we tour five islands every year and rehearse and develop shows with the same team performing/running shows). Hope was able to contribute immensely to the organizational goals and align them with the individual production needs and goals in a way that is rare among stage managers. She also had no problem following and advocating for processes that seemed to diverge from the conventional and was able to be an advocate for those processes even when they seemingly caused more stress and responsibility to her personally. I feel this would make her quite the natural fit for an organization like Studio Theatre that has always been an innovator not just in product but process.

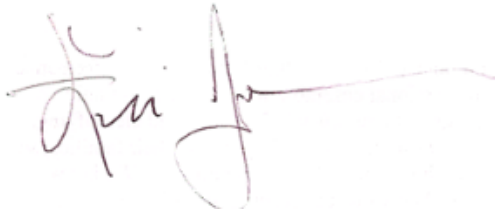
I'd also like to express that Hope is a nice fit as a member of a company. Years after her time at HTY she continues to be supportive and actively advocating and communicating with our organization and the friends she made here (and there were many!). In this way she is a builder of networks. While in Honolulu Hope was a person who often brought together production and management, actors and playwrights. She made all feel welcome in rehearsals and built bridges naturally that helped shape the organization as a cooperative whole. She is an avid

communicator, is never afraid to ask a question or ask her team to go the extra mile when there is an opportunity to do things better and that proved a powerful combination for us at a time when we were actively looking to improve our processes of creating new work.

Last of all, I will state the obvious, Hope cares about good theatre. She is a passionate advocate for new writing, adventurous theatre and she loves the work that Studio does. This would not be a stepping-stone or a career builder for Hope, it would be her dream job!

I wish you great success at filling this important position and look forward to many more theatrical adventures at Studio the next time I am in the DC area.

With Aloha,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eric Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric Johnson
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