



August 11, 2015

Professor Irish,

This letter is in support of the proposed changes to the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and the creation of Concentrations in Design and Technology and Performance. At Trike Theatre, Northwest Arkansas professional theatre for youth, we seek employees and artists who have strong 21st century skills and who are well prepared to immediately go to work in our company. We strongly support this curriculum proposal; we believe that graduates with the additional course work in each concentration will be better trained and in high demand in the entertainment industry and professional theatre like ours.

As we grow as a theatre company over the next three years, we will be hiring more and more trained theatre professionals. We look forward to working with Professor Irish and the University of Arkansas theatre team to make that possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kassie Misiewicz".

Kassie Misiewicz

Artistic Director & Founder

Trike Theatre



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August 4, 2015

Professor Irish,

This letter is in support of the proposed changes to the University of Arkansas Bachelor of Arts in Theatre program. At ETC, we seek employees with a solid proficiency in theater skills and the benefit of a well-rounded education; we believe that separating educational tracks into separate concentrations in Design and Technology and Performance will help to achieve that end.

Most theatre programs do a solid job of teaching students to act, to paint, to hammer and saw. Besides these tangible skills, a strong theater education also develops an intangible skill set: improved self-confidence, teamwork toward a mutual goal, understanding of time constraints, acceptance and growth from critique, and strong social skills.

Students who carry away these lessons prove to be ideal candidates for positions at ETC. They exceed because of what they have learned in courses designed especially for the theatre technology industry. They are able to communicate effectively and work adeptly using the language and tools of the industry, right out of the gate.

We strongly support this curriculum proposal; we believe that graduates with the additional course work in each concentration will be better trained and in high demand in the entertainment industry and specifically organizations like ETC.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellen E. White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ellen White
Outreach & Training Specialist
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Professor Irish,

This letter is in support of the proposed changes to the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and the creation of Concentrations in Design and Technology and Performance. We seek employees and artists who have strong skills and who are well prepared to immediately go to work in our company. We strongly support this curriculum proposal; we believe that graduates with the additional course work in each concentration will be better trained and in high demand in the entertainment industry and organizations like ours.

In 2002, I graduated from Missouri State University with a BFA in Musical Theatre Performance. Since that time, I have been able to use my education and the concentrated curriculum at the university to ensure full time professional Theatre employment for 13 years. A concentrated program, was essential in preparing me to become a Theatre professional in my post University life.

As the Managing Producer for Ocean State Theatre Company, I see a difference in young professionals who come from an environment such as the one I experienced vs those who do not. Specifically, when I hire young technicians, the students that come out of a more generalized program have to play “catch up” when compared to their peers. I could not be more enthused for your program in considering this change of direction. In my opinion, it will put your students ahead of the game and give them the tools necessary to compete at a high level in the Professional Theatre workforce.

Sincerely,

Joel Kipper
Managing Producer
Ocean State Theatre Co.
www.oceanstatetheatre.org