



April 2024

To Whom it may Concern,

In my capacity as Executive Producer of Stage West, a small professional theatre in Fort Worth, TX, it is a pleasure to recommend Bob Hess in his pursuit of tenure. I have had the opportunity to work with Bob on several projects and can report that he is an excellent theatre-maker who I'd readily hire over and over again. The North Texas area generally has benefited from his work, including: 1) performers - he's a consummate professional and a thoughtful person who always knows when to share the stage 2) directors - he's always prepared, focused on the craft, and respects the process. 3) the general public- he brings heart and truth to the stage. His performances are memorable and affecting. What I'd like to focus on for the rest of this letter, however, is his work for me at Stage West in a play called *The Children*.

In March of 2020, he was one of a trio of actors in this Lucy Kirkwood play at the theatre I run. The role required a great depth of character development and relationship work. As always, Bob's performance was like a fine glass of wine - evolving with the play as the story unfolded. The entire show was masterful, and we were thrilled to share it with audiences. It had one performance before being shuttered by the pandemic. That was a Thursday. On Saturday, the small group came back for one last full day's work filming the entire production cinematically. All recognized that something special had been created and that strange times were rapidly about to change everything for a long time.

Without missing a beat, his performance switched from live theatre to quiet camera work. His demeanor in the room remained congenial, professional, and invested. It mattered to him to excellently capture the story on camera just as much as it mattered to him to have a truthful living performance when it was for a live audience. We were so lucky to have had this chance to film this play and stream it as one of the first theatre projects to stream *anywhere* once the pandemic began.

He is without a doubt one of the best theatre-makers and artists in town. As to the question of him being tenured and guaranteeing his part in growing future generations? That seems like a **NO-BRAINER. YES. HE SHOULD BE TENURED.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Schuttles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dana Schultes
Executive Producer
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