



Department of Theatre and Dance

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Berkshire Theatre Group
Kate Maguire, Artistic Director
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Recommendation for CELIA QUILLIAN

It is with pleasure that I write another letter to BTG on behalf of one of our students. I know that you are well aware of what Wake Forest students are like. I am certain you will find Celia to be of the same caliber.

I first met Celia in 2008 at a High School theatre festival where she was auditioning. She stood out then as a bright, energetic young woman. I kept in touch with her and was delighted when she ended up at Wake Forest University. Here I have taught her in class, worked with her on productions and watched as she has grown into a confident and accomplished young woman, a first rate actor, and explored a burgeoning (and related) passion in video and marketing. I look forward to watching her process and seeing the final product as she tries her hand at directing this spring.

Celia has all the attributes of a leader. She is tireless in her energy and embraces a workload (both academic and extracurricular) that is daunting even to contemplate. Over the past two years, Celia has taken on both individual and committee responsibilities and has been responsible for a sea change in the awareness of theatre on campus through her promotional videos and use of social media. She mobilized the committee to take a much more active role in these efforts and drummed up enough interest to expand the number of volunteers working on these projects.

Recently, Celia has taken an interest in stage properties and has undertaken the props master responsibility for us on a couple of shows. She has enjoyed the freedom and the artistic and practical opportunities to work with director and designers and her background as an actor has been a boon in the role. She has shown great initiative and resourcefulness in this.

As an actor, Celia brings a commitment and professionalism to the work. A very bright and intelligent actor, Celia approaches a role with solid homework, a great attitude, wonderful openness and a sense of curiosity and exploration that can be infectious. Celia holds herself to a very high standard and pushes her scene partners to do the same. She is not a complacent actor; she digs into a character and plays mentally, physically and vocally. She is a joy to direct, off book quickly, takes direction well, and consistent in her performance.

Celia is a very practical young woman who has no fear of hard work. She manages pressure, stresses of all sorts, disappointments, setbacks, etc., with a deep breath and renewed determination. She remains undaunted. She will not wallow in work done or time spent for naught; she will move on and move forward, addressing the task at hand and taking note of lessons learned along the way.

I should also note that Celia is very successful at juggling the often conflicting demands of being a theatre & communications student at Wake Forest. Wake Forest is known for being exceptional rigorous academically and for having

a significant workload in that respect. We also tend to attract self-motivated over achievers who are unwilling to give up anything. Theatre is no exception to this and Celia is an excellent example. While maintaining a remarkably high GPA, making Dean's list every semester, double majoring, playing leads in both mainstage and student productions, taking on major production responsibilities, generating multiple promotional videos and social media campaigns, she maintains a cheerful, positive, outlook and is genuinely liked and looked up to by her peers. She is well on the way to learning when she should say "no" to a task and while willing to push her limits, understands when her responsibilities and commitments get to the point where something would suffer were she to take on yet another obligation. The faculty and staff of the theatre uniformly find her an exceptional young woman.

I am truly delighted to recommend Celia Quillian for your consideration. I cannot imagine that you would be disappointed in her work, her attitude, or her commitment. Should you have other questions, please email or phone me as shown below.

Sincerely,

John E. R. Friedenberg
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