

To Whom It May Concern:

It is without any reservation that I earnestly recommend Seth Panitch for the Burnum Distinguished Faculty Award. Under his instruction, I have experienced the most rewarding intellectual and artistic development of my entire academic career, and I have also been provided with opportunities that will no doubt shape the course of my entire professional life. I am consistently amazed by his dedication to diligence, professionalism, and creativity.

During my first semester of classes with Seth Panitch, I was also fortunate enough to perform alongside him in the Department of Theatre & Dance's production of *Misalliance*, where I personally witnessed his consummate professionalism as an Actor, and his commitment to the creation of a sterling final product. It was during this time that Mr. Panitch recommended that I audition for his upcoming production of *Othello*. Seth Panitch recognized potential in me and encouraged me to work towards it, as he has for so many students. I was fortunate enough to be cast in *Othello* and witness the synergy of Mr. Panitch's work as a director and as an instructor.

Seth Panitch utilizes rehearsal and performance as practical extensions of the lessons being taught in his classroom. During *Othello*, Mr. Panitch guided his cast in their research and analysis with equal parts careful instruction and encouragement of independent study. He was equally as attentive to his understudies as the main cast, making sure that every student had a chance to benefit from the rehearsal experience.

The most prominent example of Seth Panitch's commitment to his students that I have witnessed was *Alcestis Ascending*, a play he both wrote and directed, jointly produced by the University of Alabama and the Cuban Ministry of Culture. While Mr. Panitch could have very easily brought in a cast of professional performers, he instead elected to give his students a chance to be a part of this significant project. Seth Panitch braved the hazards of international politics and the unforgiving New York theatre district to ensure that his students would have a chance to practice their craft while creating a historically significant piece of art. As my Off-Broadway debut, my first international performance, and my first chance to work with scholar-artists from another country, *Alcestis Ascending* was a life-changing opportunity, and I owe my involvement to Seth Panitch for his guidance and encouragement.

I continually look forward to upcoming opportunities to work with Mr. Panitch in his classes and in departmental productions. He is a man prepared to place himself and his vast knowledge of his craft fully at the disposal of any student willing to make an appropriate effort, and making that effort is easy to do when under the instruction of a man whose abundant energy inspires everyone around him to action. In summation, I will say this about his qualities as an educator: Seth Panitch demands the very best of all his students, and he consistently provides them with all the necessary tools to achieve it.

Thank You For Your Consideration,

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