

4 Mount Anville Lawn,  
Goatstown,  
Dublin 14.

13<sup>th</sup> November 2017

RE: Letter of Professional Reference – Chad Parsons

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to you in support of Chad Parsons' application to enter the MFA programme at UNCG. Chad recently directed the American debut of a TYA play I wrote called *Aunty Ben*, and he was such a pleasure to collaborate with from start to finish. Chad's work on this production showed an engaged understanding of the playscript, the contexts in which it operates and the conversations that surround it, and its core messages and themes. The professional TYA sector will benefit vastly from Chad's unique voice as a director, theatre-maker and educator, and I fully support every effort he makes to expand upon, and formalise, his skills and aptitudes in this area through programmes of study such as your masters programme.

Chad and I first met at a ASSITEJ global gathering in Birmingham entitled On The Edge 2016, where Chad was participating in an international professional development placement along with several colleagues of mine. As part of the symposium branch of the festival, I present a short paper as part of a panel on Gender and Sexuality in Children's Theatre. It was this topic of shared interest that sparked our professional collaboration – Chad was keen to direct the American premiere of my LGBT play for children, *Aunty Ben*. In September this year, at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival, he directed a beautiful, warmly received production of this play, which I was lucky enough to see. Chad's playful, colourful and faithful interpretation of the script demonstrated a critical and artistic aptitude for working with text, engaged audiences excellently in pre- and post-show activities, and also brought so many new and exciting elements of the script to light. He found new moments of humour, emotional depth and nuance in *Aunty Ben*, and managed to cleverly push the subversive forms inherent in the play to new levels via casting choices and the high standard of physical theatre. Chad was also responsible for cross-culturally adapting the script, as he had to translate the very Irish setting into a local Philadelphia context, colloquial American language, and local comedic references. Having seen the show in its adapted state, I can say that this was no mean feat – we all discovered some curious and surprising differences between Ireland and the USA during that process!

Chad is, on top of all these critical and dramaturgical abilities, a theatre-maker that knows how to work with actors, with authors, and with audiences. His sincerity, personaility and charm were a signifcant force when combined with the sense of humour, vision and immense hard-work it takes to bring a show like *Aunty Ben* to fruition – he was a pleasure to work with from start to finish, and it was such a priviledge to see him assemble and lead a multi-talented team. I have no doubt that Chad would thrive within your programme, as well as being an incredible asset to your department and student body.

I hope you will strongly consider his application.

Yours sincerely,

Sian Ni Mhuiri

To Whom It may Concern,

I am writing to you regarding Chad Parsons, an exceptionally talented young man I had the pleasure of working with two years ago. It was a production of "Fiddler" at The Fulton Opera House in Lancaster, PA. I was playing Golde and Chad was Mendel, the Rabbi's son.

Chad is a wonderfully talented actor, and any school would find him a welcome addition but what impressed me about him was more than his talent, it was his work ethic. I have worked with many young performers on Broadway, and regionally and there is a pervasive lack of discipline and respect for the craft. Chad was clearly someone who was eager to learn, to ask questions and take risks. He singled me out as somewhat of a mentor and was always curious about the art of acting as well as the business. A lot of young people come out of school thinking they know everything. Chad wants to learn and grow as an artist.

Since he moved to NY, he has had a clear vision of the kind of work he needed to do and has been following that vision ever since. Part of the vision includes a wonderful education which you can provide.

I have been a working actress for 25 years, and it takes more than just raw talent to succeed, it takes drive and discipline and the willingness to make sacrifices. I believe you will find all these qualities and more in Chad Parsons.

Sincerely,

Adinah Alexander

34 Scarlet Oak Drive  
Haverford  
Pa 19041

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have known Chad Parsons for a little over 3 years & cannot begin to express how I feel about what he has done for both my daughter & hundreds of other kids who's lives he has touched with his acting 'magic'! My daughter had never done theater before being in Chad's 'Peter Pan' class at The Music Training Center in Ardmore, & after just one lesson she was hooked! Chad has the ability to get the VERY best out of these kids & the growth that I have seen in the children is nothing short of phenomenal! He could take what was sometimes, a very mediocre story line & make it a truly spectacular show! His choreography is ALWAYS eye popping & he seems to have the knack of making every role & every child feel important in the show, no matter what part they have. His animated, vivacious & enthusiastic personality is truly infectious, & I believe that he is a leader in whatever capacity he has the opportunity to be placed in. He goes over & above in EVERY production & his work ethic is nothing short of amazing!

My daughter has not missed one class that Chad has taught & the progress that she has made over the three years is unbelievable! She truly has the acting 'bug' & I feel that the lessons that Chad has taught her will carry through her whole life & has made her a very confident & talented young lady. I strongly believe that Chad would be an AMAZING asset to any anyone who is lucky enough to be touched by his genius! I cannot speak highly enough about this young man & cannot begin to express how much he cares about his craft & all the kids that are literally put in his care. Please feel free to contact me for any further information as I would love the opportunity to share some of the experiences my daughter has had in Chad's classes.

Kind Regards,

Linda Evans.

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