

STAFFORD ARIMA

443 WEST 56TH STREET, #4A
NEW YORK, N. Y., 10019

February 24, 2005

RE: MAURA KELLEY

To Whom It May Concern:

First let me introduce myself. I am a theatre director whose directing credits include: *Ragtime* (West End; Olivier nomination for Best Director), *Altar Boyz* (off-Broadway), *Candide* (San Francisco Symphony), *Children's Letters to God* (off-Broadway), *Aida & Smokey Joe's Café* (North Shore Music Theatre), *Chef's Theater* (off-Broadway), *Guys and Dolls* (Paper Mill Playhouse), *The Pajama Game* (Marriott Lincolnshire), *The Land Where The Good Songs Go* (Catholic University), *Paint Your Wagon & Jesus Christ Superstar* (Sacramento Music Circus), *Seussical – The Musical* (North American Tour), and *Total Eclipse* (TSP Studio Theatre, Canada).

I first met Maura Kelley when she was chosen to participate in the Society of Stage Directors & Choreographers observer program on, *Altar Boyz*. It was important to me that I give her responsibilities during production so she could contribute and participate in the experience. She ran with the tasks and executed them all with flare, joy and professionalism. Maura assisted me during the 2 week rehearsal process (and the 3 week tech/preview process) and kept a watchful eye on all the blocking during rehearsals and performances. I also gave her the responsibility of noting the actors on all of the script/text notes when they were not reciting their lines as was written.

What separates Maura from so many theatre artists is her deep knowledge about theatre, the craft, its roots and the power theatre has to educate and enlighten. She is a passionate woman who expressed and shared her experience and knowledge of theatre, comedy, improv, etc. with the actors and creative team of *Altar Boyz*. As an "observer" Maura held herself with the utmost grace and professionalism throughout the entire process.

I continue to be moved and inspired by Maura's passion for education, her organization, her attention to detail, and her positive and supportive energy. She is an authentic professional in every sense of the word.

Sincerely,



Stafford Arima