

2450 Grand Blvd., Ste. 144  
Kansas City, MO 64108  
coterietheatre.org



February 16, 2018

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to inform you of my extraordinary experience working with Mark Exline, a remarkable young theatre artist. I first encountered Mark in 2016 as a graduate student designer. An excellent student who participated and added value to my text analysis class, I asked Mark if he would design a free-lance play I was directing, the world premiere of *Marilyn/God*.

Mark took an autopsy theatre concept I had and ran with it, and created a striking, intimate set with fascinating moods and projection possibilities. The set was in duet with the solo actress that performed the play.

Since that time, I have since worked with Mark closely here at the Coterie Theatre, for which I am the artistic director. (We are a professional Equity theatre for young audiences.)

In 30 years of experience as a professional director and theatre teacher, I can state that Mark rises to the very top of the list of people to be excited about. After I saw the solutions Mark came up with and the detail of execution with his set design for our holocaust play last season, *Hana's Suitcase*, I immediately requested him for a world premiere epic fantasy play, *The Secret of Courage*.

Mark succeeded brilliantly on the *Secret of Courage* design, which required a lot of back and forth on an ever-changing script. It was done on a budget with his sense of solving things creatively – and never missing a deadline. He is a totally self reliant and never needs prompting. Both of our scenic designs required Mark to connect the dots between disciplines and divisions.

Designing at the Coterie is a time consuming process, and Mark took the initiative to really drive the train throughout four-month process. Mark is exceptional in this regard...collaborative and able to move things forward. He's got a mind you'd want on any team.

Mark would be a tremendous asset to an organization, and is truly dependable. I give him my highest recommendation without reservation. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Church", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Church  
Producing Artistic Director  
The Coterie  
(816) 474-6785 ext. 232

**THE COTERIE THEATRE**

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