

August 22, 2011

To whom it may concern,

My name is Gordon Ellis and I am an actor/director/theater consultant working in the Boston area for the past fifteen years. I also currently serve as the Vice President of Services for the Eastern Massachusetts Association of Community Theaters, responsible for overseeing the educational and award recognition programs for the organization.

In March of 2011 I directed a production of William Inge's classic play "Bus Stop" for the Vokes Theatre in Wayland, Massachusetts. The production was fulfillment of a career-long dream of mine to stage this particular show and the project was very special to me. I was honored to work with a young actor by the name of Evin Anderson on this production, who filled the role of the impetuous cowboy Bo Decker.

Evin was new to the area and my exposure to him prior to "Bus Stop" was in a local production of "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest" where he gave a very convincing portrayal of Chief Bromden. While the two roles would appear to have little in common, I was impressed enough by Evin's performance in Cuckoo's Nest to follow-up with his director and stage manager for further info on him. The reports from both were glowing responses to not only his ability, but his attitude and professionalism as well. After giving a very strong audition, I offered Evin the role of Bo in my production and was extremely pleased with the end result.

As an actor, I found Evin to be very gifted. He has a natural stage presence couple with strong instincts which allow him dig beyond the surface into deeper character work at the earliest stages of rehearsal. His eagerness to work was clear from the get-go, as within a week of being cast he requested an opportunity to get together outside of the normal rehearsal structure to discuss the play, my vision of it, and theater in general. It is rare that I encounter actors who are interested this strongly in theater at the amateur level and I was very impressed with his attitude. Once the rehearsal process began, Evin carried himself with a professional attitude. He would always arrive early, he was always prepared, and he took every opportunity to work and discuss the project with both myself and his fellow cast mates. He became an extremely valuable asset to the production and was one of the main reasons I consider the finished product to be among my proudest accomplishments.

In the time since the production ended, I have been made aware of Evin's continued self-investment in the local theater scene. He has handled Producing duties, directed (both short plays and full length productions), and has also proven to be a skilled photographer. It is clear to me that his passion for the art of theater knows no limits and he is dedicated to expanding his theatrical knowledge and experiences wherever they may take him. I would highly recommend him to any director who is considering casting him and believe he would be an asset to any theater program.

Thank you,
Gordon Ellis
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