

RECOMMENDATION LETTER IN SUPPORT OF MR. DON SCIMÉ

Mr. Don Scimé has requested that I submit this letter in support of his request to be considered as a candidate for the position of Theatre Artist. I am honored to be able to give him a strong endorsement, as I have known him for thirty-three years, since 1987 when I first came to SUNY-Geneseo.

Since that time, when I was coaching his “senior monologues” and directing him in *Lysistrata*, Mr. Scimé has grown from student to peer. In 2011, I was proud to sponsor his return to his alma mater as the director of his own theatrical version of his acclaimed film, *The David Dance*; he also presented a reading of a work-in-progress and taught an advanced acting class. As producer of *The David Dance*, I had numerous opportunities to observe and assess his ongoing commitment to artistic excellence and innovation, academic achievement, and diversity education.

In addition to providing our students with opportunities to engage in research and present a piece directed by its author, Mr. Scimé’s process was empowering to all of the students who were fortunate enough to be cast. He proved consistently to be committed to collaboration, working graciously and efficiently, always demonstrating his ability to hear, process, and accommodate diverse points of view and juggle varying levels of his students’ competence and experience levels. His nightly preparation for both rehearsals (and classes, for we invited him also to teach acting) was thorough, thoughtful, insightful, and articulate. To his credit, he was able to navigate the inevitable conflicts that come with theatrical production with grace, dignity, and equity to reach positive outcomes. His leadership can be characterized as being confident, knowledgeable, and firm without resorting to gratuitous bullying or undermining students' confidence in their own abilities. He was able to navigate the inevitable conflicts that arise on a production with grace and dignity to reach positive outcomes.

I am including herein a statement I have already made on the portal because I think it is important: I consider Don Scimé’s work in producing and directing to be the equivalent of scholarly publication in academic journals. Certainly it has touched literally thousands more individuals than any academic publication, my own included, and it has been instrumental in influencing the homophobia directed towards the LGBTQ+ community, empowering members of said community, and affecting change in the prevailing heteronormative culture.

I thank you for considering Don Scimé, and I welcome you, should you have any questions with regard to his experience, to contact me directly.

Most sincerely yours,

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