



August 1, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my great pleasure to write this letter in support of Julie Ray, with whom I had the distinct honor of working when I was a Guest Director at UGA's Department of Theater and Film Studies 2014 production of the musical *SPRING AWAKENING*. Julie served as scenic designer on that project and proved to be a highly valued creative collaborator whose work was a critical part of the show's success.

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In addition to creating a flexible playing space that paid homage to the historical roots of the show's source material, Julie also was very successful in providing a design that encouraged the dynamic physical movement that was a crucial element in the production.

Her work successfully merged practical necessities with aesthetic elegance and yielded a visual world that perfectly met the show's needs.

Richard Garner
Producing Artistic Director

One of the challenges we discussed in our early design meetings was how to create a physical design that would bring in the very wide proscenium opening of the theater and create a more intimate world that would draw the audience into the story. Julie's idea to place a raked platform as a "charged space" in the center of the stage and accompany it with a sweeping rear wall succeeded brilliantly in allowing us the intimate focus we were after while taking full advantage of the scale and scope of the larger theater space.

I particularly appreciated Julie's sense of humor and steadfastness when we encountered any stumbling blocks in working towards the finished product. She was a positive force in keeping the project moving forward in a productive and creative manner. This particular design required close collaboration with lighting and video designers and I found her to be a strong communicator and open-minded co-creator.

I have had the pleasure of working with many talented professional designers in my career and I find Julie Ray to be one of the most creative and positive. I would gladly embrace the opportunity to work with her again. The quality of her work and her professional demeanor make her a credit to the Department of Theater and Film Studies.

Sincerely,

Richard Garner
Producing Artistic Director

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