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To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of my former student and collaborator, Ashley Burger. I worked with Ashley consistently during her senior year at Wagner College, in Acting classes, Directing classes, and as an Assistant Choreographer on a production of JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR. As a student and performer, Ashley is thorough, committed, and inspired. She challenges herself, expecting nothing but perfection. Her work ethic is exemplary, and she treats rehearsals and classes as another way to explore and play. She is game for anything, while having thoughtful and strong opinions.

After realizing she had the time and energy, she approached me about working on JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, assisting the choreographer. She committed fully to the experience attending every rehearsal, giving notes and corrections to her peers, and helping to create the vision and flow I was seeking as the director. Her ability to lead, inspire, and create with her classmates was extraordinary. She even was thrown into a performance last minute when another actress was injured. She did so with poise, grace, and sass.

Because my experience with Ashley was so rich, I approached her about choreographing the production of RENT I would be directing at Wagner a year after she graduated. Again, she approached the opportunity with zeal. Creatively her ideas were inspired, fun, and uniquely serviced the play. She quickly could adapt to actor/dancer challenges, always making sure to elevate the performer and production. Her work is selfless and consumed with story. She is a great communicator and treasured collaborator. I would work with her again in a heartbeat, and hope to have another opportunity.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have further questions. As you can see, I am incredibly fond of Ashley, and root for her success.

Respectfully,
Michele Pawk