



May 20, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to recommend Matthew Taylor without reservation for an AGBU scholarship. I have worked with Matthew as a teacher, mentor and theatre producer and feel that he embodies all the qualities you are looking for. I worked in the New York and Broadway theatre communities for several years including a two-year run in the Broadway cast of "Jersey Boys". I know first hand the kind of hard work and determination it takes to succeed in the world of the performing arts. Matthew's personal character, drive, talent, work ethic, intelligence and team-oriented attitude have set him up for success. I now operate my own professional theatre company in Nashville, TN (Studio Tenn Theatre Company). Only once have I ever hired a high school student as a member of a professional ensemble. That student was Matthew. To put it frankly, he's just that good.

I believe Matthew to be a well-rounded artist who is constantly exploring and incredibly coachable. I have seen him succeed both onstage and off. Matthew isn't just interested in the spotlight. He is interested in EVERY aspect of dance and theatre and is a true team player. You don't have to ask him to do something. If he sees there is something that needs to be done, he'll just do it. His immense talent and insatiable desire to create compliment his intense work ethic. Matthew is a top-notch human being and deserves a spot at the top of your list.

I hope you will give him full and serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Jake Speck
Managing Director
Studio Tenn Theatre Company
www.studiotenn.com