



Department of Music, Theatre and Dance

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The University of Michigan-Flint
303 E. Kearsley Street
Flint MI 48502-1950

RE: Response to *Women of Lockerbie*, directed by Janet Haley who is currently pursuing tenure at The University of Michigan-Flint.

Dear Tenure and Promotion Committee:

Currently, I am in my first year as Assistant Professor of Theatre at Oakland University focusing on acting and directing. I moved to Michigan after spending four years at Radford University where I earned tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor. Before Radford, I was the Director of Theatre at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, MI.

On October 29th I had the distinct pleasure of attending the theatre at The University of Michigan-Flint. Mrs. Haley was directing *The Women of Lockerbie* by Deborah Brevoort. The mood and tenor of the piece were clear from the moment I took my seat. I was immediately transported to a selectively realistic environment, which, as the production progressed, was refreshing yet thought provoking. The Scottish folk music and the smoke that blanketed the set grounded the production in the Scottish countryside, while the scenic elements created an atmosphere based in symbolism and metaphor.

Mrs. Haley's strengths as a director were apparent as the play began. This new play is written in the style of a Greek tragedy employing centuries old theatrical elements. Janet was able to take this historical context and infuse contemporary techniques to breathe life into this story. My conversation with Janet after the production reinforced my hunch that she was a trained director in the contemporary techniques of Anne Bogart's *Viewpoints*. Her use of spatial relationship, one of the vital viewpoints, was most palpable. During many of the emotional climaxes in the production, Mrs. Haley chose stage configurations that evoked a sense of isolation versus solidarity and individuality versus group judgment. These choices independently allowed the audience to draw emotional responses to character relationships rather than just relying on psychological emotional responses from the actors. Mrs. Haley was able to balance the above techniques with precision and ease.

I found my evening at the theatre to be inspiring. From my perspective, her style as a director fills a specific niche in the Theatre and Dance Department at UMF. Students who study with Mrs. Haley will surely inherit these techniques that should not be taken for granted. The Flint community is better for her presence. I fully support Mrs. Haley and her progress toward tenure. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Guest'.

Anthony Guest
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