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To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I provide this letter of recommendation for Joseph (Joe) Stein. I have known Joe for approximately four years. He has been a student in my directing class and was a lead performer in a Mainstage Production that I directed. I have watched him grow and mature from his Freshman year through his graduation at CSUF. He is an example of the best.

Joe's work ethic is exceptional. He comes to class and rehearsal prepared, ready to make the most of the opportunity he's earned. His work is always imaginative, but also highly disciplined. When he settles on a choice, he refines it and rehearses it until he can repeat it with precision and spontaneity. He is particularly strong in comedy – one of the funniest actors I've ever had the pleasure to direct – but is also able to bring heart and truth to more emotionally demanding roles.

Joe has an extremely sharp mind. His intelligence and his ability to communicate his ideas, both with the written and spoken word, are in the top 5% of any student I've taught in the past 15 years. He's also a true collaborator in the classroom and rehearsal room. He is able to listen – a rare quality these days – and absorb the ideas of others, which he then uses to improve his own work and challenge others to do even better. He's highly collegial and well-liked by his peers. He's exactly the kind of student and actor you want in the room: his growth will be apparent, and his gratitude profuse.

There is not a situation that I can imagine where having Joe Stein in the room or on the team wouldn't be an asset. You can't do much better.

Sincerely,

Mark Ramont, Professor
Head of Directing and Playwriting
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