

826 Keep Street  
Darlington, Wisconsin 53530  
9 April 2004

Dear Theatre Search Committee,

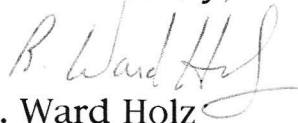
I am writing to highly recommend Laurie Swigart for the available theatre position at Northwestern College. Her extraordinary talents as a director, designer, and artist; her wonderful ability to both teach and inspire her students; and her deeply demonstrated faith make her ideal for this position. Her portfolio of more than forty shows demonstrates educational experience that surpasses many more highly-degreed candidates.

My introduction to Mrs. Swigart came in my former role as chair of the theatre ministries at the Sparta United Methodist Church. Upstage Review rented our theatre for an evening of one act plays. For that evening and several subsequent plays I served as lighting technician. Because of Laurie's talent, I often volunteered to help with set construction and other tasks for shows held in other venues. This working relationship gave me an opportunity to observe closely Mrs. Swigart's work.

Laurie generally served as both director and designer for productions. Her detailed, realistic sets are legendary within our community. The costuming and make up she designed always conveyed the characters. To her credit she was willing to work with and nurture students interested in design. Long-term members of Upstage Review took increasing roles in designing costumes and make up under her guidance. Not only could she conceive the effects she desired, she could find very practical means of achieving them.

Unlike every other theatre director/teacher I have observed, Laurie works by inspiring her students. While directing a show, she does not become the screaming tyrant I have so often experienced. She achieves extraordinary results because of this. When a veteran theatre professor from Viterbo University attended Mrs. Swigart's adaptation of *The Miser*, she continually refused to believe these students were only in high school. She stated that the quality of the production surpassed many college shows.

Most sincerely,

  
B. Ward Holz