



May 8, 2009.

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Globe Theatre Conservatory.

I have been director of two Professional Theatre Training Schools, one in Canada, within a professional theatre company, and one in Australia, a conventional professional training school, and Director of the Birmingham Conservatory for Classical Theatre at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. I can say without reservation that the most productive way to train professional actors is within a professional theatre environment. In this way the actors have an experience that is connected to the work they will be doing. It is training in the best sense of the word because it provides a professional experience. The training is intense and because there is only one group of twelve there at any one time the work happens at a much greater depth than in a conventional theatre school.

There are few professional theatres in this country that have the insight and commitment to actor training that will establish training as an integral part of their mandate. The Globe Theatre is one of the few.

All the directors/teachers who work at the Globe Theatre Conservatory are professional practicing artists who are also committed to training. They provide the actors with an in depth learning experience of the practice of the actor. The environment for the training is not the classroom but the theatre.

As a director I feel the need for such training is great because the expectations are not to do with grades but with achieving the highest standards required within the theatre. Actors who have trained within a theatre environment are ready to work when they have completed their training – they do not have to make the transition from school to the workplace – they are already in the workplace and they understand it.

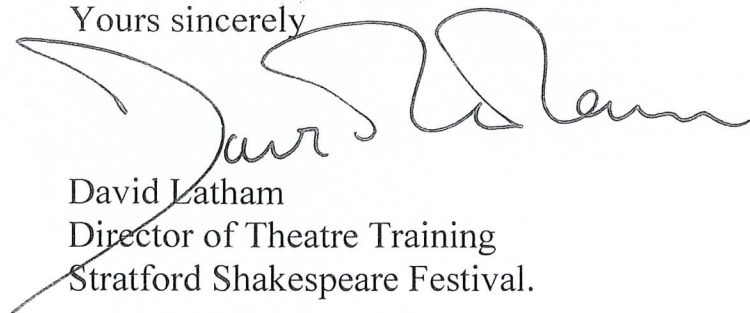
Not only does the Globe Theatre provide the training but it also provides the actors with the opportunity to work in a professional production. All the actors in the 2008 Globe Theatre Conservatory played major roles in the Globe theatre production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. They are not working in a 'student production', as in most theatre schools, they are working along side seasoned professionals. With the training they have received these actors are able to hold their own within this situation because they have developed the necessary skills required of the work. They are also mentored within this situation so the training continues.

Having been closely connected to the Conservatory since its inception I am totally aware of the commitment the directorship of the Globe Theatre has to this program. I am also aware of the high standard of the training and what has been achieved within such a short amount of time. I applaud the Globe Theatre.

The Artistic Director of the Globe Theatre has a strong pedagogical background and is committed not only to the theatre of today but also the theatre of the future and the training of artists for that theatre. I also feel there is a strong commitment to the development of young artists within the Saskatchewan community. The actors who are trained within this community will give back to this community and will spread the uniqueness of their theatre throughout Canada. Apart from this being one of the few training places within the theatre this is the only place where professional training is offered in Saskatchewan and probably the Prairies.

In my process of auditioning actors for my future productions I would always include actors who have been through the Globe Theatre Conservatory training.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Latham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "L".

David Latham
Director of Theatre Training
Stratford Shakespeare Festival.