



June 14, 2018

Re: LIA SARGENT- Recommendation

From: David Richard Thompson, President/Co-Founder WFPF-World Freerunning Parkour Federation, Co-founder/Executive Committee Member -USA Parkour (non-profit), Co-Founder/Secretary General IPF- International Parkour Federation (non-profit governing body)

To Whom It May Concern,

I first met Lia Sargent socially through a mutual friend about 18 years ago. I will tell you in advance that it will be hard for me to sum up those 18 years since then in one short letter! I know Lia as a gifted fearless artist on every level, a true professional in everything she does, a teacher and mentor to all, and a compassionate human being and friend. I have been acting and singing since I was a young boy and eventually made my way to Los Angeles to work as an actor and singer. Like Lia, I am also an artist on many levels, a teacher, a mentor, an entrepreneur, and now a businessman. Of course, when I met her I saw her as a kindred spirit. I am the President/Co-Founder of the world's three leading parkour organizations, and along with my colleagues, we are currently navigating the world of sports to bring parkour to the 2024 Olympics. I am also executive producer and co-creator of WFPF's World Parkour Championship Series a live competition and international television series. I've lived and worked the past 30 years in the arts and entertainment in Paris, New York, and now Los Angeles. I've seen it all from every angle! When all is said and done, Lia has been one of the most consistently impressive people I've had the pleasure to know and work with in any of those places in all those years.

I've seen Lia in the booth directing countless episodes of anime episodes for television. In the middle of directing, I've seen her hop out of the studio and jump in to play her own lead character in the series, or add a voice where one was missing, all the while skillfully directing herself yet being open to direction from the sound engineer in the booth. I've seen her perform in countless memorable top quality theatre productions around Los Angeles. I've seen her perform in musical cabaret acts. I've watched her reaction of surprise and wonderment when she learned she won the best supporting actress award for the film "Key of Eli" at the Monaco film festival. I've met her wide range of diverse students who she has also directed in countless theatre productions. Among those students, I've met an African immigrant, a Japanese exchange student, and a Texan ex-military cowboy, all of them taught by Lia and supported by her in their creative journey. We have also worked side by side in the casting process working to cast television projects in Los Angeles. Over the years, I've been invited by Lia on a regular basis to go attend this show or that show, this reading or that independent film, this friend who needs a supportive audience or that student that is

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performing in his first Hollywood play. Lia is always there to watch, support, study, and learn. She is tireless and ever focused, especially when it comes to the creative process. She is as honest and hard working as they come.

Whenever I am working on a new project I talk to Lia about it. She has worked with me and advised me on fundraising initiatives for my non-profit. When I'm working on one of my professional productions or projects she always gives me support and encouragement yet always gives just me one tiny little "note", one little perspective, that makes me see my own project in a new way. I almost always, without exception, take her suggestion and fold it into my project, and it always makes the project better. She thinks outside of the box and I consider her one of my most trusted and dependable advisors. I saw, and still have an indelible visual impression in my head, of a production Lia directed in 2006 called REVERBERATIONS. It started out as a movement workshop with her international "band of students" and I remember her telling me how talented they were. I remember her telling me how their work deserved to be seen. Next thing I know, she turned the workshop into a full-on stage production which they then presented in an extended run in a Los Angeles theatre. To date, it is one of the most memorable and unique productions I've seen in Los Angeles.

I take immense pride in giving my whole-hearted recommendation of Lia Sargent. Over the past 18 years I've worked for her, with her, and beside her. In recent years she has become a trusted colleague and advisor. Lia's lifetime of experience in all areas of the creative world make her an amazing addition to any project whether it be an educational institution or a theatre or film production. I recommend Lia without reservation to be part of any team. She is efficient, professional, organized, and a fantastic team leader. She is always generous with her collaboration and her knowledge. She brings that something extra to anything she does.

If you would like to discuss Lia's involvement further, please feel free to contact me at david.thompson@wfpf.com

Warm Regards,

David Richard Thompson
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WFPF- World Freerunning Parkour Federation
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