

# The BASIC Theatre

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Artistic Director  
Jared Hammond

Executive Director  
Paola Mobilia

February 19, 1997

Re: Lester Thomas Shane

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known and worked with Lester Shane for nearly 10 years, first as an actor under his direction and, for the past 6 years, as the Artistic Director of The Basic Theatre for which Lester is a resident director.

Throughout our years of association, I have always been impressed by Lester's thoroughness and commitment to his work. His direction is always purposeful and precise, although he is also very open to incorporating the suggestions of his collaborators. As an actor, I always felt comfortable presenting to him my point of view, and as a producer, I have repeatedly witnessed his remarkable facility in speaking to others in a language that is meaningful to the specific artist. The result is not only satisfying to those involved but also strengthens the realization of the production.

Lester's work for The Basic Theatre has ranged from original one-act farce to Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus, but perhaps the best example of his work for us thus far was Bertolt Brecht: In Dark Times, a collage of Brecht's poetry and lyrics juxtaposed against his testimony before the House Un-American Activities Committee. Together with the playwright, Lester crafted an exquisite portrait of Brecht's struggle to articulate his ideals in societies determined to undermine them. What made it such an exciting production was Lester's realization of a complex and moving story through the detailed exploration of so many distinct elements.

It exemplifies his work in general: his ability to attend to details while maintaining a clear focus on the overall arc of the production, and his professionalism combining the artistic effort with a realistic understanding of the practical side of producing a work of theatre. We have shared a professional and friendly collaboration that continues to be rewarding, and I am pleased to recommend Lester Shane to other artists and producers seeking an affiliation with a bright, resourceful and effective director.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (212) 735-7804.

Respectfully,

Mailing Address: Radio City Station Box 434, New York, NY 10101-0434