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Dear Selection Committee,

I write to recommend Stephanie Ann Foster and her project to you. Stephanie Ann is currently working on a very innovative project: *Tribulation Periwinkle: The Civil War Sketches of Louisa May Alcott; A Play for One Woman*. I cannot think of an artist/writer/educator/performer whom I could recommend more highly.

I first met Stephanie Ann at California Shakespeare Theatre, where we team-taught a group of 20 Shakespeare students. She is an exceptional educator; she knows exactly how to reach young audiences and to engage them in a dynamic, exciting way. I was so impressed by her teaching and the level of scholarship that went into her work that I invited her to collaborate with my on my book, *The Shakespeare Audition* (published last autumn by Hal Leonard Publishing Company).

Stephanie Ann proved herself to be an outstanding researcher. She combed through every (and I mean EVERY) Shakespeare play, compiling a breakdown of characters by type and age range. This kind of research had not been done so thoroughly before. She created something entirely new; a breakdown of every Shakespeare character ever written. Her contribution and outstanding scholarship I believe is largely responsible for the overall success of this book.

Stephanie Ann is also an outstanding performer. I invited her to participate as a performer for a podcast that I did with the Folger Shakespeare Library. She performed several soliloquies compellingly. She has a particular gift for period work, from Moliere to Wilde and everything in between. She also has experience gender-bending, which I believe her show will require.

I highly recommend Stephanie Ann as a collaborator. In all of my partnerships with her I have found her to be highly professional, reliable and delightful. She always shows great attention to detail, is a responsive and timely communicator, and always delivers over and above expectations.

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Stephanie Ann has the rare gift of making seemingly archaic information interesting and vivid for an audience. She can make ANYTHING interesting and compelling. I know her project will be a huge success. She knows how to research and how to source material with reverence. Her success is demonstrated by the fact that her work, *The Magician's Nephew* is touring Kodiak in January, 2017. She currently has twelve bookings of this show, including one performance that will be live-streamed to five rural schools. Her writing is exciting, with a marvelous sense of flow and accessibility. Having published previously with Stephanie Ann, I know that her work, when finished, will be highly desirable to publishers and a wider audience.

I cannot sing her praises highly enough and hope that you will see what a deserving candidate she is. Please contact me if I can provide any further information about her work.

Yours Sincerely,

Laura Wayth
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