

Dr. Zoë Svendsen

Lecturer in Drama and Performance

Artistic Director

METIS

www.metisarts.co.uk

19 November 2020

Dear Sir or Madam -

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to recommend Mona Grenne. I worked with Mona in late 2019 to create a video installation for the Oslo Architecture Triennale. To give some context, I am a theatre director and dramaturg, who also holds a lectureship in the Faculty of English at the University of Cambridge. I work occasionally as a dramaturg in the British theatre, with large classical theatres such as the Royal National Theatre, the Young Vic, and the Royal Shakespeare Company. I also create my own largescale directing projects, which focus on interactivity, and which have been performed at the Barbican Centre (Pit Theatre) and the Young Vic, as well as touring the UK. These also form part of my research portfolio in my university context. I therefore have substantial experience of working closely with a very high calibre of British actor.

Mona presents as extremely professional and highly capable. This first impression never wavered in the whole time we were working together, no matter the pressure. She is highly adept at listening to instructions and delivering exactly what is needed. It is clear that she is very well-versed in the needs of TV/film work. This makes Mona extremely easy to work with. What is unusual about Mona, in the context of the many actors I've worked with, is that alongside her precision, professionalism and ability to deliver efficiently, she is also extremely creative. I know she has made her own solo work, and that was partly the impetus to work with her on this project – because it didn't only require delivering to camera in a very specific brief, it required a whole host of other skills and creativity. The work was highly collaborative – we worked with upwards of 30 architects over 3 workshops and a number of public talks – and it required Mona to absorb a great deal of technical information about potential futures of Oslo and its environs. Then her role was to work with the other actors to transform these visions of a sustainable future into stories of characters living in this world. The work was effectively one of writing, in the sense of creating characters, situations, stories from scratch. Further to this, the requirement was that we would capture the act of imagining, so Mona was filmed then improvising from the store of stories that she had developed. Mona's contributions were a delight – full of imagination and delightful detail, which enabled a gorgeous range of images to arise in the imagination of the

listener. Mona is also funny, with a wry sense of humour that also is able to cut through and make a point.

Mona was also extremely patient with working in the two languages – in English in rehearsal so that I could understand what was going on, and in Norwegian to deliver the stories. She is so clear in her delivery and tone, that having worked with her in English, I could more or less follow roughly what she was saying in Norwegian. It was impressive – and showed as well the extent of her English language and translation skills.

It was a great pleasure to work with her in rehearsal, with her combination of precise professionalism and expansive creativity – and I was extremely pleased with the result. Indeed I am hoping I can find a way (in these mad times) to bring her into the continuation of the project in the UK, if international funding, and the post-pandemic environment, were to permit it.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Zie Srendsen". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered on the page.

07971789103
Zas21@cam.ac.uk



THE KINGSMEN SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

March 27, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to be asked to write a letter of recommendation for Mona Grenne. I first met Mona in Fall of 1999 when she transferred to California Lutheran University. In the subsequent years I got to know her as an excellent scholar and student, a talented theatre artist, an industrious and self-motivated worker and an exceptionally warm and caring human being.

As a transfer student from Norway, Mona made an immediate positive impression upon the faculty of California Lutheran University. She was a serious and focused student who was admitted to CLU's Scholastic Honor Society during her junior year. The Scholastic Honor Society is an extremely selective group that only selects students for membership from among the very best students at the University. I first taught Mona in an Acting Styles class. Although English was not her primary language and she struggled with English-based drama texts and stage diction, she worked as hard or harder than any student in the class. She tackled the demands of Greek, Shakespeare and Restoration drama in a determined and intelligent manner that resulted in performances that exceeded my expectations. In other Drama classes, she was equally as competent. In the Drama Capstone class, I asked to retain a class project promptbook as a model for future students.

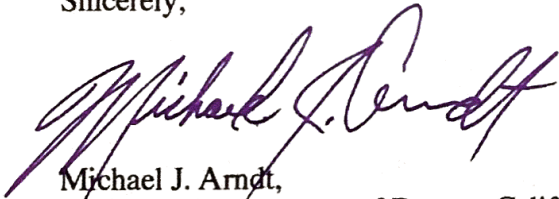
Mona acted in a number of plays while enrolled at CLU. In the fall of 2001, in the role of the Maid in Lorca's *Blood Wedding*, she received recognition for her performance by being selected by Region VIII of the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival to audition for the prestigious Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship at the regional festival. At CLU, Mona performed in comedies, dramas and musical theatre productions. In response to the quality of her acting ability, she was selected as an intern for the Kingsmen Shakespeare Company (a professional classical theatre company.) In addition to playing small roles for Kingsmen's Summer Outdoor Festival, Mona also performed in *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Tempest*, and *Macbeth* as part of Kingsmen's Winter Season. Even though she was cast in relatively small roles, Mona's professionalism and commitment to those roles was positively noted by the Kingsmen directors and administrators.

As a junior, Mona was selected by the Drama Department as a Department Assistant. In that role, she acted as a liaison between faculty and students. She also was given responsibility for scheduling other student workers, arranging special Drama programs, assisting in recruitment and

publicity, and assisting individual faculty members. In my twenty years of supervising department assistants, Mona ranks among the very best of Drama assistants. I also supervised Mona when she worked for the Kingsmen Shakespeare Festival. Mona was an administrative assistant who managed Festival phone lines and phone message responses. She also organized a ticket reservation process and contributed to the development of box office procedures. As is true with all my experience with her as a worker, she was outstanding in her diligence and work ethic. Mona also made significant creative contributions to the company's management process.

My fondest regard for Mona, however, is as a person. She is a young woman with an incredibly warm and witty personality. She connects with young and old alike. She is able to bridge cultures and interests. I entrusted her to babysit my young children and house sit my home when my family and I went on vacation. She has been an important part of my family's life over the past few years and I personally will miss her. I am often asked to write recommendations but I cannot think of a person who would receive a higher recommendation than that I give for Mona Grenne. I am confident that she will be an asset to any organization with whom she becomes involved.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Arndt,
Professor, Department of Drama, California Lutheran University
Artistic Director, Kingsmen Shakespeare Company
Telephone: 805-493-3416
E-mail:

arndt@calutheran.edu



California Lutheran University

60 West Olsen Road #3900
Thousand Oaks, California 91360-2700
805/493-3415

Drama Department

April 2, 2003

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Mona Grenne

FROM: Lolita K. Ball, *Costume Designer and Senior Lecturer in Drama*

Very rarely have I had the privilege and the pleasure of knowing someone as deserving as Mona Grenne of the highest possible recommendation. Our acquaintance began in 1999, when Mona was a student in my classes at California Lutheran University, and continued throughout her college years. Subsequently, we have kept in contact, in part because of our work with the Kingsmen Shakespeare Company. I have known Mona as a student, as an employee, and as a performer in a number of theatre productions, both academic and professional.

Mona has always had a serious and dedicated approach to both her studies and to her long-term career goals. She has a strong determination to learn and to improve, enhanced by the fact that she is (and always has been) genuinely enthusiastic about her chosen field, - theatre. Mona has consciously developed her talent and her performance skills by taking advantage of every opportunity available. She has a wonderfully strong and confident stage presence, coupled with personal charm, energy and a sprightly sense of humor. Her performances have always been characterized by careful and intelligent analysis and thorough preparation. In her last year at CLU, Mona received regional recognition for her acting work in Federico Lorca's *Blood Wedding*.

As an employee, for both the CLU Drama Department and the Kingsmen Shakespeare Company, Mona has always been exceptionally competent and dependable. She learns quickly, adapts easily to new methods and materials, works with care for craftsmanship and attention to detail. She accepts instruction well. She seeks and responds positively to constructive feedback. At the same time she can be resourceful and independent in solving problems. She paces her work wisely, maintains focus and completes tasks carefully and on time.

In conclusion, Mona's most delightful attribute is her congenial personality. Her maturity, emotional stability and her positive attitude enable her to interact productively with other people, - students, colleagues and employers. She inspires friendship, trust and respect. I sincerely feel that Mona has great potential in terms of talent, intellect, commitment and determination to succeed.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lolita K. Ball

Senior Lecturer and Costume Designer
California Lutheran University,
Drama Department
e-mail: ~~ball@clunet.edu~~
tel: 805- 493-3707
fax: 805-493-3013

Costume Design Coordinator
The Kingsmen Shakespeare Company

ball@calutheran.edu



California Lutheran University

60 West Olsen Road #3900
Thousand Oaks, California 91360-2700
805/493-3415

Drama Department

April 7, 2003

To Whom It May Concern,

This is a letter of recommendation for Mona Grenne. I have had the pleasure of working with Mona as an instructor and director over the past few years here at California Lutheran University.

Mona is a talented, dedicated, and very reliable individual. Whether in class or rehearsal, she is always prepared, and clearly follows through on her homework. Her work ethic is extremely strong and she always gives 100% to the task at hand.

Mona is very versatile as an actress. She won over the audience and gathered many laughs in an original musical comedy, *Invasion of the Baud iSnatchers*, that was produced here. She has affinity for drama and is very adept at handling the nuance demanded of such roles. Mona has also tried her hand at directing and has proven to be very capable in terms of communicating with actors and drawing out textured performances.

Mona was a Departmental Assistant, a position of honor, and proved herself a valuable asset to the Drama program. Mona is a truly kind and goodhearted individual who respects others. This transfers over to the stage where she is a very giving actress. In turn, she commands the respect and admiration of all those with whom she works.

I highly recommend Mona. She would be a valuable asset as an actress or in any work related situation. If you have any questions, please contact me at (805) 493-3863 or at kgardner@calutheran.edu

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth Gardner
Professor of Drama