



POLK COUNTY VETERANS' COUNCIL

**Box 3911
Lakeland, FL 33802
863-602-0921**

31 January 2019

**To Whom it May Concern
Re: TheatreWorks Florida**

It is my pleasure to provide this recommendation for the theatre arts program, *Vet Voices*, developed and hosted by TheatreWorks Florida headed by Scott Cook and Abel Gonzales.

For the past year, TheatreWorks Florida has worked with Veterans to involve them in multiple theatre dimensions—acting, writing, prop construction, etc. From a Veterans perspective, we believe such a program is beneficial to those combat veterans seeking to deal with emotional issues such as PTSD as a result of their combat experience.

We believe arts experiences including painting, music, sculpture, and the like are valuable in assisting with the emotional adjustment many veterans require. The efforts of Scott and Abel, contribute in a meaningful way to the overall arts experience.

I recommend TheatreWorks Florida be considered by any community to be included in a veteran support program.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Colonel USAF(Ret)
Chairman**



Brandon N. Kneeld
City Commissioner for the
City of Davenport

1 S. Allapaha Ave.
Davenport, FL 33837

BKneeld@MyDavenport.org

Polk County Public Schools &
The Polk County School Board
1915 S Floral Ave
Bartow, FL 33830

Dear PCPS Staff & School Board Members,

I am writing to you today on behalf of TheatreWorks Florida, and their long history of outstanding work in the City of Davenport and greater NE Polk County community. TheatreWorks Florida has established itself as the crown jewel of arts and culture in the City of Davenport. Their long list of shows have been of the highest production quality, offering exposure to the arts for a population with otherwise limited options. More importantly however, TheatreWorks Florida has been a valuable participant in our community with numerous service and outreach ventures. Since 2014, the TheatreCares program has actively sought to include individuals in art programs that may not otherwise have that opportunity. More recent, the VetVoices program has helped many veterans find an outlet for therapy through the arts and reconnect with the communities they are returning to. These are but a few examples of the impact TheatreWorks Florida has had on the Davenport community.

None of these continued achievements would have been possible without the help and partnership of Polk County Public Schools. Your generous donations of space and other resources at the old Davenport Elementary has provided TheatreWorks Florida and its programs a place and opportunity to grow. This collaboration has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated by myself and others in the community. As you know, the city has been partnering with PCPS to reopen Davenport Elementary, a project that the city and I are fully committed to. The unfortunate drawback to this project is the uncertainty that it places on the future of TheatreWorks Florida and their programming in this space.

Anything that PCPS Staff and the Board can do to continue to partner with and help ease the transition for TheatreWorks Florida would be warmly welcomed by the community. I would love for them to continue to be able to be active in our community and would be thrilled if PCPS can continue to partner with them in that capacity. Whatever the future holds however, please do keep the organization in your consideration as you plan for the future of Davenport Elementary, and provide them with regular communication and as much information as possible to maximize their time and ability to plan for that future. As always, I am deeply thankful for your partnership and continued support of our children and communities.

Sincerely,

Brandon N. Kneeld



CITY OF DAVENPORT

Gateway to the Ridge

January 12, 2018

Scott A. Cook, Artistic Producer
THEATREWORKS FLORIDA
8 East Cypress Street
Davenport, Florida 33837

Dear Mr. Cook:

Oscar Wilde is quoted as saying, "*The stage is not merely the meeting place of all the arts, but is also the return of art to life.*" The Davenport Campus of TheatreWorks Florida is bringing art, as well as new memories, to our wonderful town. My wife and I were delighted to be part of the audience during the first two plays of TheatreWorks' inaugural season in Davenport. Needless to say, having survived our teenage years through the 1950's and 1960's, we truly felt a connection with the actors on the stage. We are looking forward to your next play, "The Great American Trailer Park Musical."

The Davenport Campus of TheatreWorks Florida has become an integral part of our community. For the duration of the play, you have provided a sense of family between the actors on the stage, the theater staff, and the audience. You are also providing our students at Ridge Community High School and Haines City High School with the opportunity to broaden their horizons. They are learning that the theater is not only about the actor on the stage. It is also about directing, singing, dancing, music, set design, costumes, lighting, sound effects, and so on. The students who are involved with the Davenport Campus theater are also learning important life skills such as solving problems that might arise at the last moment.

Thank you for making Davenport the home of TheatreWorks Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "H. B. Robinson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor H. B. "Rob" Robinson

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MISSION:
***Cultivating an
environment
for the
arts to flourish
through
Advocacy,
Collaboration,
Economic
Development,
Education and
Promotion.***

June 21, 2017

Scott A. Cook
TheatreWorks Florida, Artistic Producer
8 East Cypress Street
Davenport, FL 33837

Dear Mr. Cook,

The Polk Arts Alliance is submitting this letter in support of the exciting professional, high quality productions that are being done by TheatreWorks Florida in our communities.

Your mission and all the great work you are doing engages audiences and creates programming and opportunities that positively impacts all of our citizens including students, the elderly, the disabled, underserved populations in central Florida. Your community outreach program TheatreCares, creates and reaches excellence in the arts for everyone.

As Polk County's only professional theater, your award winning TheatreWorks Florida is contributing to help establish the Davenport community as a premiere arts and culture center and with professional main stage plays and musicals that provide, preserve and promote the advancement of the art of live theatre.

TheatreWorks Florida is building a stronger community, improving the quality of life and helping in the revitalization of the downtown area.

We are very proud and fortunate to have such a level of artistic quality and expertise that contributes to the community's cultural enrichment and provides opportunities and experiences unique to our Central Florida region.

Sincerely,

Meri Mass

Meri Mass
Executive Director

The Polk Arts Alliance is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. All memberships and donations are tax deductible in accordance to the law.
One hundred percent of the revenue from the sale of the Florida State of the Arts license plate comes back to Polk County.
Select the Arts – Buy the Plate!

Polk County's Officially Designated Arts Agency

Cindy C. Rodriguez

863.698.8019

crodriguez@tampabay.rr.com

Jan. 16, 2018

Mr. Scott A. Cook
TheatreWorks Florida
Davenport FL

Dear Mr. Cook:

I wanted to take this opportunity to share some of my personal experiences and observations related to TheatreWorks Florida (TWF) and your impactful efforts to ensure a thriving arts & culture presence in Davenport and surrounding areas.

I have watched the company grow from its inception – seeing early performances at the Davenport location (School House Rocks) and, more recently, enjoying both Marvelous Wonderettes productions. Each time I travel from my home in Lakeland to take in a TWF production, I bring a friend and invest in the local economy by having dinner/beverages at one of the local restaurants in the City. We've visited the True Blue Winery, the Hotel Restaurant and more. The arts are a fantastic partner with local hospitality businesses and increase tourism and, more importantly tourism-related spends in the area – contributing in significant ways to the local economy/prosperity while also building "community."

As you know, an independent study recently showed that in Polk County overall, the arts contribute over \$46 million annually to the economy, creates/sustains jobs, supports other local businesses, provides educational opportunities for folks of all ages and enhances the quality of life for residents, students and tourists alike.

Every production I've seen has been delightful! As public affairs professional, I am honored to work daily amongst great community leaders. I am actively engaged in many civic activities, Polk Vision's efforts, several local chambers, the Polk Regional Water Cooperative, and the Florida Public Relations Association – having held executive level leadership positions in most of those named. I have actively participated in and supported Polk Education Foundation's fundraising efforts (local celebrity dancer in Stepping Out for Education) – currently serve on the board of the Polk Arts Alliance and on the Arts/Culture/Heritage sub-committee of Polk's Tourist Development Council. I am a passionate community leader and arts advocate.

Because of that involvement and passion, I am particularly pleased with the experience(s) you provide high schoolers from Ridge Community and Haines City High and the volunteer/engagement opportunities you provide for all demographics in Northeast Polk. Your organization epitomizes how the arts – especially the arts in education – benefits a local community well beyond the talent, curtain calls and applause experienced inside the venue itself. I offer my wholehearted support for continued partnership with Polk County Schools, the City of Davenport and the arts community. Keep up the great work!

With Warm Regards,

Cindy Rodriguez
Sr. Government Affairs Regional Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District

February 18, 2009

Mr. Scott A. Cook
Theatreworks Florida
8 East Cypress Street
Davenport, FL 33837

Scott:

Bravo! I want to once again thank you and your production of "Forever Plaid" for an incredible performance last Saturday night.

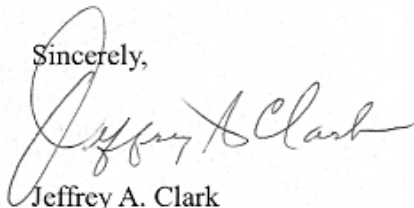
The production drew an audience of more than 500, and was a near sell-out – a first for the Bartow Performing Arts Series. I have received many comments on how much the community enjoyed the performance. This production was a homerun for the performing arts in Bartow.

Not only was I impressed by the talent, but the entire production. Working with you and your staff could not have been better – or easier! Theatreworks Florida is certainly a quality organization and I can't wait to work with you again.

Keep the Bartow Performing Arts Series in mind for our next season which will begin in December, 2009. I'm sure you will be hearing from me as we begin planning for next year. In addition, if there is anything I can do to assist you, please let me know.

Again, I can't thank you enough for this wonderful experience.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Clark
Executive Director
Bartow Area Chamber Foundation, Inc.
Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce



Greater Bartow Chamber
OF COMMERCE



CONSULATE
HEALTH CARE
of LAKELAND

December 17, 2008

Scott A. Cook
8 East Cypress Street
Davenport, Florida 33837

Dear Scott,

On behalf of our residents, THANK YOU for the outstanding production of "Plaid Tidings". What a remarkable and memorable event. Your team of actors, stage and sound crew were extremely professional and talented. Our dining room was transformed into a "mini-theater", which so enhanced the overall experience. Our residents were enthralled with the performance. It was exciting to see them so engaged, (laughing, clapping and sometimes singing along!). The music was particularly relevant as it brought back many fond holiday memories for them. They are still talking about "theater night" and, when we can do it again?.

I highly recommend and encourage members of the community to become involved with this program, either through booking a show or cash donation. It is rare to have entertainment of this caliber accessible to nursing home residents.

Again, please thank your wonderful team for helping to make our holiday season one of the best in recent memory.

Sincerely,

Susan Shoffstall

Executive Director



Theatre Winter Haven

Chain O' Lakes Civic Center
210 Cypress Gardens Blvd.
Winter Haven, FL 33880

P.O. Drawer 1230
Winter Haven, FL 33832

Theatre Office:
(863) 299-2672

Fax Number:
(863) 291-FAXX

Box Office:
(863) 294-SHOW

To Whom It (Should) Concern:

FOREVER PLAID/PLAID TIDINGS is a Holiday Blast!

TheatreWorks Florida provided us with a performance of energy, pizzazz and triumph - a holiday bonanza of fun and froth that earned a standing ovation.

Don't *consider* booking them. Just do it now.

These guys should have been on the Ed Sullivan Show.

For further smile and giggles regarding these guys, contact me - but you really shouldn't need to.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Norman Small".

**Norman Small
Producing Director
Theatre Winter Haven**

For the Community

website: www.theatrewinterhaven.com



Florida Presbyterian Homes

It's Our Community's Heart That Sets Us Apart.

Theatre Works Florida
8 East Cypress Street
Davenport, Fl 33837

Dear Scott,

It is with great pleasure that I send this letter of thanks to you and your company. The performance of "Plaid Tidings" was just the touch that our residents needed for the holiday season. The residents here at Florida Presbyterian Homes, Inc. are still bragging about the full theatrical performance that they received for the holidays. Here are a couple of quotes from residents:

"This was by far the best performance that I have ever seen. I have never had so much fun in all my life."-M. Fowler, nursing home resident, age 86

"The staff worked so hard to do all the set-ups. We felt like we were at a Broadway production all over again. Thanks so much for all the hard work and effort to produce such a show. I don't know what all was involved to bring them here, but please insist that they return again next year."-D. Pinkley, resident, age 86

"I laughed and sang songs that I haven't heard in a while. The stage was great and the performers were so real in all that they did. They brought back memories from times I had forgotten about."- G. Summers, nursing home resident, age 90

As you can see, TheatreWorks Florida worked hard and long to bring a top quality show to our community of seniors, ages 65-104. Residents were able to fill the chapel, with standing room only!

I am the Dean of Residents at Florida Presbyterian Homes. I am always struggling to find quality, affordable entertainment (especially for the holiday season) for my residents. They often enjoy music from the 20's, 30's, and 40's. They used to attend plays and concerts but are now unable to do so because of physical decline or changes in their health. TheatreWorks Florida made it possible for them to feel invigorated and alive again! There were smiles on all of the residents' faces for the entire performance.

I would like to thank the sponsors of this performance. Without you, none of this would ever be possible for our community. You will never know the vast effect that your kindness has meant on our community. I encourage all that helped to financially support this project to, first of all, give yourselves a round of applause for a job well done. Then I would encourage you to continue to promote this group as much as possible in the future. I would like for other senior communities to be able to benefit from this experience. It is one that they will never forget.

Lastly, I would like to thank Scott and his team for their friendship, professionalism, kindness, laughter and hard work to make our holiday season one that will be forever etched in our hearts.

Thank you Scott,



Etta Owens



Theatre Winter Haven March 3, 2006

Chain O'Lakes Civic Center
210 Cypress Gardens Blvd.
Winter Haven, FL 33880

To Whom It May Concern:

P.O. Drawer 1230
Winter Haven, FL 33882

If you're thinking about hiring him to direct, stop thinking about it and do it.

Theatre Office:
(863) 299-2672

I haven't had to think about it since 1995.

Fax Number:
(863) 291-FAXX

As the Producing Director of a large 3400 subscriber-based community theatre in Florida, Scott has returned yearly to direct shows from the deceptively simple ODD COUPLE to the exceedingly difficult CATS. Each has been done with as much care and concern as the other.

Box Office:
(863) 294-SHOW

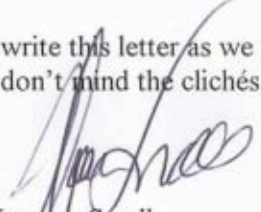
The man knows choreography. His background as a professional dancer and his research as a director combine to present an end product that is first class and first rate. Whether implementing original choreography or inventing his own he is a warehouse of creativity and recollection (for CATS he could duplicate everyone's movement, male and female!).

He comes prepared. In fact, if for preparation time he feels six months is needed before the show, so be it. The cast respects him for this and potential problems are averted as often as possible.

His vision may reach outside the galaxy and sometimes settle for the known. He will fight for what he wants, and if enough time, money and manpower be marshaled he will get it. Even if we can't always give it to him, at least he knows what his galaxy looks like.

He is demanding but cool headed. I've never heard him demean or ridicule. He seeks explanations, not excuses. He wants answers, not attitudes. His background in production gives him an edge in planning, sometimes getting us to the edge. The process can be daunting but the product can be extraordinary.

I write this letter as we perform to 22 sold out houses for our production of CATS, and I don't mind the clichés: it was more than "memories", it was damned near "purr-fect."



Norman Small
Producing Director
Theatre Winter Haven

A New Day Has Begun

website: www.theatrewinterhaven.com



July 20th, 2007

To Whom It May Concern,

The purpose of this letter is to provide an endorsement of the creative and business capabilities of Mr. Scott A. Cook.

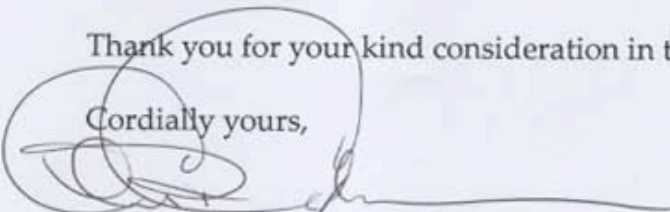
I have known Scott for more then 10 years and have had the pleasure of working with him in numerous capacities in the Central Florida entertainment community. Scott has worked for Cavalier Entertainment as both a performer and as a member of my production staff for the preparation of shows in our Asian markets.

I am pleased to point out the Scott's work has always been professional, efficient, and demonstrative of the level of expertise that Scott always demands of himself. It is not often that one has the ability to work with a skilled craftsman who can also establish and maintain a rapport with casts and technical personnel that is professional, creative and supportive of ensemble goals.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your kind consideration in this matter. I am,

Cordially yours,



Charles R. Jordan, President
Cavalier Entertainment Corporation

504 QUAIL VIEW COURT, DEBARY, FLORIDA 32713 (407) 719-3093

EMAIL CAVALIERWORLDWIDE@MAC.COM

WEB.MAC.COM/CAVALIERWORLDWIDE

日本におけるコンタクト先: 株式会社ライジング 代表取締役 浅石雅道 E-mail: asaiishi@fillin.co.jp Tel:03-3358-3817 Fax:03-5919-3826



November 10, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Scott A. Cook. I have had the honor of working with Scott for the past 4 years through the partnership with Valencia Community College and High Energy Entertainment. Scott has not only served as the Director and Creative Consultant for the two very highly successful on-going high school productions of *Whose Brain Is It Anyway?* (9th grade improvisational comedy) and *Transitions* (8th grade play that serves as a motivational "first look" at college), but he has also been deeply involved end-to-end with casting, planning and re-development of the productions as needed.

Each of the above mentioned productions requires that special someone that has the desire, energy, motivation, communication abilities, and creativity to make these shows the success that they have been for all these years. Scott Cook is just that person who never ceases to bring his expertise "to the table" that make these productions better and better with each passing year. As the Director, he genuinely listens to the ideas and suggestions of the educational professionals, reads the feedback from the surveys and is willing to try new things to always create effective product.

Scott was able to secure and cast an incredible group of actors that have remained dedicated to the productions at Valencia Community College and to working with Scott. He treats these wonderful actors with the utmost respect and as complete professionals. Their desire to work with him year after year is completely evident as they keep returning for encore performances. Much of the information that is required to be presented in these shows is filled with data based on facts, figures and educational jargon that the performers are required to present in such a way that they themselves are the actual experts. However, Scott is able to write and adapt the script in such a way so that the actors are able to understand the content with ease.

Scott Cook is the most organized, professional, dedicated and creative member of the Valencia Transition Planning Team and is such an incredibly valuable asset to the college, to the department and especially to all of the student's lives he has reached through his creativity and genius. Scott truly cares about student success and his energy and enthusiasm for life-long learning is evident in that of a true educator.

With Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Susan Newman Bonilla', is written over a horizontal line.

Susan Newman Bonilla

Coordinator, *Whose Brain Is It Anyway?* and *Transitions*
Transition Planning Department
Valencia Community College



Theatre Winter Haven

Chain O' Lakes Civic Center
210 Cypress Gardens Blvd.
Winter Haven, FL 33880

P.O. Drawer 1230
Winter Haven, FL 33832

Theatre Office:
(863) 299-2672

Fax Number:
(863) 291-FAXX

Box Office:
(863) 294-SHOW

July 23, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter as a recommendation for Scott A. Cook.

I have known and worked with Scott on numerous projects for the past nine years as both a Director and/or Choreographer. In every situation he has proven to be a talented and dedicated professional, who is always prepared and ready for any challenge that comes his way.

As a teacher and role model, Scott's positive attitude and boundless energy has provided inspiration to many of our younger performers here at Theatre Winter Haven. On many occasions I've had the pleasure of watching him work with his performers, allowing them just the right amount of creative freedom to produce confidence actors, and strong productions.

It is my opinion that ANY project Scott commits his time and talents to, will be better because of his involvement and I certainly recommend him to you.

If you have any further questions or would like to talk to me personally, please feel free to call me anytime.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Molly A. Judy".

Molly A. Judy
Education Director

For the Community

website: www.theatrewinterhaven.com

MRS. WILLIAM H. FULLER
P.O. BOX 1487
WINTER HAVEN, FL 33882-1487

To Whom It May Concern;

I would like to give my honest opinion of my friend, Scott Cook, as a director, entrepreneur and choreographer. His goals are the highest, and accomplished through diligence, patience, knowledge, just plain hard work and devotion to the cause.

As a member of the board of Theatre Winter Haven, it has been my privilege to observe Scott in costuming, set-designing, set-construction, and musical conferences, with a studied solution to each and every problem that arose. I have always been amazed at his ability and knowledge of the dramatic and musical productions. He was associated with eleven of our shows, with CATS being the feather in his (and our) cap.

I have often commented on how lucky TWH is to have someone of his caliber directing our shows!! I have also stated that he belongs on Broadway, and feared he would desert us: recently, he told me he does not ever want to leave this area, which greatly relieved me!!

His newest venture, THEATREWORKS FLORIDA, will allow this area the opportunity to realize what a treasure we have in Scott, besides enabling us to see TOP performances, from the best available actors.

I trust my words will help you form a good opinion of Scott !!

Sincerely,

Ernie Fuller

July 25, '07