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To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to write this reference letter in support of HeARTbeat Theatre.

I have been in education for 47 years and in that time have worked with a number of theatre groups in my capacity as a teacher, principal, superintendent and consultant. I do not hesitate to say that their performance ranks in the top 2 or 3 I have ever seen for students.

I know 2 of the individuals personally and have witnessed their professional growth as they moved through their careers and into developing this production company. I saw them perform their HeARTbeat production "The Secret of Castle Alphabet" at the Western Canada Students at Risk Conference in Calgary in March. This annual conference attracts classroom teachers, teacher aides, health care workers, social workers, police liaison officers, psychologists, principals and central office personnel. After attending that performance I do not hesitate to recommend them to any school or community group or any festival that features, loves and respects children's theatre. This is a company which anyone would be pleased to work with and introduce to their community.

The performance engages students and adults alike as it moves through the action. It presents a powerful and positive message that teaches as it entertains. The set, the costumes, the props, the dialogue all work together to make this a thoroughly entertaining production.

In my role as a consultant for the Students at Risk Conference I found the individuals who form HeARTbeat Theatre to be outgoing, personable, entertaining, positive and thoroughly professional in their approach to the audience prior to, during and after the performance.

I would not hesitate to take anyone from my 7 year old grandson to my 88 year old mother to the production given the opportunity because their message is appropriate to any age and society needs ore of this caliber of entertainment.

Sincerely



Ed Wittchen