



SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND FINE ARTS

September 15, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend to you Mr. Jonas Basom and his outstanding curriculum program *Drama Works! Teaching System*. I have been working with Jonas and requiring his curriculum as the primary textbook for my Creative Dramatics course since 2006 (including 19x teaching the course to 175+ students).

As Professor of Theatre at HPU, I have been teaching Creative Dramatics for 30 years. This class is designed for Education majors and usually consists of 8-15 pre-service elementary teachers and theatre majors. For many years it was a required course for elementary education majors, but, in recent years, became an elective option. For many years I used McCaslin's traditional textbook *Creative Dramatics*. It was a good reference, but not quite what I was looking for, yet there seemed to be nothing else to use. Then, in 2005, at the Texas Educational Theatre Association (TETA) conference, I met Jonas and was introduced to his *Drama Game File* CD-ROM. I began using his curriculum in addition to McCaslin's book and found myself using it more and more and McCaslin less and less. I soon dropped the McCaslin book and started requiring only the *Drama Game File*.

I have been delighted and so impressed with how Jonas has continued to revise, expand, and improve his curriculum system over the years. When he added the Companion Notebook in 2008, I began to require the CD/Book combo for my class. In 2015, he completely redid the entire program, renaming it *Drama Works! Teaching System*. It was reviewed by the Texas Board of Education and approved for grades K-12 (it is the only approved option for K-8), which led to it being adopted as the new theatre arts textbook in districts all over the state. Jonas has gained a stellar reputation as a consultant teacher trainer. As a past President of TETA, I know how much members value his annual contributions to our conference, both as a workshop presenter and exhibitor. Ever since 2015, I have required my students to get the *Drama Works! Digital/Print Package*, which includes a 1yr subscription to DW Online and the Companion Book of Lesson Plans.

*Drama Works!* is an ideal textbook for college courses in creative drama, arts integration, or theatre education. It is a comprehensive blend of pedagogy, research, and practical resources/features that work! DW Online is so easy to use, with cross-indexing by skills, subjects, multiple intelligences, ages, etc. The lesson plans are easy to follow yet detailed and comprehensive; the activities themselves are both fun and educational, including thousands of integration ideas across the curriculum. There are dynamic posters to project/print, and a complete classroom management system that maximizes focus and creativity. Best of all, the website includes a detailed alignment with our state K-12 theatre standards (TEKS). As for the book, I love the way my students can easily find the perfect games for their teaching unit or topic, and we can all be on the same page at the same time. Plus, I know that they will use the book in their classroom for years to come. Many of my graduates tell me that they use it all the time, even those in their student teaching semester. My students love to incorporate the DW Creativity Cards in teaching games to the class. They provide a great variety of acting choices, are color-coded for ease of use, and enhance English language development. The DW Vocabulary Cards include standards-based theatre terms with definitions and examples which is extraordinarily useful.

Perhaps the best thing about the whole system is Jonas himself. He provides personal attention and invaluable extra benefits to any professor that requires *Drama Works!*, including free subscription renewal to DW Online, course planning discussions, and assignments he has created as a professor that I can use or adapt. I so appreciate his generous discount for students that he provides with a coupon code. *Drama Works!* is more practical, relevant, and applicable to the modern classroom than McCaslin, but still costs less. His customer service has been stellar; he has always been available to help me and my students, resolving any issues quickly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Jo Humfeld".

Nancy Jo Humfeld, Ph.D.

Professor Emerita, former Head of Dept. of Communication and Theatre