



SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND FINE ARTS

March 22, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

As Professor of Theatre at Howard Payne University for 24 years, it has been my pleasure in that time to teach the Creative Dramatics class for at least 16 of those years. The Creative Dramatics class is designed for Education majors (all pre-service elementary teachers and some theatre majors) to, as I tell them, help them think outside the worksheet. I want the future teachers to be very interactive with their students and to teach in creative ways that will help the students enjoy the learning more, learn the information better, and retain more of it.

For many years I used a traditional Creative Dramatics book (McCaslin). It was good, but I found that I was doing more things outside the book rather than having them read the chapters for discussion. It was a good reference, but not what I was looking for, yet there seemed to be nothing else to use. In 2005 at the Texas Educational Theatre Association convention I met Jonas Basom and was introduced to his Drama Game File. I visited with Jonas about the ways that I could integrate that into my class. I began using the DGF CD in addition to my textbook the next semester and found myself using the textbook less and less, and the DGF more and more. After two semesters of requiring the textbook, I went to the DGF entirely. I saw no sense in requiring a costly textbook that the students wouldn't use after the class was completed. I know that they will use the Drama Game File 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. The DGF is so easy to use, with cross-indexing by skills, subjects, multiple intelligences, ages, etc., and the games themselves are both fun and educational.

When Jonas created the book to go along with the CD I was thrilled. This way the students can easily thumb through and find the game that fits the needs of their teaching unit. I like it because it is easy for me to show to my classes and we can all be on the same page at the same time. The special discount for both helps the students be able to afford both. The Character Cards Box Set came next, and is so wonderful! My students love to incorporate them in teaching their games to the class. They help the students with ideas for creative inspiration during the games as well as being color coded for ease in use. There is also a section of standards-based theatre terms with definitions which is extraordinarily useful.

Jonas has categorized all the games into the specific subject areas with which they can be used, and that was great, but when he actually tied them to the Texas theatre arts standards (TEKS) with a free supplement online, that was incredible! I couldn't wait to get back and show my students where that was on the website. It has been a huge help to them and will be in the future as well.

Perhaps the best thing about the whole system is Jonas himself. He has always been available for help and service, and is not only available to the professors, but to any user. This is a huge selling point for me and a blessing for my students. If I can be of any help to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. I'm a believer in the DGF and think it is an amazing tool and hope others will find it to be as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Jo Humfeld".

Nancy Jo Humfeld, Ph.D.
Head, Dept. of Communication and Theatre