

Robert Neil
President of Greater Hartford YMCA
160 Jewell St.
Hartford, CT
06106

Dear Mr. Neil,

There have been very few times I've felt the need or, even, the want to write a letter to an employer about an employee. As the parent of a very troubled child, I've only needed to write letters of complaint, but now I can write a letter of thanks.

This past winter there was a article in the Hartford Courant about an acting class, the teacher was Michael Lamb. As I read this article I thought he sounded prefect for my daughter, but the paper said his classes were full and I was sure he was too good to be true. Five months later and into our third class, I know every word was true.

My child has been unable to handle any school setting, even with one on one, school has given her a very low self esteem and made her feel she was a failure. Michael has helped her to be proud of herself, he's made her feel she is able to do things like other children and after each class she can't wait until the next class.

Michael has not only helped my child in these classes, but taken a group of very active, sometimes out-spoken, children and has taught them to work together and even respect each other, their opinions, and their feelings.

To watch Michael work with a group of children is amazing, he looks for the good in each child, finds it, and works with it. You are so lucky to have such a wonderful person to represent the YMCA and to teach our young children respect, commitment and also just how to have fun.

I hope you continue these wonderful programs and keep adding to the Creative Arts Program. Also, I hope Michael will stay to help many more children, for it only takes one person to make a change in an other's life, Michael is one of those rare people.

Sincerely,
Jean Harden

May 16, 1998

135 Winding Lane
Avon, CT 06001

To: Mr. Bob Neil, Mrs. Heather Faye, Mr. Brian Liss
From: Mike and Betsey Rollins
Subject: Pippin directed by Michael Lamb
Date: May 15, 1998

Dear Mr. Neil, Mrs. Faye, and Mr. Liss,

Last weekend our daughter Suzanne (8 years old) had the opportunity to perform in the musical comedy Pippin, which was produced and directed by Michael Lamb. We are writing the three of you to express our appreciation for Mr. Lamb's expertise and the way in which he interacted with the children in the musical. On several occasions we took the time to observe portions of rehearsals. Mr. Lamb was professional, fun, enthusiastic, and knew how to give the right advice to improve a scene or motivate a child. We were very impressed and pleased with our daughter's experience.

The final product, the three performances of Pippin, were great – the voices on several of the children were outstanding. More importantly, the process of getting to the final production, was accomplished effectively. On several occasions we called Mr. Lamb to ask if Suzanne could adjust her rehearsal schedule to accommodate her and our needs. Mr. Lamb was demanding but also appropriately flexible in his responses to our requests. He was also organized and "professional" in all of the interactions we observed. Good motivators, teachers and leaders strike the right balance between challenge and fun. Mr. Lamb knew when to push, when to teach, when to listen, and when to laugh.

We hope the Farmington Valley YMCA will offer programs like Pippin in the future. We also recommend that you continue to work with Mr. Lamb; he was just the right person for producing and directing this show. We appreciate the YMCA's commitment to community programs, and we look forward to future performances like Pippin.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Rollins

Michael and Betsey Rollins

Michael - A copy for your records.

*Thanks - what a terrific experience! Suzanne
hung in there and had a very positive and
interesting (she learned a lot) experience -*

Thank you!

Michael and Betsey Rollins

May 11, 1998

Mr. Michael Lamb
YMCA-Farmington Valley Branch
730 Hopmeadow
Simsbury, CT. 06070


Dear Michael:

How did you know? That was the question I asked myself countless times Sunday. How did you know Andrew could do that kind of performance? Then I realized it was your years of training, experience and instinct. Your ability to draw it out of Andrew brought him to a new level that has affected him deeply.

The first time through is always difficult. But this weekend was extremely successful. Your ability to solve each problem only made the production more successful because you stuck with it. The children learned from your example. Look what you accomplished. I hope you are pleased. We are. Your theater arts program most definitely meets the goals of the YMCA: building strong kids, strong families and strong communities together. The children working together for a delightful program, the parents contributing countless hours in the background and the community's enjoyment of a wonderful show were the results of your commitment. If the Y ever wants an example of the kind of strength theater arts training offers children, Andrew is the perfect example: shy and unsure in the beginning, confident and responsible at the end and a great deal of growth in between.

Thank you for your trust in Andrew, for your expectations and direction that made Andrew reach and ultimately succeed.

Sincerely,


Vic and Ann Emerson



**Gary M. Blau, Ph.D.
Gwenn M. Blau, M.S.
30 Skyview Drive
Glastonbury, CT 06033
(860) 659-2376**

April 18, 2003

Michael Lamb
50 Chapman Place
Studio 213
East Hartford, CT 06108

Dear Michael,

We are writing to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for all you have done to help Andrew. So much of Andrew's success can be directly attributed to you and the Performing Arts Academy. Your voice and acting instruction, coaching and guidance have been instrumental in developing Andrew's talent. In addition, your kind, positive style has nurtured Andrew's self esteem, and your talent has served as an inspiration and motivation.

Very recently, Andrew was offered a part in the National Tour of The Will Rogers Follies starring Larry Gatlin. He has also performed twice with the Goodspeed Opera House. In each instance, prior to his auditions, you helped him prepare, and there is no doubt that your efforts contributed to Andrew being offered these roles.

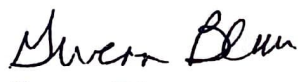
Andrew has dreamed for years that he would be a professional actor, especially in musical theater. To see his dreams come true as a thirteen year old is remarkable. His resume already includes professional theater, commercials, and voice-overs! Watching him grow and develop as a person and as a performer has been exciting.

Given the importance of your impact on Andrew's life, we hope that you join with us in feeling a sense of pride and satisfaction. You have certainly made a lasting impression, and you have been such an important influence. We feel very fortunate that you have been Andrew's teacher and mentor.

Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do on behalf of Andrew. We are grateful and appreciative.

Very truly yours,


Gary Blau


Gwenn Blau

Mr. Michael Lamb
50 Chapman Place
Studio 213
East Hartford, CT 06108

Dear Michael,

I would like to thank you for your work with my 12 year old daughter this past Spring.

Bridget attended your Musical Theatre workshop at the YMCA. Although she has been in musical productions before, her experience had been limited to Chorus roles. At her first class, she told you that she was planning to audition for the show "Annie" in a few weeks and was hoping to improve her auditioning skills and perhaps get a part in the show.

Bridget enjoyed the first class and was immediately drawn to your enthusiasm. She was happy that this was the type of respectful atmosphere where she could improve her skills without feeling pressured or embarrassed in front of others. She profited by listening to the pointers that you gave to the other children in the class and the time you set aside for individual attention. In the course of a few short weeks, you provided her with a tape of the piano music so she could practice at home and encouraged her with very positive comments and motivating critiques. I was impressed by your ability to keep your suggestions at a level that was not overwhelming- as a matter of fact, you actually wrote out the recommendations which made it easier for her to incorporate into her practice.

When it came time to audition, she had elevated confidence because of the number of times she had practiced in front of you. She underwent a lengthy audition period where she was mindful of the techniques that you had offered. To the surprise of many, she was rewarded with the part of "Annie". In the end, it was a delightful performance, the experience of which she will carry with her the rest of her life.

I thought it was very nice of you to attend the show especially since I know how busy you were at the time. Bridget was very happy that you were there. I have appreciated your warm manner and advice and wish you the best of luck in your many professional endeavors. It is my hope that many families in this community will take advantage of your instruction and give their children an opportunity to build their confidence through the performing arts.

Thank you again.

Patrice Freeman

Patrice Freeman