

Sharon E T Berry  
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RE: Warren Friedman

To Whom it may concern:

I would like to offer my recommendation of Warren Friedman as a director for any production you might be considering. As a member of Stage III Community Theater Board of Directors, I have been on the selection committee, interviewed and worked with several guest directors in the past. Just recently, I had the distinct honor of working as Warren's Stage Manager/AD on "Rabbit Hole".

Although Warren's experience is primarily in musical theater, his direction of this Pulitzer prize winning drama was amazing. I have never seen such professional use of space as his blocking in our intimate theater-in-the-round. Those of us involved in the production were equally impressed with his character development. He called on each actor to develop and incorporate his character's background after the first read through. Warren's techniques showed patience and professionalism at all times.

The results spoke for themselves. The actors were immediately responsive to his remarks and direction. The standing ovations they received validated all of their hard work and his. The remarks from our audience members, many long time patrons of our thirty-one year old theater group, spoke volumes. One woman said she had not missed a performance in ten years and "this was the best she had ever seen". Many said the performance was "powerful", "a big step up", while others said the play was the best they had seen in our community in any venue (which includes a well known and highly supported college drama department).

As Warren reminded the performers and crew many times, "Rabbit Hole" is a beautiful, well-written play that in his words "couldn't help but be a success". And his cast had a chemistry that can't be manufactured. All true. However, it was Warren Friedman who saw it through in the auditions, who saw it in the stage design, blocking and direction.

During his six week stay as guest director, he also put on two four hour workshops. The first was "Stage Management"; the second was "How to Audition for a Musical". Both were well done and well received. Each offered printed materials and Q & A opportunities. "How to Audition" included learning a complete Broadway dance routine from beginning to end.

In closing, I feel I can speak for the entire board of directors and the Stage III community as a whole, in saying Warren Friedman gets our unhesitating endorsement. I highly recommend this talented professional.

Best regards,

Sharon E T Berry  
Board Member  
Stage III Community Theatre

