



Reference Letter  
**FOR COLLEEN KELLY**  
20 May 2012

Dear Search Committee,

Colleen Kelly has worked full-time at the American Shakespeare Center in a variety of capacities since 2005 and even before then as a fight director. The bulk of Colleen's ASC work has been developing and leading movement, dance, and fight choreography with professional actors in productions at the Blackfriars Playhouse, the world's only re-creation of Shakespeare's indoor theatre.

Most recently, Colleen developed, organized, and led two years of the ASC Training Program – a three-week summer workshop for actors and directors to explore early modern plays using the staging conditions for which the plays were written. Colleen collaborated with ASC artists and orchestrated the work of multiple master teachers to create a teaching and coaching environment in a professional setting.

Over the course of her tenure with the ASC, Colleen:

- performed as an actor in our Actors' Renaissance Season (*which is five plays in rotating repertory mounted very quickly during an intense three-month rehearsal/performance chunk, self-directed by the actors*);
- directed two shows that toured the country and played in residence at the Blackfriars;
- oversaw our staged reading series, which included her directing several of them with professional actors and graduate students;
- represented the ASC at professional and educational conferences;
- supervised internships connected to our Artistic Department;
- directed the fights/dance/movement for dozens of shows.

Colleen has done remarkable work directing movement/dance/stage combat in ways that make actors at a variety of skill levels look good together. She manages to teach and reach each actor where he/she lives and take them all to new levels. Her vast experience straddling the worlds of professional training and professional performance is evident in every show and every class she touches.

Colleen Kelly is an amazing artist, teacher, and administrator. Her bag of tricks is full of multiple skills, disciplines, and immense creativity that make her a one-of-a-kind find. I think very highly of Colleen and I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Jim Warren  
Artistic Director  
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