

05 -10- 2001



Queen Mary, University of London
Mile End Road, London E1 4NS
Telephone 020 7882 3356
Facsimile 020 7882 3357

School of English and Drama

September 20, 2001

REFERENCE FOR Dmitri Tolonen

I am writing to recommend Dmitry Tolonen for financial support for his post graduate studies.

Dmitry was a student at Queen Mary, University of London for the last three years. In those three years I have known him to be a serious student, a committed practitioner and an innovative artist.

In December 2000, Dmitri completed my course-Contemporary Performance Composition. This course emphasises the development of the independent performance artist and focuses on writing and performance techniques. It also encourages team work in the areas of direction, production and critique. Creativity, originality, professionalism are essential to this process. Dmitry excelled in all these areas. He created several pieces and brought them to performance with a strong commitment and attention to detail. He gave equal focus to creative elements and production needs in his own work as well as to that of his classmates. I was not only impressed with his innovative directorial vision but his critical analysis and the ability to draw upon his identity as an Irish-Finnish practitioner and thinker.

Dmitry is a dedicated student but his commitment is not limited to the classroom. He participated in a foreign language theatre production during each of his three years at Queen Mary and initiated several productions sponsored by student companies. He is sensitive, courteous and well liked by his peers.

Dmitry is a talented writer and director and a dedicated independent artist. He has a unique theatrical vision and has the potential to become an international director who would promote a contemporary multicultural image of Finland and Finnish identities. In order to encourage and further this vision in theatre, performance, and writing, I urge you to provide support for his continuing studies.

With Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lois Weaver".

Lois Weaver
Senior Lecturer
School of English and Drama

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27.9.01

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Finnish Arts Council
Pl 293 Manneesikatu 7
00171 Helsinki
Finland

20 September 2001

Dear Sir/Ms,

Dmitry Tolonen joined Queen Mary in 1997 as an undergraduate Russian and Drama student. Despite the fact that English is not his first language, his early essays displayed a compact and fluid style. Dmitry has consistently produced work of strong 2i standard, and at times, as with my own 'Latino Theatre in the USA' course, his assignments have been first class. He obtained a good 2i degree result.

Dmitry proved to be a measured conscientious student who always thinks carefully about his work. During his time at Queen Mary Dmitry proved a reliable team player with a strong visual style. This produced distinctive work in courses such as 'The Interaction of Scenography, Lighting and Sound' and 'Performance Composition'. The extracurricular work he undertook at the internationally recognised Gate theatre in London also stood him in good stead and his practical work became refreshingly ambitious and intelligent.

Dmitry has a sophisticated mind and demonstrated himself able to engage with difficult critical material, framing difficult concepts in clear, concise language. His degree course was marked by the choice of a varied range of options and a refreshing commitment to both the Russian and Drama components of the course. Increasingly Dmitry also attended a range of extra courses in psychoanalysis and cinema in order to broaden his critical and cinematic vocabularies. While he did not finally secure a first class degree, I have no doubt that he has a first class mind and feel that he is well suited to the postgraduate course that he has chosen at Rose Bruford College.

I found Dmitry to be a punctual, conscientious and thoughtful student. He possesses a real passion for directing and recognises the need to combine the pragmatics of working in the demands of a particular space with his bold creative vision. During his time at Queen Mary, he has displayed the

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kind of qualities which will ensure an ability to adapt well to the demands of postgraduate study. At Queen Mary he was able both in his critical and cultural work to provide a wonderfully multicultural image of Finland and Finnish identities. I would see investment on your part in his postgraduate work as investment in a cultural ambassador.

Dmitry has always been a popular student, well liked and respected by his fellow students. He thinks through difficult problems with a great sense of clarity and resourcefulness. I have no doubt that he will excel at the course he has chosen and hope that your resources will enable you to assist him in this matter.

I have no hesitation in recommending him to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Maria Delgado', followed by a long horizontal flourish line extending to the right.

Maria Delgado B.A., M.A., Ph.D, FRSA

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