

THE YORK SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

February 13, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I've recently had the pleasure of collaborating with Jeff Topf on a rotating repertory of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* and Marlowe's *The Jew of Malta*.

Jeff is an incredibly versatile actor and his contributions were vital in rehearsal and performance. Charged with playing several different characters in both productions, Jeff brought clarity, humor and specificity to everything he touched. His energy and enthusiasm, no matter how arduous the challenges of rotating repertory, infused the stories and his fellow actors with meaning and drive.

He is the type of actor that everyone in the theater seeks out – leaving his personal baggage at the door and lending his consummate professionalism to the work, day after day.

Jeff met every challenge, not the least of which was playing different characters in back-to-back scenes. with spectacular distinction; Jeff dives into the characters, creating three-dimensional and complicated people in an eminently watchable manner. He understands his job in every scene and was a great support to cast and crew alike.

The opportunity to work with actors like Jeff makes me proud to work in the classical theatre and I highly recommend him to anyone seeking to bring these plays to life.

Seth Duerr
Artistic Director

