

Gabriel Newman

621 Black Rock Rd.

Vernon, BC

V1B 3H8

(250) 503-3188

gabrielnewman@shaw.ca

September 9, 2013

Re: Denise Kenney

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to offer a letter of recommendation for Denise Kenney. As I pursued my Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of British Columbia Okanagan from the fall of 2009 until the summer of 2012 I had the privilege of working with Ms. Kenney in a number of capacities. She was a member of my supervisory committee, my professor for two separate courses, my supervisor for a number of teaching and research assistant positions, as well as my director for the performance piece, *The House at the End of the Road*.

Through these many and varied experiences I knew that I could count on Ms. Kenney to be organized, passionate and focused in class and out. She set a high standard for her students by having that same standard for herself. Despite this level of organization she was eager to accommodate and encourage new ideas. When my thesis project started to morph into a form that was quite unusual and completely untested she was one of my biggest cheerleaders. However, despite this encouragement she was also determined to ensure that my practice, theories and motivation were grounded. She helped me solidify my project into a form of which I am very proud.

From when I started as a teaching assistant until I finished the program I found Ms. Kenney to always be available for discussions and guidance about best teaching practices. I found her advice incredibly helpful and empowering. Through her encouragement I have pursued teaching and am now teaching at Thompson Rivers University.

If I could be so bold as to sum up Ms. Kenney with one word it would be integrity. She was not my easiest teacher, supervisor or director. She insisted on high quality work and she led by example. I am proud of the work I was pushed to do and am grateful that such a high standard was set.

Yours truly,

Gabriel Newman