

August 28, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of John Manzelli's application for promotion to the rank of Full Professor.

I have had the pleasure of working with John Manzelli as an Associate Professor of Theatre since 2008. His dedication to Barry, the Department of Fine Arts and the Theatre Program is to be commended. He is an outstanding faculty member and colleague, a true visionary with a strong work ethic and exceptional accomplishments in his field as is evidenced in his application packet.

During his time at Barry, John has been responsible for many dramatic improvements to the theatre program. His early recruiting and teaching efforts paid off with a tremendous growth of highly motivated majors who benefited from his vision and commitment to academic excellence and his true love of theatre. Under his recommendations and guidance, many positive changes have taken place in our theatre program dealing with advising, course content and rotation. John has been instrumental in revising the theatre curriculum, and those changes have been tremendously beneficial to both the department and to the students.

Last year John was granted a sabbatical where he did a three-month residency at The University of Namibia Drama program. During his time there, he directed a play that addressed issues of social change. He brought his experiences back to Barry and created a new special topics course called TH 300 S/T: Theatre of Southern Africa. This course reflects the values of Barry's core commitments of social justice and inclusive community and will be offered this coming Spring 2019. John's commitment to education is unsurpassed.

As an academic advisor, John Manzelli is also highly effective. His caring, concern and connections with the South Florida professional theatre scene have had a great and positive influence on his students. John's advising does not end at the boundaries of the university. Through his vast connections in the theatre community John has brought artists of international acclaim to perform and work together with the Barry theatre students. Just last year he organized a workshop with the actors of the musical "The Body Guard" who came to speak to our performing arts majors. John has organized and presented play readings, professional theatre talkbacks with students after performances, and wonderful productions that benefited both our students and the local community.

John Manzelli has also been active in our university life. Even with his own schedule as a teacher, professional actor and director he continues to serve on committees and was

instrumental in forming partnerships with outside arts organizations, such as the Naked Stage, Alliance Theatre and City Theatre-Miami; activities that reflect positively on our university.

As a professional, John Manzelli has continued to add to the prestige of our institution. He recently won the Best Lead Actor award at the International Web Series Festival in Utah for his acting role in "Son of a..." which he also directed. This web series has been included and won many awards nationally and internationally. John has also had many roles in television series including *Graceland* and *Burn Notice*. He had a recurring role on the STARZ network's series *Magic City* and is a Carbonell award winning Lighting Designer. For over six years, he was the Producing Artistic Director of City Theatre-Miami and the recipient of the prestigious Silver Palm Award for the creation of the 24 Hour Theatre Project.

John's success in his professional life has not stopped him from generously sharing his talents with our Barry community and the community at large. He works countless hours with his students to instill a love of theatre in them and ensure their eventual success in the field.

As a department chair, I will be forever grateful to John for his dedication to his students, and his efforts in bringing our theatre program back to life. Barry University is fortunate to have him as a faculty member. It is with great pleasure that I may attest to John Manzelli's outstanding teaching, advising, scholarship and service. John has taken on all his tasks with commitment and the highest of integrity and is completely deserving of the promotion to the rank of Full Professor. If you should need further assistance from me, please do not hesitate to call, (305) 899-3421 or e-mail at slizama@barry.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Silvia Lizama", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Silvia Lizama
Chair, Department of Fine Arts
Barry University