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**FERNDALE
REPERTORY
THEATRE**

Feb. 5, 2015

It is my pleasure to write about the very talented theater artist Patrick Spike.

Ferndale Repertory Theatre, a small community theater in rural Humboldt County, was delighted to engage Mr. Spike to direct our recent production of *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*. His thorough preparation, clear communication, and boundless creativity made him a joy to work with.

Our process began with video conferences. He inspired the production team with his insight and research. Even at a distance (he is based in Portland, Oregon) he was able to connect with designers in a meaningful manner, giving them ample room for their own creativity and providing direction and guidance as the production developed. Once he was here and rehearsals began, his work with actors was kind, supportive, and instructive. His understanding of the play, the characters, and how to create detailed characters allowed the actors to build nuanced performances. His blocking used the scenic design to its fullest potential, and his knowledge of dance styles was a great asset to the production.

Mr. Spike was in no way deterred by our inexperienced, volunteer crew. He patiently taught the stage manager how to execute her job, worked closely with a new sound designer and board operator, and encouraged all members of the team to excel.

Patrick Spike is a theater artist with knowledge and background relating to all aspects of running a successful theater company. Mr. Spike's understanding of promotion, audience development and small not for profit administration were all of benefit to Ferndale Repertory Theatre. He was able to work within the confines of our situation to create a production which was acclaimed by audience and critics alike. I was particularly grateful for his flexibility and generosity.

It is a wonderful thing for a person in my position to know that they have a strong director leading a production team. Having Patrick Spike was a great boon for us, and we are looking forward to working with him again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leira V. Satlof".

Leira V. Satlof
Artistic Producing Director
Ferndale Repertory Theater