

TEACHER'S NAME: **Ms. Julie Jordan**, Glen Este High School
Student Name: Paula Gerhardt

MS. JULIE JORDAN
Glen Este High School
Paula Gerhardt

At my school, theater is very much alive. It's kept alive by our amazing drama director and teacher, Ms. Jordan. The journey of theater I've had has been quite a ride, but a few years ago, she did things for me that have changed my life.

We had a two week period right before spring break called "intercession." During this time, we got to take a special "class" all day for those two weeks. I signed up for a class called "Performing Arts Venues."

We toured different venues like Music Hall, The Aronoff Center, and lots of others. Ms. Jordan, naturally, was one of the teachers who taught it. One day, she told us we would be going to "The Showboat Majestic" and "The Covedale Center of the Performing Arts."

She informed us of her friendship with the artistic director Tim Perrino. When we were at "The Covedale Center of the Performing Arts," Tim told us about a program called "Cincinnati Young Peoples Theater (CYPT)." After the tour, Ms. Jordan came to me and encouraged me to talk to Tim about CYPT. After getting some more information about it, I auditioned, and made it into the cast of Anything Goes.

CYPT changed my life. I made an un-countable number of friendships that will last me a lifetime. CYPT gave me such a professional theater experience, and opened doors to more theater opportunities, including shows, leadership opportunities, and even job opportunities. It made me aware of more high school theater productions around the area, which has become my favorite pastime.

All of this happened because of Ms. Jordan. She has made me the actress, and person I am today. She has been the biggest influence in my life, and I can't even imagine where I would be now if she wasn't in my life.

Last year, our school performed The Wizard of Oz, and I played The Wicked Witch. I was scared and thought I couldn't do it. She helped me, encouraged me, and even came up on stage with me to show me what to do. I couldn't ask for a better teacher or role model than her.

The dedication she has to our school is remarkable. This year, we performed Footloose. During the show, Ms. Jordan acquired an illness that kept her out of school. Even with this obstacle, she still found a way to be at our rehearsals.

I am nominating her for the Theater Educator Award because she has changed my life. She has made me a better actress, performer, student, and person. She has given me

chances that I probably didn't deserve, but she believed in me anyway. She has put up with all of us high school kids, just to let us have a high quality theatrical experience. How could you ask for anything more?

So, thank you Ms. Jordan, for everything. My life would be nothing like what it is now if it weren't for you.