



Free Theatre Christchurch

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01.09.20

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to provide a reference for Jenny Ritchie.

Free Theatre first began collaborating with Jenny as a performer on *Frankenstein* (2016). We went on to employ her as a costume designer on *The Black Rider* (2017) with Delaney Davidson and *A Winter's Tale* (2019), the opening event of the Christchurch Arts Festival. Jenny has also taught aerial performance in our Free Theatre Education Programme since 2016.

Jenny's contribution as a designer has been a key element in the success of these projects. As an avant-garde theatre company our work is multi-disciplinary. Jenny's approach as a designer (enriched by her experience as an aerial artist) complements our aesthetic which brings together performance and design in sensory and engaging new ways for an audience.

She has a great ability to create costumes which are incredibly practical and cost effective while also complementing and enhancing the set designer and director's vision for the project providing a cohesive aesthetic with high production standards.

She is incredibly innovative, unafraid to experiment and works creatively and quickly with materials on hand and within tight budgets without sacrificing quality.

Her professionalism is impeccable and reflects her experience working for international companies such as *Cirque du Soleil* and *Ex Machina*. It was this work which first attracted us to working with her when she returned to New Zealand. She is a generous, dedicated and highly skilled collaborator.

We would not hesitate to employ Jenny on future projects and highly recommend her in her capacity as a designer.

Please feel free to contact me directly for any further.

Kind Regards,

Marian McCurdy
Company Manager