

O: 312-369-6700
1104 S. Wabash Ave., Suite 313
Chicago, IL 60605
colum.edu

February 29, 2024

Hello everyone!

It's a pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Madison Heiderscheit to accompany her scholarship application. Madison is a bright, hardworking, and talented student at Columbia College Chicago. Now, at the beginning of her college experience, we have an opportunity to encourage more of her initial success.

Madison was my student last semester in Script Writing I in the Cinema and Television Arts department at Columbia. Although our work together was cut short by unforeseen circumstances, the time we spent defined a core essential value which will continue to make her higher education a success: confidence. Despite an initial reserve, Madison soon became engaged at every class – whether it was class discussions, individual meetings, or smaller group collaborations. She's invaluable as a good listener and offers fair, consistent feedback.

She also had fun in the process --- which is often more stressful. Madison found freedom to create new ideas without pre-judgement or self-censorship. She embraced the notion of taking risks confidently, creating from abundance, and enjoying the Development ride.

Madison became a pro at creating stories she cared about. She let go being pigeonholed by trends or generic storylines. A short horror film entitled *Monkey Business* about two young women being stalked by a madman in a jungle gym became much more than familiar horror tropes. Sisterhood and friendship layered the screenplay with greater meaning through story, character, and the art of VISUAL STORYTELLING.

Screen Time for Madison is now Emotional Time. She's embraced the idea by taking risks, asking questions, and finding her creative voice. We're all in a position to continue nurturing this emerging filmmaker.

Kindest regards,



Mariano DiMarco

Adjunct Faculty
Cinema and Television Arts
mdimarco@colum.edu