

Point Park College  
Pittsburg, PA 15222

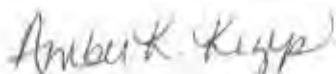
Dear Prospective Chaperone,

I am writing this letter to discuss my experience as a chaperone at the Beginnings Winter Program. When I first received the material on the workshop I questioned the legitimacy of it. I mean, I was bombarded with so much information about the rules of the program; the fact that I had to pay my own way and be away from my family at Christmas were all factors that made me believe this was not a program I wanted to be involved with. However, after some serious thought, I made the decision to go.

When I arrived at the chaperone meeting I knew I made the right decision. The ten days I spent in Newton, New Jersey proved to be extremely beneficial. The children were terrific and the classes were amazing. I learned so much about the "business" and about myself.

I would highly recommend this program to anyone who would want to do it. Being a chaperone is hard work, but this work is very rewarding. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



Amber Krzys

Subj: **Beginnings**  
Date: 2/28/2007 12:31:04 A.M. Eastern Standard Time  
From: rac.  
To: [petersklar@aol.com](mailto:petersklar@aol.com)

Hey there! I just wanted to say THANK YOU for the DVD. 🌐 It was great to show my family what I was up to last summer in New York. I was wondering though, are the dance solos from the off-Broadway Showcase supposed to be on the DVD? The new web site looks great, too. Thank you again for having me as a chaperone last summer. It was such a great experience, and I grew in so many ways. I want to do it again this summer! I would need to plan for the second session, so that I can get my last two summer classes out of the way for graduation! What are the dates for the Beginnings Workshops this summer? I thought you would be happy to know that I have switched to an all organic diet! I also just made my first professional dance company called Muscle Memory Dance Theatre. It's small, but good experience... Well, I hope you are doing well! ttyl :-)

-Rachael Burns

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Don't get soaked. Take a quick peak at the forecast with the [Yahoo! Search weather shortcut](#).

Subj: **hey**  
Date: 7/1/2007 1:12:31 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
From: mattb  
To: petersklar@aol.com

To Peter,

Hey Peter this is Matt Burr. Sorry I haven't gotten back to you as soon as the workshop was over. A lot went on and I couldn't get to send this to you. I had a real great time and look forward to working more with you specifically on these workshops. Everything about this experience was just enjoyable and I have had nothing but great things to say.

Sincerely yours,  
Matthew C. Burr

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Looking for a deal? Find great prices on flights and hotels with Yahoo! FareChase.  
<http://farechase.yahoo.com/>

Subj: **Hi peter!**  
Date: 2/26/2007 1:10:56 P.M. Eastern Standard Time  
From: chel\_@com  
To: petersklar@aol.com

Hi Peter, My Name is Chelsey A student, assistant and chaperone of yours I hate to say it, about seven years ago. I have been living in NYC for the past six years. I attended and graduated from the New School University with my bachelor of fine arts in jazz and contemporary music. I have been persuing my music career playing jazz and my original composition around the city and freelancing as a studio vocalist for advertising. I recently met with a manager, Marianne Leony of Terrific Talent. I mentioned you and beginnings and she recognized you right away. I was a bit rusty with my acting so in a very NOT gentle way she said I needed to brush up and she would be interested. I wanted to know if you are teaching any classes in the city and if you had any recommendations of teachers, managers, and or agents I could get in touch with. I am very interested in print and commercial work. It looks like beginnings is going strong! I wanted to thanks you again for the opportunity to be a part of it. The knowledge and confidence I gained through my work at beginnings carried me through a very tough time in NY ( I moved there 5 days before 9/11), through school and through my struggles as a musician and performer. I love what I do! If you get a chance please check out my music at mys. I also have attched some pictures if you're curious how I'm lookin these days. I hope you are well peter! Thanks again

Sincerely,

Chelsey

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Subj: **Thanks!**  
Date: 8/30/2006 9:16:37 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
From: [ra...@aol.com](mailto:ra...@aol.com)  
To: [PETERSKLAR@aol.com](mailto:PETERSKLAR@aol.com)

Hello, it's Daniel Hall! I just wanted to thank you again for giving me the opportunity of attending the Beginnings Workshop. I had a lot of fun and I really feel, in general, better all around! (I definitely needed to eat better, at the very least!) Coincidentally, a lot of opportunities have already opened up in my Irish dancing career. Previously, I had been stuck in the "Adult" category which means, competition-wise, that no matter how good you get, you are only allowed to advance to a certain level, which I finally reached earlier this year. I've been asking my teacher about the possibility of moving me out of the Adult category and into the "real" competition categories so that there is no competition "ceiling" and no sooner did the workshop end I received an e-mail from my teacher saying that it was possible for me to move out of the adult category. Now the sky's the limit! She also sent me an e-mail about a new "dance drama" category in the regional championships that she wants me to compete in with a team she's putting together from our dance school.

I also have a huge list of other things I had put off indefinitely or given up on entirely that I'm going to try to do now. I won't be able to make any "big moves" yet because I have a lot of things I have to get in order down here, but in the meantime (among many other things) I'm going to try to join some local theatrical group to continue to work on/practice what I learned/experienced at the workshop. As soon as I possibly can, however, I intend to make some big moves toward my dreams.

My parents are very excited about my changed eating habits. Before the workshop, I was eating out twice a day, seven days a week, until I ran out of money, then I would "forage" around our house for food. (Oh, and I hadn't eaten breakfast in years.) I feel so much better now (as you said)!

Anyway, thanks so much again!

—Daniel

Donna Carney  
Chaperone (Age 26)  
Barkhamsteel, CT  
October, 2000

To: Mr. Peter Sklar

Hello Peter, I wanted to thank you again for selecting me as a chaperone for the August session of your "Beginnings" workshop. The workshop was absolutely magnificent. You have put a tremendous amount of effort into creating the safest environment possible. The children, chaperones and teaching staff all learned a great deal about not only the entertainment industry but more importantly about life.

Beginnings is more than a resident theater workshop. It is a workshop about life. How to live it better. How to focus. How to take better care of your body. How to communicate and share one's true self with others leading toward higher self worth. How to become more independent and at the same time interdependent with others. In an age where our society is overdosed on information overload, it was rejuvenating to realize that sometimes living more simply is the best way to live.

Beginnings in such a short time showed us that we don't need the extra stresses that we place on ourselves in life. Being happy with life and achieving our dreams can become easy if we help create a more simple and focused environment for ourselves. It is funny because when I first read the 52-page chaperone agreement, I cringed at the fact that I could not bring some of my "necessary for life" technology aged items. Wow, no pager-cell phone-laptop---no lipstick even! I thought what is this!!!! However after ten days with out some of my "necessities," I realized that these items were only crutches and stressors that sometimes do not allow us to be our true selves.

After first reading the Student Contract and Chaperone contract, I knew though you had thought of everything to create the most perfect and safe learning, living and creative environment. One in which students are totally focussed. I realized that by believing in the workshops holistic outlook and your rules, and by me setting a good example, it would be easy

for my G-6 girls to follow them. On that note, the G-6 students were remarkable. They really came together as a group as the week went on. It was so nice to see all of them grow and learn throughout the week. I especially liked when I was in class and saw how well they were doing. On almost every off period that they had, we would have a cabin monologue study and each of them would perform their monologue. Each time they came back from coaching, their monologues became better and better. We also all had so much fun at the campfire and the 60's dance. My cabin really got into the dance. We all rushed back after dinner and began getting into full costume! It was a fabulous time.

The first few days were challenging but rewarding. Some of the girls did question some of the rules and how they thought it was too strict. As the week went on many of them knew why and commented on the fact that there were rules in place. I believe that they realized the rules were for their own safety and only to benefit them. We sadly live in a society where there aren't many rules and there is no right or wrong. Children know that they are cared for and loved when there is structure in their lives. It was nice to see at the end of the week the students respected and were thankful for this. (Although some still wanted their lipstick!!!!!!!)

As a Physical Education instructor and Personal Trainer, it was refreshing to realize that there are others who truly care about nutrition and its direct relationship to the health of our children today. I coach a swim team and after meets I notice many coaches and parents will reward their children with McDonald's or Burger King. How is this conducive to their digestive system, let alone performance for the meet the next week or practice the next day. Many do not except the fact that we are living in an age where 60 percent of our children are over weight or have disordered eating. There is something radically wrong with this. At the workshop students were taught that there is a direct relationship to what they eat and how they feel, behave, perform and sleep. The food that we ate was by and large the diet I eat everyday. It was a well-rounded

source of Carbohydrates, proteins and needed fats. The students seemed to appreciate the diet as the week went on as well. They now know they have options--healthy options.

I cannot rave enough about this life-altering workshop. I believe that all of the students, chaperones and teachers learned so much from each other that week. The classes were completely top-notch. I minored in performance for my undergraduate degree. I honestly learned more in those ten days than I did throughout my acting classes at school. I did not take one off period the entire week. I took every opportunity I could to enjoy class with G-6! The group of instructors you have put together were incredible. My coach was Professor Boris Leskin and he was extraordinary. My monologue became extremely polished and ready for the showcase after working with him. I was in complete awe each and every time I stepped into the classroom with him.

When Richard Reed Casting came to the workshop, the students received valuable and pertinent information about the business itself. Each student had the opportunity to audition and discuss the process with Richard. They learned first hand what the job of a casting director is, what he or she looks for and what to do in an audition. It was very real. After working with the Cameo Agency in Boston for the past four years, and going on several auditions, Richard Reed discussed the ins and outs of the business that I had never even realized. This experience definitely will help all of the students in their own auditioning process.

The Beginnings workshop has already changed my life a great deal. I realize that a happy and meaningful life is easy and achievable though making your life more simple and focussed. Beginnings is a wonderful program that you have put together. The staff you have chosen were so caring. Kevin, as the head chaperone was an amazing leader who cared about the students, chaperones and program and really helped make each day run smoothly. I knew each day with the chaperones and staff you had chosen we would make sure the children were safe and had the best learning and growth-developing environment possible.

My Beginnings experience was truly a new beginning for me. A chance for me to decide what is important, what I truly believe in and what I want to achieve. I know now that I do enjoy other facets of the entertainment industry than just performing myself. I simply love being around theater, dance and performance art-it is magical for me. Being a chaperone helped me realize this. We were there to make sure the students had the best and safest workshop. It was a huge responsibility. One that I will always cherish. I appreciate the fact that you had chosen me as a chaperone. As the youngest of ten growing up in Dorchester, I never had the kind of opportunity I was given this summer. If you ever need help in the future promoting Beginnings throughout the year I would be more than happy to help you in your efforts. I hope that we can also discuss for the next workshop exercises that I will lead to heighten the student's physical activity. I am only a short distance away and plan to be auditioning much more in the city this year, so please do not hesitate to let me know how I can assist you.

Best Regards,

*Donna F. Carney*

MR. Peter Sklar  
Beginnings  
16 Second Avenue  
Pelham, New York 10803

Dear MR. Sklar

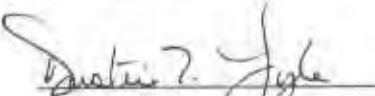
I just wanted to reiterate my thanks to you. I enjoyed the workshop both personally and professionally.

My enthusiasm has grown greatly for a further education in the area of acting and modeling. I wish to continue my education in New York. My strong interests have lead me to take advatage of the opportunities that where presented to me at the workshop. I'm planning to move to the area in early April.

I would appreciate any additional information or assistance that I may need to accomplish my goal. Please feel free to call me at \_\_\_\_\_ if I can provide you with any additional information.

Again, thank you for all of your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Dustin T. Lyle

June 30, 2003

Peter Sklar  
153 Webster Avenue  
Harrison, NY 10528

Dear Peter,

I want to thank you for the opportunity that you gave me in asking me to be a chaperone for your workshop in June. The things that I learned and experienced are invaluable to me as an actor and as a person. There are so many things that I learned and received that I never anticipated I would as a result of attending the workshop as a chaperone.

The teachers were amazing in that they made me think in a way I had never thought before. The kinds of classes that I took were different from classes I had taken at school. They challenged me and pushed me to be *me*, and to be comfortable showing people who I was and am. They challenged me to use what I have to make things real and believable. I know that I still have a long way to go, but at least I have started to grow.

Speaking of growth, I can't even begin to describe the emotional and professional growth that I went through and am still going through because of the workshop. I have become more confident as a person in my abilities and what I am going to be able to do with them. I know that if I want to make it in this business, I need to take care of myself (emotionally, physically, and spiritually). And the thing is, I want to do that. I want to take care of myself in all of these ways. I want to eat better. I want to know what I am feeling and express it. I can feel myself pushing and growing out of a place I never thought was possible. I can't begin to tell you how thankful I am for that.

I am also thankful for the people that I met while at the workshop. From the chaperones themselves to the kids that were in my cabin, I truly enjoyed spending time and getting to know them. I have made some close friends, especially with my co-chaperone, and am close with the students that I got to know over these nine days. I thank you for the friendships that I made and the people that I now know in the city and will be able to relate with them about their experiences in the business.

I experienced so many different aspects of acting that I had never experienced in all my years at school. I got to know people in the business that I can call and ask for advice or help. I have made some close friends that I will be able to visit and relate to now in New York. These nine days were well worth the effort and time spent in preparing for the workshop.

Thank you,

Erin Mitchell



December 22

Peter,

For the past six months I have constantly been thinking about Beginnings and how it literally changed my life. I sincerely apologize for not writing you sooner.

I came to Beginnings at a particularly low period in my life. I was not confident in my abilities as a performer at all. I had allowed someone else (a teacher, in fact) determine how I viewed my own talent. I listened to her when she concluded I was not talented and I came to believe her. This was truly one of the greatest mistakes of my life. I learned that at Beginnings. During the workshop I gained a greater confidence in myself and started to realize my talent and potential for the first time.

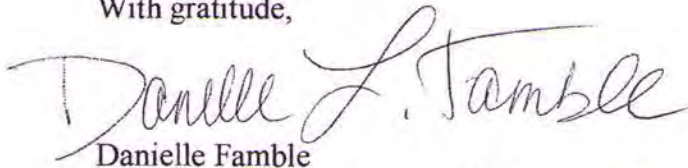
Being a chaperone was such a fulfilling experience. I was able to put aside my selfishness for nine days and focus all of my energy and attention on the ladies of G-4. I didn't expect to become as invested in these girls as I did but they absolutely stole my heart. I was so proud of them at the showcase because I literally watched them grow and mature over the course of the workshop. I don't think those young women know how much they blessed me. I think about them almost every day and I hope and pray they are doing well and still exercising the skills they learned at Beginnings.

For me, every moment at Beginnings was magical. Before arriving in New York I was frightened (it was probably the Agreement that did that!). I didn't know what to expect or who I was going to meet. Honestly, I wasn't sure I'd fit in. All those worries went away at the chaperone meeting. I was so encouraged to meet other people who shared similar interest with me. I've never felt that comfortable with a group of strangers but by the end of the workshop I gained several friends who I still keep contact with today!

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for inviting me to your wonderful workshop. I truly appreciate the wisdom and encouragement you shared. It is evident to me that you are dedicated to helping young people discover who they are and understanding how they feel about themselves, not just to make them better performers but better people as well. I am honored to have been a chaperone at Beginnings. I would love to have the opportunity to come back and chaperone again.

Again, thank you very much!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danielle Famble". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Danielle Famble

(A.K.A That sweet, dark stuff! Remember that?)

**Subject:** RE: Workshop Staff  
**Date:** 8/31/2007 2:27:30 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** che! [hotmail.com](mailto:che!@hotmail.com)  
**To:** [PETERSKLAR@aol.com](mailto:PETERSKLAR@aol.com)

*Sent from the Internet ([Details](#))*

Hi Peter!

I just want to thank you again for another wonderful and inspiring experience. I am in NY this week figuring out future living arrangements and will be moving back asap. I would love to schedule some dates in the near future to meet and chat. Hope everything is going well post workshop, please say hi to my lovely ladies! Talk to you soon!

Chelsey

Dear Perspective Chaperones:

Do it, you will learn alot.

I arrived in Pelham at the initial chaperone meeting was getting underway. Quickly I realized that Peter Sklar was a gentlemen of great knowledge although sometimes intimidating. His policies seemed extreme, if not over the top. As the week continued I came to realize that every policy had a specific purpose as did his interaction.

Leaving my family at Christmas to spend with strangers was a risk that paid off tenfold. While at *Beginnings* I met some wonderful people, made some excellent connections and learned alot about my self as an actor. I highly recommend this workshop to any one with a strong will to succeed. *Beginnings* is hard and at times overwhelming but, it was an experience I benefited greatly from and would gladly repeat.

If you have any questions/concerns about *Beginnings*, I would be glad to give you a chaperones perspective.

I hope you find your experience to be as rewarding as I found mine.

Best Regards,



Galen Greenlaw

Subj: **Yeah! Life rocks!**  
Date: 3/10/2005 5:46:42 PM Eastern Standard Time  
From:  
To: [petersklar@aol.com](mailto:petersklar@aol.com)

Hey Peter,

I just landed one of the top 5 commercial agents in L.A., Commercials Unlimited. I am so excited I could pee my pants, but I won't. I'm a professional now.

I know you know a lot about commercials and my studying with you 10 years ago, ugh- did I just say that? 10 years?- anyways, it helped a lot. If you have any tips, pointers, advice on auditioning or just the commercial business at all, could you let me in on your secrets? They absolutely loved me and even brought the president of the company in to meet me. It was wonderful. I had to pinch myself afterwards to see if I really had just experienced that.

Thanks for your help!! Did you get the books from Judy Kerr? Her cover letter section helped me get in for the interview with the commercial agent. Ok, talk to you soon!

Kelly Hamilton

Thursday, March 10, 2005 America Online: PETERSKLAR

Dear Peter,

I just wanted to thank you for generously giving me the opportunity to attend your workshop as a chaperone. I really enjoyed my time in New York. I learned a lot about "the business" that I know will serve me well in the future. I met a lot of people whom I grew to like a lot, but most importantly (and I know you'll agree) I learned that I'm not as independent as I'd like to believe. I realized that I have a lot of "growing up" to do, but I feel I did a lot of that this past week.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to attend as a chaperone, without which, my presence would have been impossible. I feel flattered that you felt I could be trusted with the job. Also, the change to, in a way, work my way through the program was very gratifying + makes me proud of the experience. If you ever come up short handed, please let me know!

I have every intention of staying in touch, so you will hear from me soon. Take care.

Sincerest thanks,  
Heath Voithill

Joanne Brooks  
635 Abbott #303  
E. Lansing, MI 48823

Dear Peter,

I just wanted to write and tell you how much I enjoyed my experience at the workshop. I was really impressed by the students that were chosen and I enjoyed meeting the chaperones. It was an honor to be able to speak one on one with such professionals. All the teachers had their own areas of expertise and there was a nice balance. Being a chaperone gave me new experience that I can take into the classroom with me when I teach. I feel that I improved as an actress in many ways which include, but are not limited to; discipline, sensitizing myself to a situation and approaching an audition situation. I know that I will never forget what I have learned and that I would not have traded my experience for anything.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanne Brooks". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dear Beginnings,

Here I am now back at school in Pittsburgh. Only five short days ago I was up in the beautiful mountains of New Jersey working at Beginnings. What a great experience I had working with such a wonderful group of talented people. As you know I'm a Theater/Education Major and I learned in a short nine days more about acting and myself, then in a semester of theater at college. That says a lot about the program you have.

Working as a chaperone is a rough job, but extremely rewarding. The classes that are offered are all top notch. The teachers are kind, understanding, patient and love to share their knowledge. Maggie Maes, Borris Leskin, and Mark Weston are all true survivors in the business world of entertainment. It was an honor to sit in their classes and learn their techniques and styles first hand. They are all artists, and I hope to pass on and use what they taught me, to others.

Is this a program for just anyone? No! This is a program for people who are dedicated, strong minded, educated, likes working with others, likes vitamins C and who is serious about going into the entertainment field. If you are all of the above, then don't pass up an opportunity like this.

As Mark Weston says "Beginnings is a family and you never turn your back on family". Don't miss this chance to become part of the family. Please feel free to contact me anytime concerning Beginnings.

Truly Yours,

*Josh E. Kessler*  
Josh E. Kessler



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36-18 Northern Drive  
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

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201 Wood St.  
Box #199  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-1984