



June 21, 2017

To whom it may concern,

Miriam Reed came to Pleasanton as part of the Museum on Main's Ed Kinney Speaker Series. As the person in charge of booking performers for the series, I have a lot of experience working with actors and scholars. Miriam Reed from start to finish was highly professional. She articulated her needs as a performer and promptly responded to any questions or requests from the museum. She was prompt in returning the contract and was flexible when the museum needed to add a show to her contract. She was accommodating on the day of the performances when the stage ended up being set for another show and the dressing rooms were all being used by a theater troupe. We would have no reservations about hiring her again.

Miriam Reed's performance was unlike most Chautauqua performances. Like all successful Chautauqua scholars, she is incredibly knowledgeable about her character. What sets her apart is her background in theater and presenting one-woman shows. She has a stage presence that makes her character come alive in a way most Chautauqua style performances fall flat. It was more than a monologue, it was a story of Alcott's life seamlessly woven together by Miriam Reed. There were moments where I was so engrossed in the story and character, that I forgot I was in Pleasanton watching Miriam Reed portray Louisa May Alcott, but instead in New England watching Ms. Alcott tell me the stories of her life. Miriam's use of voices, objects, primary sources, and movement provided a truly captivating and authentic performance. We would highly recommend Miriam Reed to any organization looking to engage lovers of both history and literature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Schaefer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Sarah Schaefer

Director of Education

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