

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

I have known John Cross for almost year, since he performed in Manly Theatre Group's (MTG) 2025 November Festival of Short Plays. At that time I was not involved in the production of his play and saw him from the audience's perspective. He gave a strong and competent performance in the short play, 'Losing The Plot'.

For the last three months I have been directing a 30 minute play as part of MTG's July Production, and John was cast as the lead in 'The Life and Death of Harry Bennett'.

As a director I have three requests of my actors: That they are on time for every rehearsal and performance, that they learn their lines early so we can go off-book in rehearsal, and that they come up with their own ideas for the character. John has excelled in all three areas.

He is always on time or the first at rehearsal; he learned his lines conscientiously and perfectly (allowing me to develop more intricate stage business and blocking) and he has been creative and independent in his suggestions for the character John Bennett.

More importantly for me, though, has been John's willingness to be brave and go above and beyond the usual requirements of an actor. He gives himself over to the director, and does not allow any ego to interfere with the director's process.

Moreover, he is fun to work with, with a lighthearted approach which masks the seriousness with which he undertakes the work.

I have no hesitation in recommending John for any role which is complex in character and lines, or to work with a cast which is diverse. He has been a joy to work with, and I wish him well in his acting career, which I have no doubt will go from strength to strength.

Anyone requiring confirmation of the authenticity of this reference is welcome to contact me direct:

Annie Gurton   [anniegurton@me.com](mailto:anniegurton@me.com)   +61 0423 632 657