

## **Testimonial**

Many moons ago, as an impressionable teen who felt like she belonged in the Land of the Misfit Toys, I learned these things from each of you.

### ***I learned that...***

Relationships, quality, hard work, and consistency matter. In fact, you taught me that each of these things is necessary for people, communities, and families to flourish.

Relationships, quality, hard work, and consistency mean that you care for someone or something. Relationships, quality, hard work, and consistency are HARD – hard to achieve, hard to live up to, and hard to maintain.

Relationships, quality, hard work, and consistency sometimes aren't good enough. Those days, when that's true, you also taught me that you wake up again the next day and work even harder on each of those things.

I learned flexibility is important, too, but not when relationships, quality, hard work, or consistency are compromised as a result.

Equally as important as what you taught me is what you showed me...

### ***You showed me:***

That there is almost always another version of the same story. And so, I learned tolerance and compassion.

That tomorrow would be ok even when I thought it wouldn't be. And so, I learned that I, too, would be OK even when I thought I wouldn't be.

That ritual matters. And so, I learned that tradition, rites of passage, and dressing up are all important pieces of belonging.

That the world has good people, doing good things, for good reasons. And so, I learned I should always try to find THOSE people and stick with them.

That one person, doing something that matters to them, is good enough. And so, I learned that I mattered to the universe.

I only hope that I do justice to what you both taught me with my family, my students, and my work now and in the years to come. It is an honour to be here tonight.

With love and a deep abiding affection,  
Maria McKenna, Student Theatre Class of 1991