

November 2, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

With great enthusiasm, I write in support of David Bagley. I feel he has a bright future, and has the experience, skills and work ethic to enhance any dance organization he might join. Given the breadth of his professional work, I believe he could fill almost any niche desired. While the reader will surely see his C.V. as part of any application, I have to say that in my 32 years directing the School of Dance at the University of Arizona, I have not seen a resume quite like David's. While wishing to avoid duplicating the information already available in his resume, I think if I put his list of skills into one sentence, you will quickly see what I mean. David's portfolio includes positions with professional dance companies as a performer, studio teaching, university teaching, choreography for universities and professional companies, invited festival and special event guest appearances, performances in films, in television, in music videos, invitations to present choreography in international festivals, podcasts, work as a lighting designer, and even a presence in printed publications on dance.

His work in academe includes a BFA in Dance Performance from Chapman, and in May of 2019 he will add, with honors, a MFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from the University of Arizona. His teaching for us has been exemplary, both in the studio and in the large, general education academic classes for general education students. His teaching in institutions of higher education, in addition to what he has done for Arizona, include stints at Whittier College, Chapman, and a preparatory school in California. While I am not in the habit of repeating what is already apparent on a candidate's resume, I think David's resume bears repeating, because it is so comprehensive. Any notion that there is breadth but no depth should be quickly tossed.

Here's why. I have seen the quality of his choreography; the power of his own dancing; the precision of his thinking; and the great skill with which he interacts with others. Those are things that a printed resume cannot reveal. I will tell you that if we had a position here at the University of Arizona, and especially one that called for both a broad set of knowledges and the depth to pass those knowledges on to future generations, we would have David as one of our own.

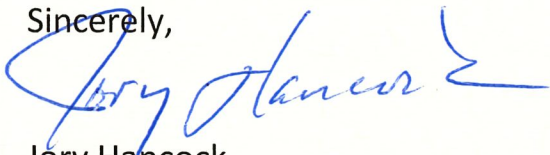


I have seen David learn an entire tango that I choreographed in just a few days—from video! And then he stepped in, with a new partner, and took his place with two other couples in a nine-minute piece. I have seen him do basically the same thing twice since then. He can enter the staging of a new and challenging piece very late in the process, and in two rehearsals be completely in synchrony with the rest of the group. His grasp of style is accurate, insightful and immediate.

That is the part his resume will not tell you, but I am a witness and can speak to a special energy that David gives to his work. He is physically and mentally adroit. As a person he is sensitive to cultural nuance and to various social settings. While here, he has acted with a wonderful blend of confidence, independence, humility, and reverence. His versatility is real.

The dance field has helped to create, and will be the beneficiary of, the many talents of David Bagley. I would be happy to speak on his behalf should you have any need for more information.

Sincerely,



Jory Hancock  
Professor and Director, Stevie Eller Endowed Chair  
University of Arizona School of Dance