

# Letter of Recommendation

Amy Ernst

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October 27, 2018

## **To the Search Committee,**

It is with great pleasure that I recommend to you **David K. Bagley** for FT/Tenure Track Professor or any equal position available. I have known David since 2016 when he first applied to our M.F.A. in Dance program here at the University of Arizona. He immediately made an impression upon me with his creative energy and enthusiasm for his work, for his students, and for the field of dance as a whole. It was clear that David was incredibly bright and dedicated to his art form and this has only continued to strengthen during his graduate studies. He has grown into a mature, articulate, sensitive artist, and it has been wonderful watching his growth here in our master's program. David will receive his M.F.A. in Dance in May 2019, and as the Director of Graduate Studies for the School of Dance, I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been able to work so closely with him during his residency in our program. I consider David to be a very inspiring, talented dance educator and artist.

David has developed into an outstanding educator of the highest caliber; dedicated, resourceful, and highly inventive in his approach to course materials in both studio and lecture-formatted classes. He is experienced in teaching all levels of Jazz, Hip-Hop, Tap, Theatre Dance, and Modern Dance/Contemporary Technique, as well as Improvisation and Composition. His teaching versatility also extends to the field of commercial industry dance. David constantly challenges students to achieve their utmost technically and creatively. Most important of all, he inspires students to not only work to the best of their abilities, but also to develop the respect and commitment that the art form of dance deserves.

David is also a very fine choreographer, in addition to his many skills as an educator. His strongest, most inventive creative work is in the genres of jazz, tap, and commercial dance. The inventiveness with which his work is permeated is quite strong. He is also very gifted in terms of knowing how to work creatively with dancers of differing skill levels and technical sophistication. The creativity of such an artist as David is a rich source of inspiration for both students and faculty alike.

David would also be an outstanding instructor for dance academic courses such as Dance History, Dance and Culture, Anatomy/Kinesiology for Dancers, Teaching Methods for Dance, and Dance Appreciation. He is also very experienced in integrating instructional technology into the classroom. David is resourceful, highly intelligent, and committed, and fully capable of handling any teaching responsibilities asked of him. He is a natural leader, in addition to being extremely sensitive to the diverse academic and cultural backgrounds of all students both in the community and in higher education.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information concerning David Bagley. I am confident that he would be an outstanding addition to your dance faculty. It has been a pleasure to speak on behalf of such a gifted educator and artist.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Amy Ernst, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies  
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