



**Department of Dance**

October 8, 2018

To Whom it May Concern:

It is my pleasure to strongly recommend David Kurt Bagley to you. I have known David since he auditioned for the Chapman University Department of Dance when he was just 16 years old and graduating early from high school. From 2009 – 2013, I worked closely with David in my roles as department chair, instructor, director, and choreographer. He is simply one of the most talented and hard working students I have had the opportunity to work with.

While at Chapman, David received well-deserved departmental awards for both his performance and choreography skills. He is a physically powerful, flexible, aligned, and centered mover. David is a highly skilled and strong technician as well as a passionate and expressive performer. His diverse background in ballet, modern, jazz and contemporary dance allow him to move from one genre to another with ease. Prior to and following graduation from Chapman, David performed with Orange County's acclaimed Backhausdance, a contemporary dance company, in both ensemble and soloist roles. He went on to work with other companies in a variety of styles and venues that highlighted his energy and personality on stage. David's artistry and virtuosity are evident whether he is performing in serious concert pieces, flashy commercial projects, or theatrical work.

As a choreographer, David is equally adept at creating for the concert or commercial dance stages. He has good skills in movement invention and excels in improvisation. His choreography reflects his grasp of clear intention and a terrific understanding of choreographic elements, form, and musicality. Most importantly, he has a strong sense of his own choreographic voice.

I have observed David teaching and can tell you that he is a wonderful dance teacher for many reasons. His mastery of technique certainly helps, but he also is verbally clear, gives great corrections, and understands how to use imagery. He has a very good grounding in anatomy and kinesiology and applies these to his classes to teach with safe and effective strategies. He also just has a wonderful personality.

He is outgoing, friendly and warm and students love his classes. David has had a wide variety of teaching experiences working with many different age groups and levels across the country.

David always had a great enthusiasm for learning. As a student he was fully engaged in his academic work. He has an inquisitive mind and does not wait for material to be delivered to him. He seeks out the information he needs. David enjoys technology and implementing it in his work. His passion for all aspects of education will, I'm sure, lead him to be an excellent professor in higher education.

It is important for me to emphasize that David always proved to be a focused and hard-working individual. While at Chapman, a private and expensive university, David was under financial pressures and was always working outside of his academics to support himself. He worked technical theater jobs as well as teaching several dance technique classes a week in local studios. He also danced with Backhausdance and had several other performances outside of school in local ballet companies, contemporary dance concerts, and hip-hop productions during his four years at Chapman. David's determination to finish his undergraduate degree on time while dealing with difficult financial circumstances is a testament to his work ethic and strength of character. Having known David for 10 years, I know that he is an ethical and trustworthy person. He loves challenges and I am sure would be an excellent and trusted colleague. I highly recommend David as an artist, an educator, and a person.

For further information please contact me at [ndickson@chapman.edu](mailto:ndickson@chapman.edu) or (714) 240-1813.

Sincerely,

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