

To Whom it May Concern:

It is a pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Jim Donak. I have been taking classes with Jim for the past 5 years, primarily trampoline acrobatics. During that time, I have come to know his unparalleled coaching ability in bringing students to their full potential.

His varied and deep body of knowledge gives him a unique and powerful tool set in providing feedback and instruction to his students. Not only does he possess an in-depth understanding of acrobatic disciplines, human body mechanics, physics, and psychological phenomena, he is able to apply the appropriate principle and teaching technique at the appropriate moment. His ability to observe, analyze, and select feedback coupled with his wide range of communication styles makes him truly exceptional. His personalized approach to teaching based on student skill, learning style, and specific situation is remarkably effective in advancing a student's abilities. I've experienced this personally as well as witnessed it during class with students of all skill levels.

His presentation of the complexities of acrobatics and motion lays the foundation for understanding, refining, and safely advancing one's practice. He ensures students understand the concepts of rotation, power, direction, relative position, flight, and safe landings as well as how each is affected by changes in body posture. His method of feedback ensures students are continuously learning and improving even when not actively on the trampoline and that each active turn is as productive as possible. This also makes it possible for more advanced students to learn and improve from watching beginning students which is unusual for a mixed levels class.

He teaches with kindness, patience, and joy and fully invests in a student's development whether it's their first or hundredth class. It is inspiring to watch him and has in fact made me question my career choice on more than one occasion. He is truly a master in the art of teaching.

Sincerely,
Ambar Muñoz

Circus Center Student since 2011