

November 2019

To whom it may concern,

I was instructor in both the Clown Conservatory under Jeff Raz and the Acrobatic Program under Master Lu Yi at the Circus Center for six years in the early 2000s. I met Jim Donak during that time but had heard about his wonderful work from numerous circus artists long before. He also offered his Physical Limitation Elimination (PLE) course during the 2016 San Francisco Aerial Arts Festival, which I produce. We were honored to have him as part of our team.

Jim has extensive training and practice in orthopedic therapies and massage, movement skill development, injury prevention techniques, along with long history in the circus arts. His integrity as a practitioner in these fields is well known in our community and he is deeply respected by professional and amateur athletes and artists alike. He has been a tremendous asset to the aerial community in particular, designing effective training and healing programs specifically to meet the needs of individual artists.

Jim is an extremely confident and articulate teacher and is able to communicate complex concepts in a way that is easy to understand for students at all levels. Moreover, his generosity and his warm demeanor make him a pleasure to work with.

Jim brings 40 years of experience to his work. He is master teacher and an important resource for our community. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work with him.

Best wishes,



Joanna Haigood  
*Artistic Director*