



Sonya Smith

Artistic Director

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October 24, 2019

To Whom it May Concern

I am writing as a student and fellow instructor of physical arts to fully endorse Jim Donak as a coach and educator. For over a decade I have experienced Jim continuously evolving both his understanding of the body and how to guide people to a deeper understanding of their bodies and how to increase its capacity. In his continual investigation of the pedagogy of movement, Jim has developed clear and effective curriculum with progressions that challenge all students from beginners to high level performers. Within the framework of circus skills, Jim offers students techniques to become aware of and address imbalances that may be inhibiting their optimal performance. This is invaluable learning for performer longevity!

During his 35 years teaching, this work has been shared with students as well as other teachers in trainings in Brazil, the UK, Mexico, Hong Kong and a variety of locations in the USA, to the benefit of all of those communities. As the science of circus training continues to evolve, Jim's existing commitment to his own continued education means that his students benefit from the most current methods of safe training practice. Such an instructor would be an invaluable resource in any teaching environment.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Sonya M Smith

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