

25 November 2016

To whom it may concern

Letter of Reference: Indoni Dance, Arts and Leadership Academy

I have known this company since its inception three years ago but I have known individuals associated with the company Sbonakaliso Ndaba, Jennifer van Papendorp and Balu Nivison for over 20 years. In my years of acquaintance with them, I can attest to from all, an ongoing and profound dedication to dance and social and personal transformation and development.

The Academy itself has already caused great waves in the dance world of Cape Town as well as internationally. Through a thorough dance technical training coupled with personal development and social and political awareness, this Academy is setting a blueprint for the holistic training of young dancers.

When one watches a performance by this company, one is overwhelmed by the dexterity and sophistication of skills. However, it does not stop there. There is also the unmitigated focus, passion and a group commitment that are rare given the circumstances within which the Academy emerges.

With facilities and training mechanisms at a premium, the company nevertheless projects an air of confidence, sheer professionalism and a discipline that is inspiring as it is humbling. There is no doubt that the combination of skill and parallel training and development has created individuals who can grow their dedication and become empowered individuals.

Under the directorship of Ndaba, they are assured further of inspirational choreography. In the works that I have witnessed sophisticated demands are placed on the dancers that are technical, emotional and intellectual. They are becoming a force to be reckoned with. Their work is inspirational not just for communities that the dancers may emerge from but for everybody – this has been clear to see.

It is imperative that this Academy receives the continued support it deserves. The sheer numbers of young people they serve attest to continued, high level support. I very highly recommend support from your esteemed institution.

Best wishes

Jay Pather

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