

Dominic Krippes
Production Manager
Ballet Pensacola
domj365@gmail.com
850-384-3233
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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Darren McIntyre's application for the role of Artistic Director.

I had the privilege of working alongside Darren for two seasons at Ballet Pensacola, where I served as Production Manager during his tenure as Artistic Director. I can say without hesitation that Darren is one of the most dedicated, visionary, and collaborative leaders I have worked with in the performing arts.

Darren brought not only creative excellence to Ballet Pensacola but a remarkable ability to balance big-picture vision with day-to-day practicalities. He was instrumental in expanding the company's repertoire with bold, original works while honoring classical traditions. Under his leadership, we staged full-scale productions such as *Dracula*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, and *The Wizard of Oz*—each of which pushed the company's artistic and technical capacity in new directions. Darren's choreographic skill was matched by his deep respect for the entire production process, making collaboration across departments fluid and efficient.

As Production Manager, I worked closely with Darren from pre-production through final performance. He fostered an environment of mutual respect and creativity, where all voices were heard. He had a strong grasp of budgeting, scheduling, and the demands of touring, but more importantly, he valued the people behind the process. Darren has a rare ability to inspire excellence across all facets of a company—not just on stage, but backstage as well.

His global perspective, shaped by years of experience in both the U.S. and Australia, positions him uniquely for a leadership role in a company with the international ambition and local grounding of your dance organization. He understands the need to reflect community identity through repertoire, to mentor young dancers, and to build meaningful partnerships that serve both artistic integrity and audience growth.

In Darren, you will find a passionate advocate for dance, a skilled communicator, and a leader ready to guide your organization into its next chapter with integrity and innovation.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like to discuss Darren's qualifications further.

Sincerely,
Dominic Krippes

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Production Manager, Ballet Pensacola
Technical Director, Pensacola Children's Chorus
M.F.A Technical Production, Florida State University