

Palucca Hochschule für Tanz Dresden | Basteiplatz 4 | 01277 Dresden

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dresden, November 03, 2017 Professor Jason Beechey

Re: José Cruz

José Cruz was a full-time Ballet teacher at the Palucca University of Dance Dresden for three Academic Years, from August 2014 until July 2017.

My first contact with his teaching was during the *Assemblée Internationale* at Canada's National Ballet School in 2013. He was there as a member of the team from the Institut del Teatro in Barcelona and I was very impressed by both his teaching and how his choreography for his students really showcased their abilities while being both technically challenging, fresh and dynamic.

For this period of "Professional Development" with us, I was very glad that the direction of the Institut del Teatro granted him this chance and he was able to fully integrate into our team for the duration.

During this time, he taught Ballet with great results, for both men and women from the 7^{th} class (age 13 – 14), right up to our graduating BA Dance classes and our Apprentice Programme. Taking classes over a long duration, he was able to demonstrate strong pedagogical concepts, with several of his students being finalists in the Prix de Lausanne and winning scholarships from the "Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes".

He created works yearly for our various performances and coached and guided students not only in Ballet, but also in Variations and Pas de Deux. He was also the Ballet Master for Repertoire including works from George Balanchine, William Forsythe, David Dawson, Aaron Watkin and Jiri Kylian, which on each occasion were danced on the highest level with a respect for the intentions of the choreographers.

With his years of Principal Dancer experience dancing a huge repertoire, many years teaching in Barcelona as well as for many other companies and schools, he is able to transmit his knowledge, push and challenge his students, all the while remaining open to new ideas and being an active part of the Team. He is someone very passionate about dance and is able to transmit this through his teaching to students of all levels.

He mentored many students for their BA thesis (creation of an original choreography) as well as guiding MA Dance Teacher Training students through to their MA thesis works as well. His knowledge was always very appreciated by the students and he was always a very lively and engaged member of the pedagogical team.

Understandably, after what was supposed to have been a one-year project, after three years he needed to return to the Institut del Teatro in Barcelona, but I do hope to keep close contact and would welcome the chance to continue our work together.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further reference about his work.

Sincerely,

Professor Jason Beechey

Rector