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Resident Choreographers**

Andrea Andresakis
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with

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ALICE BASSLER SULLIVAN, artistic director
COURTLAND WEAVER, associate director

February 28, 2008

To: Whom It May Concern
Re: Andrea Andresakis

I am pleased to write a recommendation for Andrea Andresakis. I have known Andrea for six months since hiring her to work for Alaska Dance Theatre this season. Andrea's current duties include teaching for the School of Dance of Alaska Dance Theatre and choreographing for our Company. Ms. Andresakis was hired for a nine-month contract as part of a staff expansion to provide more class offerings such as Musical Theater, Adult Tap, and Social Dance, in addition to ballet and pointe. Her students have been comfortable in her classroom, which I would describe as a positive and open learning environment. As well, she is very approachable and willing to respond to any situation related to the success of her students.

Andrea was also invited to choreograph an inaugural production integrating the Company with select dancers from the School. This production became *Fables and Tales*, and was mounted in our own black box theatre in early December 2007. Andrea went to work quickly during the summer months to select the music, choreograph, choose the Fables, and, consider many other pre-production issues. Most of the fall was devoted to this project, which was well received. She coordinated the use of sets, costume design and rehearsal schedules.

In addition to her teaching schedule and rehearsal direction, Andrea puts in the extra time to help dancers if they need it. For example, with the beginning pointe class we share, she met the students for personal fittings outside her teaching schedule, showing them how to sew the ribbons and elastics. For the ballet she set most recently, *Someone is Speaking*, Andrea coordinated the costumes with a volunteer and spent many hours of her personal time to ensure that fittings and alterations took place. She also helped to rehearse Act II roles of local dancers in *The Nutcracker* (Balanchine version) presented in Anchorage, by Oregon Ballet Theatre in November 2007.

Anchorage, Alaska is remote. Though Anchorage is a thriving city of 375,000 with a very active arts community, it is far away from the lower forty-eight states. Andrea was, and still is, very comfortable getting out to explore, meeting people and taking advantage of this beautiful part of the world. She is quite content to immerse herself into this job and, at the same time, enjoy what the community has to offer. I am sure she will approach her next venture with the same spirit and enthusiasm. If I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Alice Bassler Sullivan,

Artistic Director

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