



June 12, 2017

To Whom It My Concern:

I am the Executive and Artistic Director of MADCO, a 40-year old professional repertory company based in St. Louis. I met Michael Foley in 2005 at an American College Dance Festival. I will never forget watching him teach a master class in which the students were completely captivated by him, his energy and his generous teaching style. I had never seen his choreography but knew that his energy was something I wanted to give my own dancers. This was the only time in my 30+ years as an Artistic Director in which I commissioned a dance from a choreographer without ever seeing their work. I knew it would be good, and I was right.

The next season, Michael set his work *The Carpet* on my company. This dance is without question an audience and dancer favorite. It has been an active part of our repertory for 10 years and continues to be relevant and exciting for dancers to perform and audiences to watch. This season we are starting a second company and *The Carpet* was one of the first works named for our new company to take on.

A few years after Michael set *The Carpet*, I commissioned another new work from Michael. *Fuse*, was equally as popular with the dancers and was performed regularly as part of our own season, on tour and for the Spring to Dance Festival. Spring to Dance is a national dance festival featuring 30 companies such as Hubbard Street Dance, Pilobolus and the Martha Graham Dance Company in a 3-day period. This festival is a place where every company wants to show their best work as thousands of audience members as well as their professional peers are in attendance. *The Carpet* was also performed as part of this festival in 2008.

Michael continues to play an important role in our company, where he has frequently suggested choreographers to contribute great works to our repertory, such as Jennifer Archibald. Jennifer has become one of our favorite people to work with and has also created two very successful works for us. Last year Michael connected us with Christian Denice. Christian volunteered to teach a master class for my company while visiting St. Louis. It was there that we discovered our common interest in people with Autism. We commissioned his work *Spectrum* for the 2017-18 season. In turn, we suggest University of South Florida to students at the Center of Contemporary Arts in St. Louis, who take our company workshop classes, when appropriate.

As a touring company who reaches over 30,000 people annually we interact with several dozen college professors each season. It is always a pleasure to discover a gem like Michael who has continued to show an interest in his own growth and maintains an important connection to both the national and international dance scenes.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. I can be reached at 314-341-5407 or by email at madcodance@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Stacy West, Executive & Artistic Director