



Department of Dance

November 15, 2023

Towson University
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To Whom it May Concern:

This is a letter of recommendation for Augustine Hardison, a B.F.A. candidate in the Department of Dance at Towson University with a GPA of 3.9 after completing 138 credits. I am writing to you as Augustine's ballet instructor and pointe repertory choreographer.

Augustine is deeply involved in the Dance Department and Towson University and began many new initiatives as she joined us. She helped to begin a hiking club here at Towson and is in her second year as the club's vice president. She helped to begin a Neurodivergent Circle of students and serves as its co-ambassador. She is the student costume coordinator in charge of organizing costume materials which have accumulated in heaps for the last 30 years, and she is a member of the Towson University chapter of the National Honors Society of Dance Arts. She is also a solid, powerful performer with an unusual elegance and grandeur onstage – think “Swan Queen” rather than college dance student. Because of this splendor and strength, I cast her as the lead soloist in my contemporary pointe piece, “The Third Threshold”, last fall. She was also cast as the first dancer to come down the ramp in “La Bayadere”, as the lead in “A Tribute To Marian Anderson” by Smithsonian resident choreographer Dana Tai Soon Burgess, as well as in FORTY other works in genres ranging from hip hop through modern to classical pointe work. Augustine is equally strong in pointe, ballet, modern, hiking, rowing, creating ... and when the time comes to produce or perform, she is consistent and dependable.

In addition to her classes in the department of dance, Augustine was selected to attend the Alonzo King Lines Ballet Summer Intensive 2023, and performed choreography by Mike Tyus and Luca Renzi. She also leads several week-long summer programs and teaches at her home studio in Alaska, as well as choreographing works for small groups. She is always ready to add something new to her roster, and also able to find the time to successfully pursue her wide range of interests without interrupting her college studies.

I hope that you will consider hiring this eager and accomplished young dance performer/teacher/ creator. Please get in touch with me if you would like to hear more about my experiences with Augustine, and thank you for considering her application.

Sincerely,

Professor Susan Mann

