



January 3, 2006

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR JACQUELYN BIRD

It is a delight and true pleasure to write to you on behalf of Ms. Jacquelyn Bird. Ms. Bird was our guest instructor and choreographer for seven weeks beginning in September through October of 2005, during which time she taught various levels of jazz and modern classes. She also choreographed an original work, *Cellphonehypnotik* for our annual spring dance concert, *Dance 32*, to be performed in March of 2006.

Ms. Bird is an extraordinarily talented, enthusiastic, knowledgeable and accessible instructor, as well as an imaginative choreographer. She brought a vibrant and healthy approach to her classes, which was ultimately inspiring to the students. She had the wisdom to carefully and quickly assess the students at their various levels, and subsequently prepared an intelligent, technically appropriate base of movement knowledge for them. Upon this foundation she developed their skills, progressively introducing new material while fine tuning their fundamental. She balanced this approach with current jazz and hip-hop movements that the students found to be both challenging and fun, thereby giving them a safe, engaging, and progressive experience. As final proof of the success of her approach, I can honestly say that I heard not one negative comment from any student about their experience (both in the classroom and out) about her teaching—all students were unified in their enthusiastic support of Ms. Bird.

We are looking forward to the performance of Ms. Bird's *Cellphonehypnotik*. The audition and rehearsal process gave the students a balanced professional and artistically demanding experience which was not so far beyond them as to be discouraging. *Cellphonehypnotik* is also a timely work artistically, beginning with a light, upbeat, funky commercial tone, but having engaged the audience, it takes us to that dark place where humanity succumbs to the power of technology and human connectivity is sacrificed to the seductiveness of the mechanical. Timely, using a classic binary structure and physically dynamic, Ms. Bird has provided both the student performers and the audience with a thought-provoking and entertaining work of art. We are looking forward to the presentation of the final product.

Personally vibrant, steadily enthusiastic and keen, a willingly contributing member of the faculty, Ms. Bird is that rare teacher who brings a bright touch to working with demanding integrity. She has been an inspiration to all of us, and we are looking forward to her return next year. I heartily recommend her to you. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 616-395-7703 or graham@hope.edu.

Sincerely,

M. Linda Graham
Chairperson

MLG/sb