

June 1, 2016

Recommendation for Natanael Leal Monteiro de Castro

My name is Herman Payne and, among other roles, I am a current Teacher on faculty at the world renowned Miami city ballet school in miami Florida , I am also Juilliard graduate class of 1999 , Broadway performer and Co Artistic Director of Broadway Theatre Project. Miami city Ballet is Dedicated to creating the next generation of performing artists, while instilling a love of dance for all ages – from the youngest toddler to the pre-professional teen, with a world-class faculty and a comprehensive curriculum. Broadway theatre project is a musical theatre training institute founded by Ann Reinking, and I along with the help of others 25 years ago has been referred to by Playbill as: “the world’s most prestigious musical theatre arts education program for high school and college students.” Students from throughout the United States audition for a place in this institution for three intense weeks in the summer in order to have the privilege of being instructed by artists who are also educators, such as: Christopher d’Amboise, Ben Vereen, Donna McKechnie, Ann Morrison, Austin Pendleton, and David Loud, to name just a few who have been here the past two years we have also had the privilege of instructing .

If one says Natanael's name while in the company of any of Miami city ballet faculty, there are always comments made. His name never “slides by”. There are moments where one hears about how cooperative he is, how collaborative he is, how talented he is, how respectful he is (which is a rarity in the dance world with many of this generation, unfortunately), how disciplined he is, how each wishes to have him in a piece he or she is preparing. There is never a negative comment made. Natanael only brings out the best in the atmosphere around him. Natanael helps to bring out the best in the company of which he is a member. He is the epitome of the student one wishes to teach. He is the epitome of a director and choreographer one wishes to direct.

As is obvious, I am a great fan of this young talented man. Any school of higher education and company that can announce that Natanael is a member of its professional body will find that it has improved itself by having this talented artist walking its hallways, working in its studios or performing in a not to be forgotten manner under the bright lights during one of its theatrical and stage presentations.

Sincerely,

Herman Payne

Co Artistic Director/

Broadway Theatre Project

Miami city ballet (faculty)