



May 13, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

As a dance professional with over 30 years of performance and teaching experience, I am offering my endorsement of Natanael Leal Monteiro de Castro as a dancer of extraordinary merit. I am currently the Director of the Miami City Ballet School, having previously held the same position at the North Carolina Dance Theatre School of Dance, where I oversaw 700 students and built the School into a nationally-recognized professional training ground for students from around the globe. Prior to my teaching career, I was a professional dancer and performed both nationally and internationally. As an educator who must constantly evaluate potential talent and also having experienced the life of a professional dancer, I offer my opinion in this matter.

It is my pleasure to recommend Natanael for the consideration of your visa program. As an exceptional student at our school, Natanael excelled as a dancer and left a lasting impression on our faculty. I believe strongly that Natanael's talent, experience and professionalism have primed him to take on a position with any prestigious company in the United States.

Due to the talent and vast potential he demonstrated during his audition, Natanael was accepted to the Miami City Ballet School's Year-Round Program on a full tuition scholarship. Training with the highest level in our Pre-Professional Division, he stood out as a dancer with remarkable versatility, stamina and musicality. As a result of these outstanding abilities, Natanael was cast in a series of ballets including *Giselle*, George Balanchine's *Western Symphony*, while also performing alongside our Student Ensemble in numerous jazz and contemporary pieces. In these roles, Natanael showcased his artistry and proved that he is a gifted dancer with a bright future.

Natanael is a wonderful artist and human being, and you have my enthusiastic recommendation on his behalf. I urge you to contact me directly at (305) 929-7007 or dcallaghan@miamicityballet.org if you would like to learn more about Miami City Ballet School and Natanael's participation in our program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darleen Callaghan".

Darleen Callaghan
School Director
Miami City Ballet School