

Ihsan Rustem
Hammerstrasse 9
8008 Zurich
Switzerland

October 27th, 2016

To whom it may concern,

This season I had the immense pleasure of being invited by Artistic Director Michelle Nielsen to create a new work for Salt Contemporary Dance.

As Resident Choreographer for the Portland Oregon's Northwest Dance Project, and guest choreographer to further organization's globally, I have the fortunate opportunity to work with a large variety of companies and dancers. What I can truly say is that Salt are uniquely different. They simply stand out amongst the sea of prospects presenting contemporary dance today. The talent alone speaks volumes of the direction this young organization is heading in. Salt are breaking concepts of what a company of this size and age should be able to do.

This dynamic trope have surpassed expectations and challenged possibilities; pushed boundaries and raised the bar for what audiences should expect from contemporary dance in Utah and beyond. It is no surprise that their ticket sales have increased year on year. They are creating a buzz, not only nationally but also overseas. I have had numerous European choreographers contact me to ask about this new company they have heard of. That sort of recognition usually takes quite some time to establish.

Of the dancers themselves I can sing nothing but graces. Bold, fearless, technically brilliant - yet also humble and sensitive, with an emotional depth that is open enough to allow us in. If that wasn't enough, they also happen to be some of the kindest and humorous souls I have encountered in a while. A family of sorts, who all possess wonderful values.

As you can see, I have nothing but love to offer Salt Contemporary Dance. I hope they are able to secure the funding and donations they need to be able to share their art with audiences near and far for generations to come.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ihsan Rustem', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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