

September 16, 2021

To Whom It May Concern -

It is with great pleasure that I am writing in support of Ben Liebert as the director for your project. Although I have only known Ben for a few months, the impact he has made on my artistry as a mentor and friend makes writing this recommendation a breeze.

This past summer, I had the fortune of working with Ben at Theatre Aspen, where he was not only my cast mate, but also one of the directors of the Summer Cabaret Series. Due to our busy season schedule, we had less than 1 week to craft a one hour length cabaret, complete with lighting, sound design, and choreography. On top of this, all of the Cabaret's participants, from performers to board operators, were spending their afternoons and evenings putting on *Rock of Ages*. Early in the Summer, we had put on two previous Cabarets with different directors. Both were exciting, but neither were as smoothly run and as cared for as our final with Ben.

Ben showed up on our first day of rehearsal prepared as ever. He started rehearsal by immediately acknowledging our hard work throughout the summer and how tired he knew we were, including himself. His honesty and humility on day 1 made such a difference in the rehearsal process. His care for the 6 day project was unparalleled. He had several meetings with our Music Directors prior to rehearsals to establish a theme, song choices, and staging possibilities (all while performing two lead roles on the Mainstage). He had carefully crafted ideas for every number before stepping in the room and spent time in rehearsal asking for our input. The collaboration was unlike anything I had experience before. Ben runs a rehearsal room with grace, compassion, and intelligence. He is so aware of his collaborators perspectives and feelings in a way that makes each in every person in the room feel valued. I always felt safe walking into his rehearsal room. I knew I was going to laugh, work hard, and create something enjoyable. Also, I must mention that he sent all of us an Etsy gift card after our performance; another testament to this kind and giving nature.

Ben Liebert is one of those people who is good at what he does AND is a good person. I cannot recommend him enough for this position, and every opportunity to come after. He deserves the world.

If you have any further questions about Ben's brilliance, feel free to email me at augellogiuliana@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Giuliana "G" Augello

Managing Director of Next Stop Creatives

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