September 24, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to proffer my highest recommendation for Daniel Mirsky. I have worked with Daniel in his capacity as a technical associate and ensemble member of the New York Neo-Futurists. We choose our collaborators very carefully, and asking Daniel to make a lifelong commitment to our performance art collective was one of the easiest decisions we have ever made.

One of the things I valued most about bringing Daniel into the fold was the promise of a unique voice among us. I can think of few examples that better portray the satisfaction of promise made to promise kept. Daniel is a born artist; everything he produces is done with bravery and commitment. He has an inventive voice that is indelibly his, and he knows how to give a platform to that voice. He puts as much heart and energy into the projects of his colleagues as he does his own. He treats his audience with respect, and he is reciprocally adored. His work is well-constructed with clear arcs, motifs, dynamic stage pictures and powerful symbolism, all while serving to accurately reflect the artist behind it.

As noted, the New York Neo-Futurists are a collective of artists, meaning that much is demanded of its constituents, as they assume responsibility for running nearly every aspect company. Daniel has a singular generosity of spirit, especially when it comes to other artists. More than once, Daniel has put extraordinary hours into ensuring that projects are fully realized, such that I don’t think it’s an exaggeration to conclude that Daniel has “saved” more than one production (or at least the artistic vision thereof), not only through his seemingly indefatigable toil, but with patience and kindness.

This also speaks well to his commitment to education. As the Chair of our Education Department, I observed how Daniel’s motivation as an instructor of our workshops infused excitement and purpose into the classes he led. It was clear that he scaffolded his lesson plans and executed in-class activities with his students’ best interests at heart, and the results reflected his intent. He responds to the needs of his students in real time and responds to learned experiences by adjusting his lesson plans accordingly. His passion, self-awareness, and capacity to learn from his classroom experiences have made him an exceptional teacher.

I have had the privilege to be a part of Daniel’s body of work, and that experience has made me a better artist. I have supervised and co-taught Daniel’s teaching, and that has made me a better teacher. I have also simply observed his work as an artist, and some of those experiences are among those that I’ve had as an audience that will stay with me forever. Daniel sometimes makes me cry, often makes me laugh, and always leaves me in awe of the sensitivity and intelligence with which he approaches his subjects. I am forever grateful to be able to include him among the few truly exceptional artists with whom I’ve worked.

Sincerely,

Joey Rizzolo

AD, Oberlin Summer Theater Festival
Artist, New York Neo-Futurists