



Edgewood Elementary School (SD57 Prince George)

4440 Craig Rd. Prince George B.C. V2K 3P5

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www.edgewood.sd57.bc.ca

September 30, 2013

Re: Alex Zerbe – Professional Zaniac

Good Morning,

I am writing to you with the purpose of supporting Alex Zerbe, Professional Zaniac, in your artist selection process.

As a school administrator, I have had the benefit of working with Alex for four years. I have enjoyed his educational and riveting performances in the presence of varying audiences. All of them have responded with the same roars of laughter and faces of amazement at aspects of his show! Specifically I have found Alex's performances to be among the best I have hired. Alex's show is energetic, educationally relevant, and uniquely varied in content. Alex is truly multitalented, resulting in a show that few others can pull off with the same quality as Alex.

Alex performed last winter to a school where I am the Principal. My first impression of this, our second meeting, was that Alex was super organized! He had many relevant questions for me designed to precisely address all the preparation required to pull off a flawless show. Alex came onto the stage from the sports equipment room, running down the centre aisle of the audience. Between the music, his energy, and the visually captivating props, he had the whole school, including staff, completely attentive for almost an hour! The laughter never stopped and this fed Alex's energy for the show.

One aspect of his show teachers and other staff appreciated was his ongoing focus on including educationally relevant material in his act. Aspects of science are vividly illuminated as he spins objects upon objects: on fingers, heads, and lucky students from the audience. His care and attention to literacy comes through loud and bassy while he raps and beatboxes about the local library and all the books we can find there. Students remember these aspects of his show and this increases the power behind our teaching the next time we emphasize these learning concepts.

I first learned that Alex was a one-of-a-kind performer when he visited a high school where I was the vice-principal. I met him before the show and in our conversation he was very concerned and attentive about the ways he could adjust his show not only to suit the location of Prince George, but also about how he could adjust the content to be more interesting to the age group of students to whom he was performing. This impressed me, as this is not a common practice of performers we hire. Since then, I have seen students beg for tricks and stunts they have seen before, but I have never seen Alex's repertoire grow stale. He is always sharing new tricks with his audiences.

The last thought I will leave you with is about how Alex so accurately embodies the true lifelong learner: something of great interest to schools. During one performance, I watched Alex explain to the students that he had been attempting a new trick. He further explained that he didn't always nail it and that he may make a mistake in front of the whole school. During the first attempt, Alex did miss a catch. However, he then went on to demonstrate a successful attempt and most importantly model the aspect of 'a learner' we can all benefit from: nothing worthwhile comes without hard work, perseverance, and learning from our mistakes and outtakes. For these reasons, I hope to see Alex as an annually repeating choice on the artists register. When he is available, he will always be my first choice for a balance of funny, skillful, educational, and fresh!

Sincerely,

Steve Wyer

September 27, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a children's librarian with King County Library system and I've spent three years on the summer reading committee, which selects and evaluates performers. It's evident from our committee meetings that **he is one of the elite performers who receive solely outstanding reviews** and he is popular among any age group. I have had Alex present Summer Reading Program school assemblies for two years. I've seen for myself that he is able to incorporate music, dance, and theatrics that engages youth and encourages them to pursue their own talents and embrace their individuality.

With his high motivation Alex Zerbe continues to add challenging elements to his performance that will inspire anyone. He smoothly presents and shares his creative process with his audience. His work is driven by not only a professional interest but also a personal passion. He learned some of his skills from library books and he wrote and presents a library rap that is a huge success among the youth and teachers at school assemblies. **I hired him for multiple shows at various schools** and each performance was unique. He is always consistent with the two most essential elements: quality and message. Before his first performance, he asks if there is a certain theme or message that needs to be addressed during his show. He then finds the perfect spots during his program to incorporate it. His message is always sincere and it's sprinkled with lots of humor that will appeal to youth and adults. His juggling skills are very impressive and he discusses the need for practice and persistence to achieve any goal. In addition, Alex conveys the importance of exploring and encourages finding one's unique talents.

I know that he has had a major impact on many people's lives. For example, I had a nine year-old student come to the library a few days after one of Alex's show and he stated, "I'd like books about how to do what Alex does." **The young patron then requested juggling books and received his very first library card.** His father was excited that his son was interested in pursuing a new activity. Alex has helped many people already, but he wants to touch more lives by expanding his programs to Canada. I applaud Alex for seeking to continue new artistic challenges and venues.

Alex Zerbe is one of the most highly respected and talented performers that I've had at the library. If I can be of any further assistance on behalf of Alex Zerbe, please do not hesitate to contact me either by phone (509) 496-4893 or email at <ramartin@kcls.org>.

Thank you,

Bekka Martin

Children's Librarian
Renton Library
509-496-4893
ramartin@kcls.org

RUTLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL
HOME OF THE JUNIOR VOODOOS

Re: Alex Zerbe

September 29, 2013

To whom it may concern,

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Alex Zerbe. Last year, Alex performed his act, Professional Zaniac, at Rutland Middle School. RMS is an inner city school, grades 7 to 9, with a population of 650 students.

Alex put on an absolutely wonderful show that entertained our entire school population of students. He made them laugh while exposing them to the wonderful world of the arts. He incorporated music, dance and drama into this show and inspired students with his creativity. While performing some juggling acts, he told the audience his story of persistence and of determination. He was very entertaining and really encouraged young adults to find various ways to share their natural gifts through self-expression. He is a natural performer that connects with his audience through his high energy and contagious enthusiasm.

I was fortunate enough to get to spend some time with Alex after school. He is truly a humble young man who loves to entertain and work with young people. He is very approachable and believes in working hard in order to perfect his art. He possesses the gift of a truly creative spirit. Alex embodies that the qualities of a true artist which can hopefully inspire our students to follow their dreams and passions.

I believe that Alex is a strong candidate for your consideration. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 250-826-8544.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ashley Ragoonaden
Principal



Renton Library

100 Mill Avenue S
Renton, WA 98057
www.kcls.org

September 25, 2013

Re: Alex Zerbe, Letter of Recommendation

To Whom It May Concern:

As a Children's Librarian for over 17 years, I've hosted a multitude of children's programs in libraries and at community venues throughout the King County and Snohomish County area. In my experience, I have found it is rare to encounter a performer who is consistently reliable, entertaining, creative, and inspiring. Alex Zerbe is that rare gem!

Last spring I hired Alex to perform 8 shows for 8 different elementary schools in the Kent School District to promote the summer reading program, "Dig Into Reading!" Alex made scheduling all these programs in one week a breeze. I was fortunate to watch many of the shows and was in awe of his high energy and the joy he exudes when performing. It was clearly evident that Alex loves what he does and develops a great rapport with all ages, children and adults alike.

Alex's shows are very educational. He shares his love of reading and how books helped him to learn how to juggle and craft his skills. Alex also conveys an important message in his shows and that is, "failure is not permanent." He explains to young people that they may not be successful the first time they try something new, but with perseverance and practice they'll get better.

Children watch his show and experience a variety of mediums. In addition to juggling, Alex beat-boxes, uses music, dance, and physical comedy. I am amazed by how he weaves these components into his show in an entertaining manner and is able to align his programs to a specific theme or learning objective. Alex is a consummate professional and I wholeheartedly recommend his programs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly via email bsalgado@kcls.org or phone at 425.226.6043.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bernadette Salgado".

Bernadette Salgado
Children's Section Supervisor
King County Library System
Fairwood/Renton/Renton Highlands
425.226.6043



Deborah Schneider, Public Programming Coordinator
King County Library System
960 Newport Way NW
Issaquah, WA 98027

October 14, 2011

I am delighted to write a letter of reference for Alex Zerbe, (aka: Professional Zaniac). Alex was one of our most popular performers as part of our Summer Reading Program in 2011. His performances are high energy, fun for all ages and contain important messages about books, stories, reading and libraries.

I was so impressed with Alex's performances in the summer, and the outstanding evaluations my library staff members submitted, that I hired him for a series of in-school assembly programs that are part of a promotion for our "Ready, Set, Read" series.

Not only are the performances outstanding, but Alex demonstrates a professional attitude, has good business sense and understands that details like being reliable, communicating and providing excellent promotional materials are also part of the job.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information, but be forewarned, I may just "gush" about Alex. He brings a great deal to the programming for families at King County Library System, and I look forward to working with him again.

Deborah Schneider
425.369.3319
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