

To Whom It May Concern
Re Elizabeth Mackney, Music Therapist
13 May 2014

I am a paediatrician and President of the Board of Sprung!! Integrated Dance Theatre Inc, a mixed abilities dance theatre troupe founded by myself and Sue Whiteman, Director of Alstonville Dance Studio, in 2012. (see www.sprung.me)

In 2013 our group was seeking a “multi-instrumentalist” capable of responding with improvisations to dance theatre exercises as part of an interactive drama called Encounters that we hoped to eventually perform for a live audience.

Liz, in her Honours year of Music Therapy at the time, responded to my callout and we had a fantastic trial session with the group of young persons aged 18-30 with a variety of physical and intellectual disabilities as well as some volunteer support dancers of varying ages.

Later in the year I engaged Liz again, this time as composer and improvisational musician, to work with the same group of about 10 dancers, plus choreographer Michael Hennessy. Liz and I worked with Michael Hennessy and Sprung!! Junior Associate Artist Tara Coughlan, an emerging dancer with Down Syndrome. Michael and Tara were devising a dance based on listening and responding, and on two strangers who ‘touched’ through dance and music, and went back into the world transformed. Liz composed a beautiful work that echoed their uncertain gestures, and played it live at their rehearsals and performance. The duet was at the center of a five act work which also required Liz to improvise on keyboard or percussion in response to different dancers walks or moods, play latin dance for a sassy duo, and provide soundscapes for ‘cricket’, ‘playstation’, and barnyard polka!!!

Liz was terrific to work with: enthusiastic, knowledgeable, ready to experiment, sensitive to all participants, capable of working in chaos, and to rise to the needs of a performing as well as a therapeutic environment. She is extremely talented and yet down to earth, generous, hardworking, and fun.

I can highly recommend her in any of a dozen capacities!

Please don't hesitate to contact me for more information,

Regards,
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