

Copenhagen 14th December 2020

Reference for **Ellinor Ødegård Staurbakk**

I first met Ellinor Ødegård Staurbakk in the Spring of 2019, while Artistic Director of the touring dance company, EDGE. EDGE is a postgraduate programme at London Contemporary Dance School based at The Place.

<https://www.theplace.org.uk/blog/place-blog/%E2%80%9Cyou-feel-you-are-part-something-bigger-you%E2%80%9D-%E2%80%93-behind-scenes-edge-dance-company>

Ellinor is a highly intelligent, extremely motivated individual and it was an absolute pleasure to work with her. She brought in beautifully creative ideas and excelled in the collaborative process in the creations of three vastly different choreographers. Her abilities and creative talent were noticed immediately by all our guest choreographers.

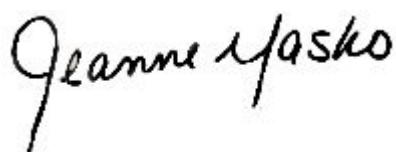
EDGE normally tours a full evening of choreographies from March until mid-July in and outside the UK but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, that tour was cancelled. Still, I was in the studio observing and working with Ellinor every day during the months of creation and rehearsal. Throughout that period Ellinor showed herself as a courageous, mature, thinking-out-of-the-box student and she brought in a body of experience coming from performance projects strongly connected to Nordic nature.

I have rarely seen a more open dance-artist; she is willing to step into many different approaches to co-creation and is able to do that, without weighing herself down with any judgement. She is fearless yet considerate. She has a sense of wildness but is grounded. Ellinor is curious and with that and her ability to engage in dialogue, she helps create a safe space for creative work.

She is a dancer with beautiful qualities, a great learner and an extremely positive team player, and I highly recommend her to you and hope you will consider her for the DanceWeb Scholarship Programme 2021.

Please feel free to contact me if you should have any further questions.

With best wishes,



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