



## Letter of support for Sandrine Monin

I first encountered Sandrine when watching her phenomenal work as a dancer and choreographer with Phoenix Dance Theatre. Sandrine started her work as a freelance movement director with tutti frutti productions in 2019 for a new show Sweet Dreams that was planned to tour in spring 2020 <https://tutti-frutti.org.uk/show/sweet-dreams-by-mike-kenny/?section=our-work>

In 2019, Sandrine carried out 2 days R&D on the show, ran three days of auditions to cast the show and ran workshops with children in school. This was all in preparation for the production we were due to rehearse and tour in 2020. Sadly due to the covid pandemic this production has been postponed until 2021 when Sandrine will work with us as the movement director.

During the R&D Sandrine ran an exploratory workshop with all the production team and our science partners to explore ideas that will feed into the final show. This work influences, design, music and the writing of the play. She created a brilliant session that was suitable for all to engage with, regardless of their dance abilities. Similarly she ran workshops with young children to explore the theme of sleep through movement. During the London auditions we were seeking two performers with exceptional movement ability and Sandrine prepared some inspiring movement pieces that were suitable for the performer to learn and try and this helped determine the choices we made.

Sandrine is a really creative movement director, working intuitively with actors and always finding an appropriate movement language to meet the performer's skill level. She is able to help actors grow in their confidence with movement and she brings out the best in people.

She is a team player, and a hard working creative professional who brings ideas to the rehearsal room. She tests out new ideas, and always brings something exciting to the process.

She has good people skills and is at ease working with dancers and non-dancers. When working on the R&D she worked closely with our partners from The Sleep Charity and Sheffield Children's hospital to garner their ideas for the show.

In the school R&D workshops, she enabled the children to discover and create through movement. She garnered their trust and encouraged them to try new things.

Sandrine has immense skill and energy and her work as a dancer is inspiring which she brings to her work as a choreographer. She is always looking to learn through engaging with different practices and projects.

This new project, The Shopkeeper Project that Sandrine is developing reflects her ability as a collaborator and her adaptability to work in a range of art forms. This work is exciting and combines dance, theatre and comedy into a developing a duet, exploring the important subject of mental health and depression and so it is the perfect piece to make for our current times.

I would highly recommend Sandrine and I wish to support her application to assist her to further develop, thrive creatively and allow her brilliance to shine.

**Wendy Harris Artistic Director tutti frutti**