

To whom it may concern,

I have read the reports in the media that the Staatliche Ballettschule Berlin (SBB) is accused of having “humiliated, harassed and even physically abused its proteges.” Our experience with the school has been just the opposite! SBB has been a caring, nurturing school that provides the rigor of elite ballet training without crossing the line into abuse.

My daughter, Grace Koznarek, attends the school, and I lived here in Prenslaurburg for the first five months she attended. I was at the school quite frequently and have observed several ballet classes. I found the environment at the school to be positive and encouraging. It is a challenging school for elite artists who do not want to be coddled or lied to.

I have spoken to Grace quite extensively about the allegations against the school and she believes them to be unfounded as well. Grace loves the teachers and the training she receives. She has made great improvements in her dancing and in her understanding of the art of dance.

Thank you for all you do for our dancers. It is a great privilege to be trained at the world class Staatliche Ballettschule Berlin! Thank you for taking young dancers and helping them become artists who can move souls, awaken hearts, challenge thinking and bring beauty to this world through dance!

Sincerely,

Margaret Wright