

11-10-2003

Mr. Douglas MacValley
MacValley Stunts, Inc.
Christchurch, New Zealand
Douglasmacvalley@hotmail.com

RE: Michael Distefano

To Whom It May Concern:

I first met Michael Distefano almost a quarter of a century ago when I was performing with Ringling Bros. Circus with my "Globe of Death Motorcycle Spectacular" specialty act. Shortly thereafter, his father, Sam, had booked me into the "Playboy Fantasy" stage production revue at the Playboy Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City, NJ. It was then that I hired Michael to work for my company, MacValley Stunts, after noticing something very special in him. His interest in the hospitality/entertainment industry is so sincere and long held. He started off running simple office errands. But it did not take long for Michael's true talents to shine through in the areas of promotion, marketing, and eventually booking the Globe act into state fairs, auto shows, t.v. specials, and ultimately, the award-winning "Splash" show at the Riviera Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, NV. It was Michael who planted the seed of starring the Globe act in "Splash" into the minds of his father, Sam (who at the time was serving as the Vice-President of Entertainment and Executive Producer at the 'Riv'), the show's Producer, Jeff Kutash, and Meshulem Riklis, the owner of the hotel.

As an aside, Michael is also a talented musician, originally from Chicago. He studied jazz piano and drums at the prestigiously acclaimed Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan. He worked and performed with a number of great jazz artists including Cleveland Eaton (of the Count Basie Orchestra), Sarah Vaughn's accompanist, George Gaffney, Larry & Gary Novak, Carol Coleman, and renowned trombonist, Carl Fontana!

His promotional, marketing, and managerial work with MacValley Stunts contributed greatly in keeping the "Globe of Death" one of the most exciting and competed for attractions in the industry. Michael's uncanny sense of what entertainment buyers' needs and wants are, combined with his wonderful communication and people skills, make him one of the best in the business I've had the pleasure and privilege of employing and working with!

Finally, the attribute I am most proud of Michael for applying is his relentlessly fierce and determined pursuit of his higher education. For years, both Mr. Riklis and his father, Sam, along with myself, had been encouraging Michael to return to college to finish his degree. He has obviously far exceeded any of our expectations and accomplished an incredible education from the Southern Nevada College and University System (world renowned for its superior hospitality training and education)! The fact that he graduated with so many high academic honors, awards, and recognitions makes me very emotional with pride at how this young man turned out as I always knew he would.

If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me!

Thank you, and God Bless always.

Sincerely,



Douglas MacValley