

*Below is a letter I received from Mr. Danton following our last performance. I cannot tell you how much this means to meet with his approval. As my mentor, I have always measured by "success" by his criticism and strived to live up to his expectations.*

*It is with his permission that I share this with everyone.*

Yvonne

Over the many years that I have known you, and that we have worked together, I have had ample opportunity to observe you as some kind of magician, pull something unexpected and unlikely out of the hat, in the form of performances. All of which makes one wonder how you do it.

But with Sunday's performance of *Cinderella*, you surpassed yourself, excelling, and exceeding all expectations, to produce a virtually flawless spectacle. My old professional eye, trained to detect the slightest imperfection, could find nothing to be criticized, improved or altered in any way.

With such a short rehearsal period, and the limited time that the participants were able, for one reason or another, to give you, with only one day for tech. set-up, and one day for dress rehearsal, the result was nothing short of a miracle.

From the principals at the top, down to the smallest, and very small, Mice and Timekeepers, it was obvious that everyone knew exactly what they had to do, how to do it, and when and where, and do it professionally. This was a very real achievement from the performing part of the spectacle.

But it would be unjust not to recognize the efforts of mothers, fathers, friends and faithful alumni, working tirelessly before the performance on costumes, props and scenery. Not to forget to mention those same who worked backstage as stagehands, dressers and keepers of discipline; and every cast member who, in their moments offstage, pushed and pulled and hauled scenery.

None of this would have happened without the respect and affection for "Miss Yvonne". A wonderful example of collaboration within the bounds of Pine Belt Ballet, and without which such a performance would not have been possible. And what an example for the Pine Belt Community in general, of what could be achieved if everyone would work together in harmony toward a communal goal of the promotion of the Arts.

Thank you, "Miss Yvonne", for what you have done for the community, and for the Arts in Mississippi, on your own, and almost entirely without any official assistance.

Sincerely and affectionately,  
Henry Danton