

Recommendation for Alberto Lombardo

I am pleased to give my strongest recommendation for Alberto Lombardo for a post as a teacher of Theater Arts or of French. Mr. Lombardo did not solicit this letter; I volunteered to write it.

In March of 2012, I co-sponsored and organized with colleagues in the departments of Theater Arts and Foreign Languages and Literatures a two-week residency by Mr. Lombardo at Clark University. Mr. Lombardo taught classes for the French Program, participated in theater classes with professor Gino Dilorio and conducted a theater workshop for the Theater Arts Program. Of the many residencies I have sponsored at Clark as a former Chair of Foreign Languages and Director of The Higgins School of Humanities, I can say without reservation that Mr. Lombardo's was the most successful. Both in the language and theater arts classes, Mr. Lombardo proved to be a gifted teacher who immediately won the students' trust and enthusiastic response.

A talented actor and director who conducts frequent acting and writing workshops in Paris, Mr. Lombardo made use of his extensive knowledge of theater techniques to enliven his classes at Clark. In language classes he is especially successful in using improvisational techniques to reduce student inhibition and to bring out their inventive and imaginative abilities. In addition to facilitating student participation in spoken activities, Mr. Lombardo also devised innovative exercises in written French inviting students to compose brief dialogues based on a variety of dramatic situations. He was particularly successful in encouraging students to work in groups. Class activities were both lively and focused and made extremely effective use of student creativity. Were I not recently retired, I would have no hesitation in adopting Mr. Lombardo's methods in language classes. Indeed, watching him teach made me want to get back in the traces.

I am confident that should you engage Mr. Lombardo as an instructor, you would not regret it. He has an engaging personality, particularly suited to bringing out the best in students. He would certainly prove to be a productive, cooperative and valuable member of any program lucky enough to employ him.

Michael Spingler
Retired associate professor of French
Clark University