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Teaching Philosophy

At its heart, theatre is a collaborative process that allows diverse groups of artists to share their skills with one another to create a unified work of art. These skills utilized in production are transferrable to various other elements of life from both personal and professional standpoints. In academia, it is our mission to prepare our students to discover who they are while equipping with them with the necessary training to be successful and find fulfillment within their chosen field. It is imperative that our students understand the multi-faceted nature of theatre in order to effectively create, communicate, and problem solve with their fellow artists.

As an educator, I concentrate on three primary goals to prepare my students for positions in academic and professional theatre: the development and exemplification of effective collaboration methods; the building of a working knowledge of a wide range of production techniques including but not limited to costume design/production and stage make-up; an evolution and advancement of personal growth through the augmentation of the level of expectations that professional theatre artists adhere to.

In theatre we have the opportunity to create many unique interactive learning opportunities. I believe that in order to educate our students about the process of designing for a production, in a collaborative manner with the other artists involved; can be supported through these opportunities. In my courses I have created various projects that require the students to work together towards a common goal while also learning to effectively communicate their ideas. This not only strengthens their bonds as peers but it also gives them valuable experience that can prepare them to be a part of production teams. I also believe that as technology continues to be an integral part of everyday life that it is important to show our students how to navigate and use these tools to their advantage. In the development of my lesson plans I have consistently incorporated the use of cell phones, images, and music to appeal to the variety of learning styles my students possess.

It is necessary for students to have opportunities that encourage them to step out of their comfort zones while understanding that it is all right to make mistakes. With the guidance of an instructor, making a mistake can become an exceptional learning experience for the student. Rather than memorizing what to do or not to do, they have the chance to see firsthand why their choice did not work out as expected. In a visual field, such as design, it is my belief that this enhances the quality of their education when followed up with a discussion that includes recognition of mistakes made and suggestions for future solutions.

The theatre is a place where a variety of individuals can find a place where they are encouraged and accepted based on the quality of their work and their willingness to participate. From the moment I saw my first costume design come to life on stage I have dedicated my life to helping students discover their own path towards their careers. I have strived to find ways to encourage them while also challenging each of them to be the best version of themselves. Through the implementation of my primary goals I am able to provide continuous support of the development of well-rounded theatre artists who are prepared to embark on their professional journeys following graduation.