

Statement of Teaching Philosophy
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I think of my classroom as a workshop. No class—and no student—is the same, and this workshop classroom allows both the students and I the flexibility to adapt, to experiment, to encourage, and to pursue the maximum learning outcome. One of the keys to learning through this workshop classroom is being allowed to try—and to fail. It is this experimentation, and reflection of the process, that allows students to learn not only through their own experiences, but also by observing each other's work and methods, too. In each of my classes, I strive to create a safe place for my students to explore their own limits emotionally, physically, and artistically. This workshop environment is created through different learning activities throughout the course of each semester, based around the scholastic focus and target learning outcomes of the class. Open and honest communication between the students and myself, along with open communication between students and their classmates, is what is most important for creating success in this environment. Discussions, and students' personal reflections, play a vital role in each of my classes. In discussions both in and outside the classroom, students are encouraged to constructively investigate their own work, as well as each other's work. It is important to create an environment in each class in which it is clear that we are all working toward the same goal—which is to learn, and to better ourselves individually, artistically, and as a community.

Some of things I value the most are creativity, collaboration, and hard work. I work to instill these values in all of my students. Creative thinking can help to solve almost any problem that occurs in the theatre. I want my students to think outside the box. This will not only help them as theatre artists, but in all aspects of life. This creative thinking is promoted in the classroom through discussions, and through hands-on projects. Collaboration is an important skill for theatre artists to develop, as well as an important skill for most other jobs. In classroom and production work, I foster a collaborative atmosphere through group project and activities. In productions, I embolden students to take artistic ownership through discussion, and I encourage them to voice their questions and express their own point of view. I like to push students to explore collaboration in all aspects of the theatre, and in fields outside the theatre

as well. I try to instill students with well-rounded knowledge, and I encourage them to learn to be open to collaborative projects and problem-solving in a variety of settings. I work to inspire my students to see the necessity of well-rounded learning, creativity, collaboration, and hard work by practicing these values in my own education, professional activities, and personal life. In my classes, I want students to understand that hard work is what will lead them to success. I want them to try new things, to 'go out on the limb,' to take risks, and to realize that any 'failures' are really just another opportunity to learn. This willingness to work hard, and to go beyond the safe routine for the good grade, is how true learning takes place. This willingness to work hard will lead students to development a strong, positive reputation in the field.

An education in theatre should not only prepare my students for a career in the theatre, but should also help them to develop skills that will be beneficial in any number of professions, and in their personal lives as well. The education I strive to provide will prepare students to look at the world in new ways, making them more compassionate and understanding human beings. I want students to leave my classes with a desire to promote positive change in the world through hard work, collaboration, and creativity.