

## Teaching Philosophy

As theatre practitioners, we often hear the adage, “It is not what you know, but who you know.” As a theatre instructor, I am confident that both the “who” and the “what” matter equally. I aim to expose my students to a variety of contacts, experiences, and knowledge-gaining opportunities. I want my students to be, not only specialized in costume design and technology, but also open to various other areas of understanding. In short, I want my students to be students of life.

Theatre demands attention from all aspects of life. We must gain and fuse knowledge of the humanities, fine arts, politics, history, science, and yes, even business. Seeking to know how the world works and to understand the human condition helps us become better artists and educators. We are never done learning, especially in as unique and ever-changing a venue as theatre. I am constantly learning and inspired not only by my colleagues but also by my students.

As instructors, we are responsible for more than a product. We create art and artists. This starts with strong mentoring. Because theatrical costuming is such a hands on medium, I take special care to adjust my teaching style to the talents and tastes of each student. I believe in maintaining a face-to-face relationship with my students that facilitates the free flow of ideas, theories, and feelings. A fundamental part of this process is dialogue. This may take time, but the reward in artistic expression is worth double the effort.

When teaching I expect my students to develop an understanding of the process of costume design, technology, and management. This includes exploring the roles and relationships between various members of a costume production staff and to understand the principles of costume design, technology, and management and the purpose that costumes serve in a production. I want them to gain the ability to critique and appreciate costumes in any given production, to create more attentive students and better-educated audience members. I am committed that my students will learn technical costuming skills that will enable them to be useful and efficient collaborators in the costume design, technology, and management process.