

My collaborative space

I welcome people of all races, ages, religions, political affiliations, genders, countries of origin, sexual orientations, sizes, and abilities into collaboration with me, and the projects I facilitate as an independent theatre practitioner. The community of artists and students I have collaborated with is diverse, and I hope my community continues to blossom with increasingly diverse voices and perspectives.

I am deeply honored by the trust and responsibility given to me when I facilitate rehearsal rooms and learning environments. It matters, to me, that participants feel safe in environments I facilitate.

The word actor

In writing and teaching, when I employ the word “actor”, I am using this as a term with no implied gender—like “doctor” or “writer”—which describes a practitioner engaged in the study and profession of acting.

My approach toward actor training

- A question I have been frequently asked is what ‘method’, ‘system’, or ‘approach’ I work with. (e.g., Meisner?) Briefly, there is no one specific method I teach or prescribe.
- I believe there are as many pathways to becoming a skilled, effective, and exciting actor as there are actors. I prioritize giving my attention to the individual actor(s) in front of me as a moment-to-moment coach. I hope to offer tools, exercises, feedback, or devices participants could benefit from in the moment, and take with them into their individual rehearsal process(es).
- I very rarely assign material (e.g., scenes or monologues) for students to present in class, rather I encourage them to conduct the rigorous work of finding material which resonates for them and stimulates their imagination.

The values I hope to stimulate or encourage in actors who collaborate with me as students are:

Resilience

Acknowledging the idea that we learn a great deal from what we survive, and we survive many things—great or small—every day. I believe it is of vital importance to give oneself permission to try, play, struggle, embarrass oneself, reflect, and pivot on the journey toward creative fearlessness.

Imagination

Celebrating the essential challenge that actors are responsible to explore beyond their lived experience. The characters or worlds a project presents an actor with may feel deeply unconnected to what is personally natural, real, or familiar to that actor. This is challenging but can also be stimulating and exciting. We get to practice empathy and make personal discoveries about emotions and commonalities in what it means to be human.

Collaboration

Actors work in collaborative environments and media. Listening, communication, sharing perspectives and insights, and self-direction are necessary skills to develop.

Experimentation

You are enough. The acquisition of new skills can help prepare you to participate in an ever-broadening range of creative work, yet there is no “there”. The value of actor training is not in conditioning you to be like some other performer, but in freeing, unblocking, and untangling your access to the authentic performer within yourself. Curiosity, exploration, and daydreaming are all powerful resources for empowering that journey of connection and expression.