

### Artist Statement

As a consent-based artist focusing on directing, live and on-camera acting, and intimacy choreography, I strive to create art that will guide others to explore and understand themselves and those around them. Whether an audience desires the comfort of entertaining escape from this world, or the discomfort of seeing the exposed truths of reality, my storytelling artistry challenges us to think deeply about our world and about the human condition.

There is no way a single director, actor or other theatre artist could accomplish this to its fullest extent on their own. Being an individual piece - within a whole company - working to produce shows that are impactful and dear to the audience is another focus of my work. Yes, we can create as individuals and produce separately, but there is nothing like working with a group of artists towards the same end goal.

I see this collaboration in my acting, when I focus on the ensemble. My priority is to always communicate the truth of the character for the purpose of serving the story, particularly through my movement work, text work, and exploration of beats on stage. I see it in my directing, when I am crafting a story that I could never tell alone. I find ways to encourage people in the room, develop open dialogue, and create open, guiding thoughts and blocking to stimulate actor impulse and choices. My focus on collaboration is most heightened in my choreography, when my greatest role is to be the link between actor and director. My job is to help bring the director's vision for the production to life while utilizing best practices and tools to create choreography that tells the story of the characters on stage within the actors' sets of boundaries.

Theatre, as an art form, is (at its core) about giving people the opportunity to see themselves (humanity) from the outside and at a distance. No matter where the show is placed,

what it is about, how many times it has been seen, the artists should always be able to demonstrate the humanity of the work to those encountering it. There is a particular importance in exposing truth while always taking care of your audience. I could not effectively create in the ways that I need to if I was not honest with the audience; about the story, the characters on stage, and most importantly, the universal experiences of humanity that we need to encounter.

As I look back on my academic work, my professional internship, and over all theatre experiences, I am grateful for the growth and confidence I have gained as an early career artist. There may always be a part of me seeing the flaws and areas in need of improvement in my work, but in the past I feared feedback and criticism. Now, I find comfort and encouragement in it as it helps me to improve.

My future plans include working in the arts by whatever means possible. This is why I have worked to cultivate a broad understanding of, and gain experience in, theatre craft. I would be deeply satisfied working in directing, acting, or intimacy choreography. But I also have skills in costuming, social media marketing, or administrative work with which I can support myself.