

Billy Wilburn

Educator/Designer

Teaching Philosophy

My goal as an educator is to prepare both students and theatre patrons to embrace all arts as an important part of their lives. This goal is achieved through a combination of process and product. Through creative explosion personal growth occurs. If a theatre program is to be successful it must evoke a passion in the student, as well as patron, to achieve a higher level of awareness.

A liberal arts education supplies a firm base for a student's future by integrating all academic disciplines and bringing together a diverse group of people. Such an education provides the vehicle to create a global community. Within this community there is a mixing of culture and ideas that "charges" the individual and society as a whole. The theatre then, becomes a magnetic environment providing a creative outlet welcoming talent from all of areas of academia.

In the classroom, I strive to create a lasting, memorable, and relevant experience by being an involved and caring teacher. It is essential for me to incorporate current theatrical practices and technology in order to make connections and offer the most for my students. I want my students to remain invigorated throughout their career constantly refining and honing their craft. It is also important for me to continue working professionally while teaching to challenge myself. In both professional and academic settings we collaborate, sharing ideas and helping each other grow and explore new methods of communication.

Theatre is a laboratory for the intermingling of creativity and practical application. This environment supplies the student with hands-on experiences that enhance the traditional classroom setting. It is important that while designing we gain the ability to meld historical and evocative research, concept and idea, to create complete and holistic knowledge of the project at hand.

I teach in order to learn. I want to provide students with the tools necessary for the craft and instill in them a passion for learning. When this is achieved students take educated risks, which prepare them for the professional world. Risk-taking is important because it helps to develop free and imaginative thinkers. I encourage my students to challenge my opinions and process, because through this discussion creativity flourishes and we both learn. It is my goal to prepare students for continuing lifelong development, both as artists and as people.

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