



Sara Curran Ice

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Teaching Philosophy

“Life isn’t about finding yourself; life is about creating yourself.”

-George Bernard Shaw

To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong.”

- Joseph Chilton Pearce

I teach in order to connect my students to the field of costume design through their own unique creative practice. I strive to find the perfect balance of preparation, intention, and opportunity to make mistakes in a classroom setting. In a hands-on learning environment, I encourage students to journey fearlessly into the unfamiliar, developing their passions through resourcefulness and imagination.

Technology and design are at the core of my research. I teach to all learning types through visuals, descriptions, applied practices, and demonstration. I use both my knowledge from theatre as well as television and film to incorporate a solid foundation from the syllabus to classroom criteria and overall goals for the course. I approach each class as a guided exploration, a safe space to learn and truly engage with the material. I aim for creative mentorship and work from the paradigm that adaptability is at the core of this art.

At an undergraduate level, I seek proficiency and knowledge through repetition and integration of technique. This requires both hands-on instruction and a genuine curiosity in their thought process. In lieu of right or wrong criticism, I ask questions and form-open ended statements that encourage, not deter the creative process.

From a graduate perspective, I aim for aptitude embedded in artistry, giving soon-to-be-peers the skills necessary to thrive in the industry, and also the freedom and inspiration to further the form. In the reality of an industry where mediocrity is not an option, I value educating young artists to not only survive but also to better the field.

I encourage individual thought and creativity; I honor clear intent, solid effort, and a respectful attitude. Students working at their full potential are the ultimate goals of my pedagogy. I want students to leave my class understanding the demands and rewards of teamwork, clear communication, and creative collaboration.