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Actor. Artist. Educator. Advocate.

Teaching Philosophy

Boleslavsky once defined acting as “the life of the human soul receiving its birth through art.” I, too, want to dedicate my life to a developing craft for acting. Theater is a transformative medium that is never replicated. It is a breathing, living form that is always moving, changing and never finished. The value of this art form is often measured by talent. I debunk the definition of talent as “something you are born with”. Rather, talent is having an imagination and the nerve to use that imagination.

Anyone can have talent, if they are disciplined enough to develop it. On the first day of class, I draw a comparison of Michelangelo’s *David* with the inner life of an actor. Where once a giant block of marble stood, now stands a vivid towering masterpiece. The *David* lived within that block long before it was sculpted, yet it wasn’t actualized until Michelangelo revealed its inner life. Through empowerment, student actors reveal their own inner life, experience emotional liberty, follow impulses. Ultimately, they seek freedom through transformation.

Holistically, students are able to make the connection between expressing truth and the development of an artist. Guided sensory exploration affords students the opportunity to connect with their five senses. They are encouraged to unlock holding places of tension and connect breath to thought. The goal is to develop a personal shortcut vernacular for accessing honesty without indulgence or fear. When trust is established in the classroom, an ensemble is created. Everyone is free to risk more and express their truth.

I make learning objectives achievable across the spectrum of learning as our ensemble grows. The intuitive actor learns through trial and error. For the actor that learns on their feet, Spolin-based exercises allows for synthesis. Energy and focus work within the ensemble inspires collaboration and creates a supportive atmosphere. The analytical actor learns through fierce dialogue and debate. They obtain growth through table work, instructor led conversation about character analysis and relatable reading materials. Through assigned journaling, students gain cause for reflection and are able to synthesize discoveries.

Acting is a discipline. This creed is enforced with a sense of levity and humility. Students walk away as empowered *and* compassionate people of the world. They fearlessly attack their dreams and actualize them. They synthesize and identify the link between focused hard work and the liberty that comes as a direct byproduct. And they exhibit the bravery to share their unique selves with the world beyond the classroom.