

Emma Anne Wedemeyer

Teaching Philosophy

As I present and provide my current teaching philosophy, I give thanks to the multiple teachers that have shaped my dancing and teaching style and have graciously given me an abundance of information that I continuously use everyday.

Thanks to

Douglas Gillespie, Jesse Zarrit, Sarah Harkness-Sebastion, Melissia Canto-Brenner, Elizabeth Johnson, Dante Puleio, Omri Drumivich, Trent D. Williams Jr., and Andrew Cao.

As a teacher and collaborator I constantly pull from my heterogeneous background of technical styles including various contemporary forms, tap, musical theatre, hiphop (house), and improvisation. I believe in a feminist approach and encourage a sense of belonging in a classroom with shared experiences in order to establish a strong community. Currently, my class has a keen focus on exploring performance qualities and hopes to share methods and skills that come into play when creating and performing in site-specific, immersive, and experiential work. Additionally, I aim to provide an environment where students feel comfortable risk-taking and exploring authenticity all while finding new ways to challenge the space. I find fulfillment as a teacher seeing students feel comfortable to tap into their own movement style and choices. In class, we investigate technique, improvisation, and compositional prompts all while providing space for open interpretations and critical discussions. My goal is to create a thinking dancer.

In class we use compositional tools to create individual characters, find confidence in each unique voice, and celebrating choices all while laughing along the way in a low stress inclusive environment.

I encourage students to trust their own movement impulses, desires, and motivations. I believe students must recognize that their strengths and weaknesses do not define their self-worth.

Mistakes. Are. Encouraged. Always.