

STATEMENT OF SERVICE PHILOSOPHY

The service portion of my work is the connective tissue between my teaching and creative work in academia. I approach service as a way to build community, both inside the academy, and connecting our institution with the national field.

A project that epitomized my commitment to uniting creative, teaching, and service work was my last production at Miami University. *Echoes of Miami* was a devised project that spanned four years from inception through production. Including over fifty artists - from students, to faculty, to professional playwrights and designers, we created a seven play, walking tour of short plays about the legends and ghost stories of Miami and Oxford. With guidance, students wrote, directed and designed these plays, and the MUT faculty and I produced it. It drew many members of the community, some who said they'd never been to a Miami Theatre production. The play was a critical and academic success, giving students the opportunity of a unique creative challenge, while celebrating and uniting both the Miami University and Oxford communities. This intersection of community and creativity embodied my values and philosophy as an artist and educator.

I founded The Brink Theatre Company while at Miami to facilitate my own creative development and to generate professional models and experiences for students. The Brink explored themes of contemporary perspectives and voices of "otherness," mounting readings in site-specific environments for small audiences. Since its inception, the company produced readings, a playwright's residency, and two fully mounted productions. These efforts included undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, alumni and professionals in the field. This model provides unusual opportunities in an academic environment, uniting academic and creative work. This model has been transferred to CSU and is alive and well in the ON THE BRINK reading series exploring crucial themes and underrepresented voices. With excellent support from the department, I am able to weave together my own creative interests, student development and opportunities with service to the community, the craft, and our current moment. In Spring 2021, I acted in or produced six readings. The goal is that the readings continue and expand, into local, national and international outreach, bringing awareness of different cultures and voices, as well as recent plays and theatrical practice to the CSU community.

In addition to creating my own service opportunities, I also contribute to CSU's institutional infrastructure. I serve on the theatre department curriculum committee, season selection committee, and hiring committees. I am the representative in Theatre for the Open Door Pedagogy Network for the College of Liberal Arts. And, I am excited to represent Region 7 for the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival as their Devising Coordinator. I look forward to sharing my training in theatrical intimacy and mental health practice with other faculty and staff in the theatre department and eventually, the larger School of Music, Theatre and Dance. It will allow us to deepen, consolidate, and clarify our culture as we move forward into this new reality, as artists, educators and collaborators.

I am interested in building communities that last beyond the lifespan of a single project. I see service as my opportunity to strengthen institutional support of artists and scholars. It gives me great satisfaction to contribute to the local and national field.