

## Teaching Philosophy

I believe teaching is: **encouraging autonomy, embodying collaboration, appreciating risk, demystifying feedback, and most of all, having fun.**

**Encouraging Autonomy:** I believe students should leave my classes with an increased capacity for making informed, autonomous decisions about their lives and the world around them. Director JoAnne Akalaitis once said: “It is the ethical duty of an educator to discuss unethical situations.” For students to grow their agency, I believe they must tackle difficult questions and be encouraged to draw decisive conclusions where easy answers are not readily apparent. In the theatre, this pertains to tackling rich, complicated texts, and delving into them not only as classroom exercises, but as working texts for artistic processes. Furthermore, I believe in emboldening students to take ownership over their own education and to take pride in the work they do.

**Embodying Collaboration:** For artists and non-artists alike, collaboration is an essential, practicable skill, not just a useful buzzword. As much as I encourage my students to be bold with their own ideas, I urge them to value the input of others just as highly. I want my students to voice their concerns, state their beliefs, and above all, ask questions. I want my students to listen to others because we learn the most when we encounter someone who does not think or believe as we do, and real listening only happens when the listener is willing to change. These situations can push boundaries and cause discomfort; again, they are not easy, but the classroom offers a safe environment for the expansion of personal horizons and perspectives.

**Appreciating Risk:** I wish to cultivate students who are unafraid to run toward risk, whether they are burgeoning artists stretching their range, or accounting majors who are terrified of speaking in front of others, but doing it anyway. I believe in enthusiastically celebrating mistakes and failures, because failures are living proof of taking risks. If we never fail, we are firmly in our comfort zones where growth is perpetually stunted. Make no mistake, I celebrate excellence and more importantly, hard work, though I would rather see a student fail gloriously than squeak by unremarkably.

**Demystifying Feedback:** I believe in consistent, individualized feedback for each student, tailored to their goals and aims. I assert that feedback is not wisdom given from on high, but an exciting conversation about process, work, and progress. Furthermore, feedback should be delivered with kindness, playfulness, and specificity. After all, students are people! They deserve more than a surly grimace and numbers in red pen on a page.

**Having Fun:** Learning should not always be easy, but it should always be fun. Having fun makes difficult things much easier and more enjoyable. Undeniably, Theatre itself is difficult; undoubtedly, it has to be fun. It is demanding, vibrant, eclectic, and vast; it reveals uncomfortable personal and global truths; but for goodness’ sake, at the end of the day, it’s fun.

## Feedback from Course Evaluations

“Professor Yoho is simply a joyful person. He loves what he teaches and wants his students to love it, too. He is well educated on the subject, well spoken, and an absolute ray of sunshine. This class is an absolute joy to attend. He is very understanding about difficulties in student's lives and is all around an excellent individual who you can't help but listen to avidly during each lecture.”

“Rob is hilarious and is so devoted to his practice. His fervor and seriousness definitely caught the attention of the students and inspired them to be more outgoing and involved in class.”

“Absolutely loved him. He was a great teacher, always kept the students interested in lectures... as for myself, I have been in the theatre business since I was three years old and being in this class was amazing.”

“Very enthusiastic about acting and he makes the class very interesting. He is very knowledgeable and I learned a lot more than I thought could have ever known about acting in his class.”

“He was very energetic about the course which inspired me to work hard on every assignment. Mr. Yoho was also very detailed in his evaluations of our performances which made us better actors.”

“He is very passionate about the subject which definitely showed during lectures in class. He cares for his students and wants to help in any way needed.”

“Rob really loves theatre and that is directly seen through his teaching. And he really wants his students to understand the greatness of theatre and have the same appreciation that he does for it.”

“His interest and love of the subject made it easier to learn because he explained it in such an exciting way that was hard to ignore.”

“He is extremely enthusiastic, a wide range of knowledge on the subject, and has real life experience.”

“He is very informative, entertaining to be in class with, and understands the material very clearly. He is energetic about every topic and loves to teach this course.”

“Rob is fantastic. He is engaging, he clearly has a passion for his field, and he understands students. He is kind.”

“He's so funny and he knows what he's doing. It's obvious theatre is his passion.”

“I don't know of another teacher with more energy than Mr. Yoho!”