

REBEKAH FEGAN (she/her/hers)

STATEMENT OF TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

3869 Miramar St #1539 | La Jolla, CA | 92037

209.588.3039 | rlfegan@gmail.com

My personal teaching style and classroom culture focus on deeply connecting with the content by way of discussion, self reflection, and application, keeping the student's personal experience at the core of the learning. I believe that students should be able to apply what they learn in one subject to another subject of learning, and I design my courses in a way where leadership and communication theories are introduced broadly and students are encouraged to contextualize it within their own experience, and then once digested, these concepts are applied to the theatrical container, allowing the students to connect to new perspectives.

As an educator, I value creative thinking alongside social and emotional development. I believe that students do not begin their educational journeys as empty vessels waiting to be filled by teachers and mentors. Rather, I believe that everyone carries their own experience with them, and it's up to the educator to facilitate conversations in a way to bring out a student's lived experience and potential.

I maintain high expectations of both my students and myself, and consider everyone in the room to be academic collaborators. While I encourage students to speak in draft and focus on authentic communication, I also hold myself and my students accountable of words and behavior, in order to best facilitate a safe, inclusive, equitable, and anti-racist learning space. My goal is that students walk away from my courses being able to see the world from more than their own perspective and engage the world from an empathetic, compassionate place.

My experience throughout my academic and professional career has predominantly focused on Stage Management, along with cross-departmental technical theatre roles. This hands-on, "Jack of All Trades" approach has contributed significantly to my perspective and approach to Stage Management, specifically how knowledge, insight, and practice can lead to better communication in the form of shared language, a better understanding of departmental needs and timelines, and overall successful interpersonal collaboration in both the rehearsal and theatre spaces. In addition to responding to the demands of theatrical production, this inquisitive praxis has also significantly contributed to my capacity as a teaching artist.

Professor of Record Testimonials of Teaching Assistant Work, 2020-2021

- Rebekah Fegan was a wonderful partner as the Teaching Assistant for TDDR 101—Introduction to Stage Management. Rebekah consistently worked to inspire the students, to seek and incorporate feedback and to create a positive and inclusive learning environment within the virtual classroom. The students' engagement has been high throughout the quarter and several students in her class will be working with departmental stage management teams next quarter—I attribute that in no small part to their appreciation of the information they learned from Rebekah and their enjoyment of the class under her leadership.
- Rebekah is highly interested in the subject matters she teaches, taking a deep dive and further exploring the subject from a place of curiosity, which I believe is a marker for long term success.
- Rebekah genuinely loves the art of theatre. I don't know a lot of stage managers that love acting and movement, and to that, I considered her my artist partner throughout the course.
- She is a person of integrity. I don't have to worry about whether she will come through or not. She is demanding of herself to understand all things related to the subject, and is willing to ask for clarification and further research things she is not as familiar with, which in my observation then become the strongest pieces of her in-class teaching.
- She has a sense of generosity with students, and openly shared her expectations and class overviews regularly. She makes decisions on how to navigate the subject matter and how to implement it, both ahead of time and in the moment, resulting in a structured yet flexible class where each minute of class is of value.
- Rebekah is especially adept at taking the temperature of the room, and guiding and influencing that room towards positive, productive conversation and learning.
- Rebekah has a sophisticated knowledge of leadership, which shines through her teaching and the way she mentors and teaches her students.