

## **Daniel Lee White's Artist Statement**

As an artist working in theatre, my primary focus is on building a pragmatic and accessible approach to comedy and farce. Since childhood, I have been passionate about comedy in all its forms. Professionally, I find it inspiring and powerful to conceive, write and direct work that makes others laugh and allows the audience to temporarily escape from their everyday concerns. I have great respect for drama, but I find comedy and farce to be more personally challenging and rewarding. I have developed a strong understanding of comedic timing and build work that speaks to various senses of humor.

I believe that theatre should be accessible for all. Shakespeare wrote plays filled with lust, blood, comedy, and romance in a way that enraptured the entire audience--from royalty to the groundlings. At the time, his productions were competing with brothels and bear fights. Today we have different forms of entertainment competing with the experience of sitting in a theatre and being immersed in a story for an entire performance, but my goal remains the same--directing productions that are relatable and accessible to anyone and that doesn't exclude people from being entertained and inspired.

I also have extensive experience in theatrical education and thrive at collaborating with my students to build work that embodies their cultures, identities, politics, voices and experiences, and brings them a deep sense of pride. From performing arts high schools and improvisational comedy troupes to after school programming and social awareness performances, my work is deeply rooted in my passion for making theatre accessible for all. My students learn the foundation of the theatrical arts, in both theory and practice. I have led them in producing both large scale productions and more individual projects. These experiences have opened my eyes to new ways of making my own work accessible to more diverse audiences. Finally, in seeking new experiences for my students, I have developed strong partnerships with surrounding theatre communities.