

As a dancer, I see myself primarily as a performer, however, the process and the creation of a work are what capture my interest the most. Because of this, these interests as a performer and creator intertwine, and the values I seek during a rehearsal process are the same in both respects/roles.

In particular, I am invested in rehearsal processes where research and collaboration are brought as a forefront. Generally, research is viewed in the academic sense, looking up a topic or discussing it with an expert, and discovering new elements to it. Although this helps to broaden the perspective and knowledge provided to a work, research could also be considered in the movement sense. This could mean spending time in the studio finding what movement fits within what is trying to be said. This then can also directly incorporate the possibility of collaboration with dancers, having them provide creation of movement to the process as well, and allowing that to inform the work as a whole.

Although there can be many successful and rewarding processes where all that is done is having dancers reproduce already created movement, I believe that works which incorporate this research and collaboration reflect a work that lives beyond its final product. While working in these ways, the process ultimately becomes one of growth, with everyone in the room giving a new way to perceive movements and concepts. These opportunities then give a way for the dancers to explore themselves as artists in their practice, allowing them to mirror the growth reflected through the evolution of the work.

Ultimately, by going beyond a product or a presented finished work, artist-citizens are able to be curated and developed. They grow and cultivate something that can then lead to exponential impacts for their future artistry, and therefore the community they will share it with.