

SUU FESTIVAL OF EXCELLENCE SUBMISSION FORM

Abstract/Description/Artist's Statement:

SUU's 2018 production of Spring Awakening was packed with sensitive and taboo subjects, but it was also packed with a whopping 17 musical numbers; 16 of which required choreography. As the choreographer, my job was to not only create approximately 25 minutes of ensemble movement for a cast of drastically different dance abilities, but I was also in charge of portraying what we called the "Fantasy Dancer" concept, requiring an extra 30 minutes worth of advanced, modern-based choreography. The challenge was beyond daunting, but successful in the end.

I managed to choreograph nearly an hour of original movement, teach it to 17 people of varying ability, and make it performance-ready in a matter of weeks. But in order to do this, I had to choreograph by a set of principles I learned through my nine years of choreographing;

- 1) The movement should look good on the dancers. Even the best choreography in the world can look bad if you set it for the wrong cast.
- 2) The movement should be a constant enhancement to the plot. If the choreography is there to kill stage time, there might as well be none.
- 3) Choreography is 80% teaching and 20% choreographing. A good teacher with mediocre choreographing skills can create better looking choreography than a good choreographer with mediocre teaching skills.

In this presentation I will expand on these three ideas; particularly how they pertained to my time choreographing Spring Awakening. I will also provide live performances of my choreography to showcase the exact methods I used when creating and teaching the movement.

Keywords:

dance

theatre

musical

choreography

Session Category (1st & 2nd Choice): Creative Expression & Analysis | Innovation in Specialized Disciplines

Additional Presentation Details (applicable only to certain presentation formats)

Preferred Presentation Format: Demonstration

Additional Comments*:

I would like to present about 3 short dances and talk between each one.

Preferred Venue*: Thorley Recital Hall

Requested Equipment*: Sound System

3 hand-held microphones (I need one to be a wireless hand-held or a body mic. The other two can be regular, wired, hand-held mics)

Ideally, I'd love to have a powerpoint projected in the background so I could easily transition from performance to oral presentation, but I understand that might not be possible with dancing happening. If not, I can present orally without the powerpoint.