

Artist Statement First Draft

Erin Fabian

I am a performer whose choreographic works vary to the outside perspective—whether widespread or dense—in which the audience will interpret what is being presented differently. With individualistic and highly-animated types of movements, my work highlights the youthful nature and childlike spirit that follow my nostalgic memories and personalized experiences. In my works, I aim to lead the world into my storytelling. I desire to take them into a curious direction with tactile, handsy motions that will take my body and scrape, scratch, rub, tap, and massage each thought they have from watching into a conglomerating batter of unexplainable emotions. After watching a piece such as “The Grief”—a piece highlighting the different stages of grief and how to transition through each one—the audience shouldn’t be able to pinpoint how they feel.

As an artist who enjoys learning history and adding her findings into her work, I research subcategories of post-Modern dance such as Alexander and Limon, styles of jazz such as 1920s Shim Sham and the Get Down, and improvisational scores like mirroring and partnering. I record my improvisation to an instrumental piece, incorporating the movement vocabulary of the styles I have studied—both current and previous—and pick out what stands out to me as a well-versed fit to my body. From there, the work will be continuously built upon through notating what fits and does not fit in a sequential fashion until there I am satisfied. In my eyes, a combination is never finished shifting until I set it aside in the lockbox. Everyday there is something new to add, and to the audience who sees me, that is my biggest goal for them to acknowledge: There is always more to find, to research, to incorporate, to take away, and to share with your community. I am a student of history and I am an artist of the future, where the through line comes into play as I continue to build my repertoire each and every day, and find ways to put my information into the sub context of my works. I say “no” to ignoring every idea that comes into my head because everything can be tried once, and I say “yes” to sharing every one of these ideas with someone else because if I cannot find a use for the thought, maybe they will be able to instead. Or maybe, they will be able to continue the idea’s journey by sharing it with someone else. That way, the idea is never set to rest.

