

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS
PROFESSOR JUDYIE AL-BILALI

TH393M - DEvised

Spring 2014

She is so passionate about inspiring the students participation in learning.

Judyie is brilliant and uses her immense experience with Brown Paper to educate us and fuels our creativity.

I love that so much emphasis was put on ensemble and the strengthening of the group.

The passion. The passion. The passion.

I love this class. It has changed my creative life.

The style of teaching, The style of lessons.

More. Time. More. Time. More. Time.

More. Time. More. Time. More. Time.

One of my favorite classes I have taken. I really enjoyed the collaborative experience and ensemble work.

Judyie is extremely knowledgeable in her field and shows a personal interest in our learning process.

A flawless introduction to the world of devised theater, led by a true artist. Judyie has been one of the greatest teachers.

Spring 2015

I felt like it flowed well when the class was together. A community began to build.

The material was interesting and relevant to life as a UMass student. She obviously cares a lot about her work so it created an easy to learn environment.

Lots of freedom to do the class the way students want to. Focus on using theater as a tool for social justice.

I love Judyie. She is a goddess.

I like that she gets us moving and active physically in class. She gets us to let go of our worry about ourselves and helps us get into the mindset of an actor.

Spring 2017

Judyie is amazing. No, seriously. She fostered a great environment. She listened and seriously listened. I wasn't just someone she taught but someone she sees as a bringer of change. She looks at all of us like the future and means it. That is so important to anyone that is a student.

Judyie makes an environment that wales everyone up and makes it so that we all care.

This course helped others to learn how to work in a large group setting.

Judyie is incredibly understanding.

Judyie Thank you for your love, good vibes, creativity, attention, everything. This is art. This has meaning. Thank you for helping to unlock my goodness and fall in love with my body and ability.

The high energy brought to class. The love for everyone in the room. My devising skills have greatly improved.

Judyie is a brilliant individual and stimulates class participation well. I loved the warm environment she created.

Judyie's passion. Very simple but it as incredible to be around and inspired and engaged us all.

Judyie is the best. She is not afraid to tackle the tough questions and pushes her students to do that same.

The best professor you will ever have, clear, concise, honest and whole heart. She never failed to inspire interest in class. She knoooooows what she is doing. I'm so excited to work with her in the future.

Thank you for everything you did this year to help us find ourselves and create brilliant work.

Judyie is eloquent, elegant, and so very knowledgeable. She has changed my life with her passion for theater.

She was so gracious to have us, to explore devising with us – one of the best professors in the department!

Spring 2018

Judyie is such a wise, passionate and warm professor, and she made every class a joy to come to. Her TA Jen Onopa was fabulous too. I liked that Judyie always emphasized the importance of artists in our society, and always inspired us to continue shaping and growing our craft. I enjoyed Judyie's fearlessness in leading/facilitating conversations about race, especially as we tackled, *Citizen*, by Claudia Rankine.

This course taught me more about the devising process and the necessity of focusing on the process than the 'product' of a performance piece. In addition, Judyie has kept the class open to learn more on aspects of the topics explored in the course as well as devising techniques and processes. Judyie is a wonderful professor who I would take a class with again. She has pushed me to grow more as an individual.

This course taught about devised work in a practical way by actually devising material. The work and conversations we had were important and interesting. Judyie is an understanding teacher and wonderful professor who taught us about devising while teaching us about life.

The opportunity to explore text through exercises that help better understand it and collaborating with the class to create theater and learn from each other. I also LOVE all the documentaries we saw, although they were hard to watch, I learned so much from them and about myself as well. I will miss working with this amazing professor very much!

The environment which allowed for open and honest discussion of difficult topics. I had a great learning experience in this course.

Judyie cares so much about all her students, especially our wellbeing. Not a single teacher has ever cared more. She really wants us to learn and get the most out of it. She has so much knowledge about everything that when we take to floor and class starts, I KNOW I will always learn something or at least take something away from the space that I didn't come in with. Not only is Judyie an amazing teacher but overall the most wonderful person I have ever met and I can't wait to hopefully take more classes with her or, at the very least, see her around in the department. The best teacher here at UMass. I'm thankful for Judyie and all she has done for us as students. Not a lot of teachers remember that we have other classes/commitments that we struggle with. It was comforting to go to class every week knowing Judyie really cared and wanted to know about our lives. The course material is great and extremely knowledgeable. I can honestly say my life has changed forever after taking this class and helped me decide to look into other classes about race and such at UMass. If it wasn't for Judyie and this class I might have never been able to speak about things that were boiling at the surface because not a lot of teachers are willing to touch upon certain subjects.