

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS
PROFESSOR JUDYIE AL-BILALI

TH680 - GROUP STUDIO

Fall 2014

Judyie cares deeply about student success and works hard to make sure everyone gets something out of the experience.

Judyie inspires and fosters conversation on the subject matter and the impact/purpose of art as well. She encourages action from a truthful place and also is a great listener in terms of students concerns. This was a great course for first semester grad students. We had conversations with faculty we'd otherwise not see much in our first semester. And learned things about their interests/work that fostered connections for future work.

The purpose of this class was to educate us about group work. I think this purpose was fully accomplished. Working on our final project as something we come up with entirely on our own served well for this goal. Also, listening to our professors' experiences helped us a lot.

Fall 2015

The challenge of exploring devised theatre methods, group creativity. Got outside of my comfort zone. Relationship building, mentoring for sustainability. I would love to see Prof. Al-Bilali teach Directing Studio.

The instructor used a variety of interactive exercises to inspire group collaboration and participation which were engaging and creative.

Judyie is so loving and supportive. Another grad student described her as "giving you some brain space back." Judyie is awesome and fostered such a space of group collaboration and love. It was safe and nurturing – exactly the kind of class you want to bear your soul be vulnerable, and creative. It was the healthiest and best way to end my week.

Judyie created an environment where we are able to successfully collaborate with one another. She has been an excellent resource to us as first year graduates as someone who has been through the program herself.

I enjoyed the instructor's passion for encouraging us to find our inner voices as artists and for exposing us to the ideas of Theatrical Jazz – new and interesting for me. Enjoyed Judyie's fostering of the spirit with the group.

Overall very nice, healing space to process and develop as a cohort.

Fall 2017

We were given freedom to shape our learning environment along with the instructor. Also, our instructor made great effort to make sure that the course was a place to reflect on our work both inside and outside the classroom and was an enriched experience because of that. The instructor was supportive and created a supportive learning environment.

I'm appreciated with having such a relaxing moment in this class. Judyie taught us the way to feel the world, the culture and how to take care ourselves as artists. I'm impressed when she invited the faculty to join our class, that's really helpful and homier. Feel like I'm in the theatre community, I'm not fighting alone.

This course allowed time for our graduate cohort to bond as a group which is important for our future collaborations. Judyie allowed us time to explore new ideas and for discussions to develop which has been great in learning who we each are as artists and people. This class was very quickly established as a safe space where we could speak our minds and voice difficulties that we have been facing. With such busy schedules as grad students I think this has been very important for our self care. Learning about Theatrical Jazz was very interesting and definitely informed our process and vision when devising our end of semester project. Judyie brought an amazing energy in the room each class. I think the most important lessons I have learned from her are not necessarily from a syllabus but about my attitude towards my life and work, listening to my body when I'm struggling and being open to learn from everyone I meet.