

Responsibilities of a dance artist

My responsibilities as a dance artist

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To offer attention

- to be mindful
- to be curious
- to notice, anything and everything
- to be consistent, except for when you're not

To practise (and continuously refine) a set of values

To be in dialogue

- to (sometimes) shut up
- to participate
- to challenge perspectives, including your own
- to ask "How are you?" and really care

To build community

- to foster a sense of belonging
 - this could mean compromising your own introverted and/or ego-centric tendencies to make others feel welcome
- to facilitate exchange
- to remember it's not about you
- to ask "How are you?" and really care

To imagine what doesn't exist, yet

To activate change, personally, artistically and within community

- to ask questions
- to be persistent
- to get sweaty
 - this will likely mean exerting physical effort, although any effort that moves you from A to B, could be sufficient

Before you roll your eyes, I'll share the following thought: joy and inspiration are only cliché because they are the victims of oversimplification. Where does joy come from? Where does inspiration come from? Certainly its more complex than jazz hands and high lifts. Joy and inspiration are the phenomenal result of a delicate equation that deals with personal connection, discovery, (what feels like) progress and the fulfillment of other basic human needs.

To cultivate joy and inspiration

- to engage
- to unlock potential
- to escape the ordinary

to provide an escape from the ordinary
to hug and kiss and converse
to prove that anything is possible = give hope
to create freedom, where it may not exist
to offer gentle reminders of what is *really* important

To champion the non-linear and non-lingual
to innovate different kinds of logic,
not needing to make sense
sometimes break in g the rules
to disconnect value from narrativity — (this is new for me)
this could mean admitting that the words used to describe a work of
choreography have no chance of *actually* describing what's happening in the
work, since the logic and linearity of words can be inherently different than the
logic and linearity of choreography

and insisting that, if the choreography escapes the logic and linearity of words
and creates it's own kind of logic and linearity, that it must not be assigned value
by the same criteria as the rest of our linear-leaning, language-loving world

and yet, we cannot avoid accountability to non-arts communities.

To balance subjectivity and objectivity
To balance indulgence and consideration
To not hide behind process
To not hide behind product
To not hide

To believe that your art is a necessity
this could mean suspending your own disbelief, in your own work — even when it feels
irrelevant or uninformed or shitty or pointless — it might be and that's actually what
makes it important.

this is a political statement: we create space for what we deem wrong / unnecessary /
uninformed / unfinished and insist that we might learn something from it.

this could mean giving up your doubt that your resources and time could be better spent
Thank you Colleen!

To question if your art is a necessity, perhaps it isn't t o d a y
To earn your privilege —yes, even on your worst day, you're still privileged
To really do the work, all of these things (discipline)
To say thank you to the people who keep society functioning as you make your art, and
really mean it.

To fail
To reframe failure
To move,
onwards