

## Statement of my Dance teaching philosophy

“I know the style I represent might not be exactly what you envisioned for your future dance teacher, but I am confident to prove the **modern dance style** can represent a **high value of arts**, as long as the teacher's capability is representing a high value in arts and in education. Moreover, I know my dances will bring a lot of joy to our student's lives through the integration of their favorite songs, movies and choreographies to the curriculum. The dance and teaching style which I represent gives a lot of freedom and space for creativity and talent, but it also gives a sense of achievement to all of my students after a short period of time.”

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My teaching comes from movement styles rooted in **the Laban technique**. I grew up in my father's dancing classes – which eventually became my playground. Since my early childhood, I learned that hard work and serious commitment is the most important aspects in the great dancer's life.

I have completed the basic, intermediate and advanced courses in show dance, fashion dances, salsa, ballroom dances, Argentine tango, boogie woogie, hip hop styles and many others.

I attended competitions and shows. I started to grow a passion for the stage. In the end, I realized my greatest passion – **Teaching**.

Especially the **urban styles and modern ballroom dance styles** close to my heart, I fell in love with complex rhythms and heavy base moving throughout my body and the freedom that these styles can give for the dancers and choreographer.

I tried many different jobs before I was 18, but teaching and helping other people is the most grateful thing in my life. I think I never was a dancer, I was a dance teacher from the first moment, always thinking about what is the best for my students, even if that might not be the best for me.

I have developed my own curriculum for beginners, intermediate, advanced and stage-ready dancers of the Mini (5-6 years), Junior (7-12 years), Varsity (13-17 years) and Adult (over 18 years) ages.

**A teacher is** an inventor, mediator, leader, observer, participant, facilitator, sharer of knowledge. My best teachers were the ones who never quit. Who always pushed me further, who made themselves available for critical conversations, who wanted to see me succeed, who didn't scare me away with their power. Being a teacher is one of the most vulnerable positions to be in, but requires the most confidence. So much is at stake; there is the pressure to perform well, and behave well all the times, to pass on knowledge to students and colleagues, and to help them realize their purposes. I want students to recognize the aesthetic histories and importance of the American and European dance culture so that when they engage in dialogue with their peers they know the stakes of what is were doing in the classroom. So that they know that the rigor I push for in the classroom comes from a long line of dancing to heal, dancing to survive, dancing to find oneself in a world of no possibility. My goal is to create a domino effect of great leadership through encouraging investigation, limitless possibilities and the importance of individuality. I believe everyone has the ability to push themselves beyond the perceived limitations of their bodies. Part of my role as a teacher is to help them realize this. And to realize that their presence, the energy coming off of their body, plays a role in knowledge, culture, and community building.

*Mike Pal Auer*

Important notice:

I have a rich experience with teaching children. And even with religious students, and I never use "**bad music**" or **inappropriate movements** in my classes. I am a certified Hip Hop International judge. During the competitions, it is **prohibited** to use music which contains profanity (or sound like) inappropriate, lewd or offensive language. *I refuse to use music with inappropriate, lewd or offensive language* even if my students love it.