

Artistic Statement

“Words mean more than what is set down on paper. It takes the human voice to infuse them with deeper meaning”

–Maya Angelou

What a gift we have as playwrights; to create a world that comes to life before our eyes.

With this privilege there is a responsibility, to develop characters with intention, to create a world that not only entertains but transforms, and to write in a way that is cognizant to the diversity around us. As Maya Angelou says, words on a page are so much more when voice is given to them; they take on a life of their own and are infused with deeper meaning. As a professional actor, I write with the thought that someone else will embody this character. I must give them proper room to play and explore; therefore subscribing to the thought collaboration happens before a play is even produced.

I see my role as a female playwright to bring the voice of marginalized groups forward. Theatre unites us to a collective history, it gives us narration where we can connect, be seen, and for this moment in time, be a part of something bigger than ourselves. The lack of female representation in the arts means a muffling of our voice, which is not acceptable, as we know diverse thought leads to the best art. I began writing because, as an actor, I was tired of playing women that did not represent my experience or my emotionality. I firmly believe representation matters for the betterment of society. This is a theme that runs through most of my works.

However, the arts are not my only influence, my formal education and degrees in social justice, clinical psychology, and composition have not only fostered a love of learning but a deep connection to the human condition. These domains have stirred within me a passion and appreciation for the art of storytelling in its varied forms. My goal is to take an audience on a journey where they feel truly connected, less alone, and open their eyes to the possibilities that exist when we push past traditional constructs. Key components of my work: always to write with heart, to find levity in places others cannot see, to find hope in what feels hopeless and to represent with authenticity and responsibility my characters' emotional world.

Creatively Yours,

Dana Hall