

## ARTISTIC STATEMENT

I've been forced to look in the mirror and confront the things I can't control. I've always felt too much, labeled as sensitive. I've always loved too much, labeled as intense. I've always cared too much, labeled as hopeless. These things were used to bring me down rather than recognized as anything other than negative. Growing up, having thick skin was the only way to success. I thought of myself as a failure when I came to terms that I am in fact, a brutally soft woman. I always thought something was wrong with me because I am too sensitive or too delicate or too empathetic but through theatre, I have found that it is something beautiful about me, it's what makes me strong, both as an artist and as a human being. I believe that is what drew me to theatre and has kept me passionate about it for years on end. There's this incredibly gentle part of me that takes in so deeply and holds on to it for far too long. But that's also the part of me that awakens stories from a deeper perspective and knows how to hold characters' souls in the palm of my hand. I could say that theatre is an escape for me or a way to release these feelings into the world but for me but that feels too simple. It's more than a creative outlet. It's some sort of holy and sacred thing. Theatre feels like home and everywhere I've never been all at once. I get to explore and learn and teach all in one. It is a way to feel everything that is beautiful and possible in this world and let myself move through it rather than against it. When acting or directing, I get a chance to chase all that sweet and wild rebellion that comes with art. As Van Gogh said, "I would rather die of passion than boredom," and if I died doing what I love, I'd know it was a good and powerful life.

I strive to create wildflower art. Wildflowers bloom through discarded seeds, left all over blooming wherever and anywhere they can survive. The wind takes these seeds and plants them

in the strangest places; on the side of the road, by your favorite restaurant, outside the abandoned church. While completely unexpected, they bloom into what we know as the beauty and diversity of this world. I hope that all the art I bring into this world has the same beauty and freedom as a wildflower growing unexpectedly in a field; no one sees it coming but everyone knows of its greatness. My theatre explores the complexities of the human condition, and challenges audiences to think in new and creative ways. By using a variety of theatrical elements, I aim to create a magical and memorable experience that will stay with the audience long after the performance has ended. That wildflower energy flows through my veins and begs to be released through the art I create. Much like a wildflower, my art is also delicate yet powerful. While being a simple flower that could be plucked out of the ground at any moment, the wind will always pick up its seeds and bloom new flowers where it was taken.

I am incredibly dedicated to telling stories but I prefer to do it through togetherness. You have to consciously make the choice to dedicate yourselves to something you believe in and commit not only to the stories you are telling but the commitment to everyone involved in the production. What is more beautiful than putting deep and unconditional trust in one another in order to bring characters words to life? A collection of people coming together and agreeing to a shared purpose and a shared vision begins a wildfire of a movement starting in the theater it is presented in. Characters whose voices have been silenced by the curse of the ink and pen get the chance to come to life through the artists who choose to do it together. I hope to create a space where the audience and those part of the production can feel open to the vulnerability they may experience. When you give an audience a way to sympathize and emphasize with characters, you force them to look within themselves. When they do so, that's when change begins.

As a female artist, I feel particularly charged toward this art form in order to give women the voice they deserve. Recently in our country, women's experiences have been minimized, voices silenced, and we are losing rights faster than we gained them. Growing up, something important to me was feeling a connection with the characters I saw on TV and on stage. However, female stories are often not the ones highlighted turning women into sidekicks and love interests solely. That's not who we are defined as in this world so why are those the characters that are shown? I feel as though this sexism in the media that is produced affects the way women are treated in the everyday world. As an artist, I'd like to use my outlet to showcase the stories I believe deserve to be known. If I could help every woman feel seen and teach every little girl how to dream, that would be my superpower. I want to create art that truly dives into the human experience of everyone instead of minimizing it for easy profit. Truthful storytelling is my priority and I refuse to succumb to the confined standards of what making "real" art entails.

- Sydney Sinclair