

Audacious Woman: Societal and Environmental Impacts on Women through Dance

Faculty Mentor: Professor Yoav Kaddar

Mentor Statement –

Any dance production that involves multiple dances to collectively represent a one theme, one body of work, is a very large undertaking. *Audacious Woman* was such a project. Both Elena and Bec, the principal and co-researchers on this project, were audacious when they first approached me with the idea to create an evening of dance tapestry that looked at the place and role of women through the social and environmental lenses.

As with most research projects, the first task was to get a clear idea of what exactly Elena and Bec wanted to investigate and ultimately represent, through dance. Serving as the faculty mentor on such a project involves a large number of facets. First, the need to narrow the focus of the project while staying true to their initial vision. Figuring out the logistics of the creative process, creating a road map for the entire process, followed. This included planning auditions, rehearsals, scheduling rehearsal spaces that meant navigating the availability of their large cast, technical rehearsals, deciding on the venue for the presentation/performances, how many performances to give, assembling the production team that oversaw the sound/audio, lights, ushers as well as shopping for costumes and accessories needed for the performance, were all pieces that had to fall into this large production puzzle.

Throughout this research and production process, I met regularly with both Elena and Bec as they moved the project forward over the course of the past two years. Keeping them on target and watching them persevere through what ended up being a very long and complexed research project, was rewarding and inspiring. The length of the project allowed both students to hone their vision of the production and grow as artists and individuals. This EXCEL project was a tremendous learning experience for both Elena and Bec. They produced, choreographed, rehearsed and mounted a very successful dance production. Through each step along this lengthy research they truly embodied the essence of their project – they ARE audacious women!

Y.K