

RYAN M. DECKER

DIRECTING PHILOSOPHY

As a director, before I begin work with designers or actors, it is essential that I develop a clear vision for how the story will be told. I read, closely and repeatedly. I put myself in the performance space. I research, listen to music, daydream, and imagine. This phase is critical to my process because I value the time of my designers and actors too much to waste it. When we meet for the first time, I can articulate the world of the play, the nature of its relationships, and the shape of the story. I arrive with dynamic blocking that actors can motivate, aesthetics that designers can anchor to, and a narrative that constantly engages.

Yet play is always central to our process. The vision I offer is thoughtful, prepared, and specific, and it serves as a framework upon which we all collaborate. I believe strongly in freedom within structure. Our rehearsal room becomes an incubator for creativity. It encourages actors and designers to experiment and contribute their strongest, most inspired choices in pursuit of our best possible production.

I set clear and high expectations for the team. I strive to establish a culture that values work, play, and collaboration. In this environment, everyone contributes meaningfully within their area of expertise.

Once expectations are set and our culture is established, my role becomes one of service. As colleagues will attest, I am highly responsive to the needs and challenges of the team throughout the process. With deep appreciation for everyone's work, I never lose sight of the audience. I consistently push the production toward greater clarity and impact in performance, design, and storytelling.