

A379_2017AbstractPenderShea

Abstract

Artists constantly have to make their own way. It is one of the most competitive businesses imaginable. For this reason, actors have created their own work whenever necessary to feed their souls and keep their skills sharp. I, along with Laura Girard, have created a dance show that allowed us to perform some of our favorite movie musical dance numbers. The movies *White Christmas* (1954), *Gypsy* (1962), *The Band Wagon* (1953), *La La Land* (2016), and the stage musical *A Chorus Line* (1975) all contain beautiful dance numbers that exemplify the joy of a performer's struggles. Creating this show was a labor of love, and it taught us a great deal about how to manage both the technical and emotional aspects of becoming professional actors.

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