

# **Keith L. Davis**

## **Statement of Contributions to Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging**

### **Introduction to My Philosophy**

My philosophy is built on the precept that the teaching of the arts, particularly narrative arts such as writing, acting, and filmmaking, is a shared journey of diverse voices and experiences. I have always believed in creating performances and teachings that resonate with a wide audience, acknowledging and embracing the breath of diversity that sustains the narrative arts. It's through this lens that I approach my roles as an educator and artist, continually fostering a sense of belonging and inclusivity in my work.

### **Past Contributions**

My past efforts to encourage diversity, inclusion, and belonging are rooted in personal experience and academic exploration. During my time at the University of Alabama, Yale School of Drama, and New York University, I sought to imbue my work with a rich tapestry of narratives, reflecting the diversity of the human condition. This effort was carried into my professional career as I navigated through various artistic roles, ensuring that the stories told were inclusive and reflective of myriad experiences.

In my teaching appointments at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn College, and New York University, I have continuously utilized personal narratives as a tool for teaching. This approach not only brings authenticity to the classroom but also invites a spectrum of perspectives, enabling students to connect their diverse backgrounds to their creative endeavors.

I have guided students through explorations of identity and culture, challenging preconceived notions and fostering an environment where marginalized voices can be amplified. My courses, such as Advanced Video Editing, Actor's Craft, and Performance Strategies, have been instrumental in shaping a new generation of storytellers who are conscious of the importance of diverse narratives. I create authentic and inclusive learning environments.

### **Current Efforts**

Currently, I am integrating the themes of diversity and inclusion into my work by choosing projects that spotlight underrepresented communities and complex societal issues. My recent editing work on projects like "The Believers," "Insecure: The End," and "Between the World and Me" reflects a commitment to narratives that delve into the intricacies of cultural identity and social justice. These films serve as teaching tools to demonstrate to students the power of media in shaping discourse and fostering understanding.

In my academic roles, I actively mentor a diverse student body, encouraging them to explore and express their unique identities through film and performance. My teaching philosophy remains steadfast in the belief that every student's voice is essential to the richness of the collective story.

**Future Contributions**

Looking forward, I anticipate building upon these foundations by developing new curricula that specifically address the storytelling of underrepresented groups. I plan to host workshops and seminars that focus on diversity in storytelling, inviting industry professionals who are at the forefront of this movement to share their knowledge and experiences.

I am also committed to expanding my professional endeavors to include more projects that not only tell diverse stories but also involve diverse teams of creators. By doing so, I aim to contribute to a shift in the industry towards more equitable representation, both in front of and behind the camera.

In conclusion, my past, present, and future contributions to diversity, inclusion, and belonging are integral to my identity as an educator and artist. Through my philosophy of teaching and my professional work, I strive to create an environment where all stories have the space to be told and all voices the chance to be heard, ensuring a richer, more inclusive tapestry of human experience in the arts.