



Teaching Observation
Costume Lab
Instructor Suwatana Rockland
March 8, 2018

I had an opportunity to observe Pla teaching a costume lab on March 8, 2018. The class covered decorative stitches such as gathering, zigzag and chain stitches. They also learned how to use a serger. I found Pla professional and focused. She has a way to make each project and exercise lively, fun and “easy.” Both her lecture (instructions) and hands-on demonstration are clear and inspiring. Her students are focused and engaged—moreover, they value the application of knowledge to practice through different mini-projects during the class. They all respond to Pla with genuine respect and affinity, demonstrating an ideal rapport between the educator and learners.

Pla’s pedagogy is student-centered and inclusive. She asks students to think and find solutions. Pla also knows how to strike balance between individual and group instructions. In her costume lab, I felt much energy and even musicality which are normally found in music and dance classes. This might be attributed to her training as a professional dancer. Pla is certainly one of the most dynamic instructors I have ever met.

Pla is a natural leader, teacher, and artist. Her strength comes not only from her knowledge and skills as a designer and technician but her passion and love for learning. She uses what she has learned in her classes and disseminates them in her own teaching. I look forward to her continuing growth as a teacher and artist.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yuko Kurahashi".

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