

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO

Living in the Fragments

A Thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the
requirements for the degree Master of Fine Arts

in

Theatre and Dance (Acting)

by

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Chair

University of California San Diego

2020

DEDICATION

For my parents, who supported me in following my dreams even when I'm sure it seemed like the absolute worst and most random idea at the time. I would not be the man I am today without your love, support, drive, persistence, and willingness to make me better than I was. You always pushed me further when I didn't think it was possible, but not for yourself, but because you knew I could do more. Whether football, theater or academics, you always came to just about every game, every show, and every awards ceremony, and you always found a way to support my interests. Words can't explain the debt I owe you both with who you have made me into and what you have provided for me, and I hope I can bring you as much joy, love, security, and support in the years to come.

For my grandparents, who was way before my time in realizing I would go off the beaten path and supported me in doing so. You have given me a creed to live by, and I will always follow it: "Forge your own path, anything is possible". Thank you for telling me I'm rising to the top and succeeding and for acknowledging my successes, even if those successes may not seem like the biggest deal. Your enthusiasm is always welcomed.

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Jeremy, thanks for being a source of stability on this coast when everything was new and crazy and as I go into the world. And for preparing my parents for the day I would say, "I want to go to Grad school", even before I knew I would.

To the rest of my family: aunts, uncles, cousins, and anyone I might've missed. Know all of your love from all throughout my life brought me here and I couldn't thank you enough for it.

And finally, to God and the world, thank you for the opportunities and love I have received to get me here today. Thank you for giving me the gift of "Perfect Timing" up to this point; let's see how far it can get us.

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My teachers at graduate school for giving me specificity of language, a voice I would have never in a million years tapped into, freedom of movement, specificity of work and acknowledgment of my growth. I love you all!

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ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

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Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Acting)

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Professor Richard Robichaux, Chair

Before grad school, I never could trust that my work could stand by itself. I was always seeking validation of the process I took to reach that point. I was always wanting to show everything and not reveal anything.

My engineer speaks to my artist, “All bridges hold things up, but each bridge is different. You don’t need to see all of the equations behind each one to know it works!” An audience will only ever see moments onstage; they won’t see or understand all the work I do to foster those moments, and maybe they won’t even care. It’s my personal gift, as the engineer of my art, to create the character, discover the pathways it runs on, and then allow myself to flow on everything I’ve crafted. To trust that the character lives through me the way it needs to when it needs to.

Segismundo was the catalyzing lesson of this. He was the first character I'd played that could clearly be **anything**. I had to make choices about things audiences would NEVER know about. I realized if the man behind the curtain ever tried to come out to "explain", Segismundo would never actually get a chance to exist. We'd see the equations, not life.

I realize now as an artist and human that I don't have to be everything and show everything at once. Each moment brings forth the exact fragment of the mosaic that is called upon, allowing the whole mosaic to be everything and anything.