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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

The Effects of Collaboration

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

in

Theatre

by

Stephen Siercks

Committee in charge:

Professor Alan Burrett, Chair  
Professor Andrei Both  
Professor Victoria Petrovich  
Professor Manual Rotenberg

2010

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The thesis of Stephen Siercks is approved and it is acceptable in quality and form for publication on microfilm and electronically:

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Chair

University of California, San Diego

2010

## **DEDICATION**

I would like to dedicate my cumulative graduate work to Mom, Dad, and Jae for their constant support, love, and guidance.

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The Effects of Collaboration and supplemental documentation available online and on  
file at Geisel Library

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I would also like to acknowledge the guidance of the faculty and staff in the Theatre and Dance program. It has been a pleasure to study under you and I will take the lessons learned with me throughout my professional career.

## ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

The Effects of Collaboration

by

Stephen Siercks

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre

University of California, San Diego, 2010

Professor Alan Burrett, Chair

The art of collaboration possesses the innate potential to either greatly enhance or fatally wound the production process. By definition, collaboration is the bringing together of ideas from all involved parties to create a cohesive, multidimensional product. Frequently, however, collaboration can hinder the production process by over-communicating, over-analyzing, and the presence of a dominant singular source. It is my goal to support the collaborative process while simultaneously curbing the notion that stellar theatre does not exist without it. Although challenging, collaboration can be achieved through self-motivated work by individual designers who are inevitably able to achieve their own vision while concurrently creating a singular piece of art through collaboration. Collaboration is a ubiquitous, chameleon like art form that when utilized properly can be an imperative tool for designers throughout their creative process.