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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO

It Went Down. We Tried Everything.

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

in

Theatre and Dance (Acting)

by

David Price

Committee in charge:

Richard Robichaux, Chair

Eva Barnes

Ursula Meyer

2020

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The Thesis of David Price is approved, and it is acceptable in quality and form for publication on microfilm and electronically:

Chair

University of California San Diego

2020

DEDICATION

For Sarah.
If there's a you, there's always a me.

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LIST OF SUPPLEMENTAL FILES

File 1. Balm In Gilead Photo, Price_Balm_Photo1.jpg

File 2. Mothers Photo, Price_Mothers_Photo2.jpg

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It went down.
-Anonymous

We tried everything.
-Anonymous

-Will Eno
“Oh, The Humanity”

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

It Went Down. We Tried Everything.

by

David Price

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Acting)

University of California San Diego, 2020

Professor Richard Robichaux, Chair

In two hundred and fifty words, I won't say much of any consequence. It's too many words to be specific and too few to be comprehensive. With six words, Will Eno captures the simplicity of disaster; the specificity in how something can go so quickly awry in spite of so much effort. "It went down. We tried everything." I'm not Will Eno, and it's not my intention to characterize this experience as a disaster. The quote, to me, illustrates the idea of humanity trying to wrestle with an unstoppable force. The perception of this quote is initially negative, however, my experience of an MFA program has validated a universal truth: it's the attempt, the wrestling, and the grappling that actually affords us our humanity. It's my observation that grad school

starts as a narcissistic endeavor. What skills can I gain? What connections can I make? How can this give me a leg up on everyone else? When those interests are threatened, people naturally revolt. This leads to a culture of bitterness and disinterest. "It went down." After the inevitable disappointment has fully gestated, a person is left with two choices: abandon the endeavor entirely, or confront it. I chose to confront it. Some of my classmates chose to confront it. Many of my peers have chosen to confront it. "We tried everything." Much of what we tried was futile, much more was fruitful. I can't think of a better microcosm of life. It went down, we tried everything.