

# UC San Diego

## UC San Diego Electronic Theses and Dissertations

### Title

How Richie Got His Groove Back: Tension and Letting Go of the Inner Director in Streamers

### Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5970x4x0>

### Author

Meccouri, Martin

### Publication Date

2017

### Supplemental Material

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5970x4x0#supplemental>

Peer reviewed|Thesis/dissertation

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

How Richie Got His Groove Back:  
Tension and Letting Go of the Inner Director in *Streamers*

A Thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements

for the degree Master of Fine Arts

in

Theatre and Dance (Acting)

by

Martin Meccouri

Committee in charge:

Marc Barricelli, Chair

Eva Barnes

Charles Oates

Manuel Rotenberg

2017

©  
Martin Meccouri, 2017  
All rights reserved.

The Thesis of Martin Meccouri is approved and it is acceptable in quality and form for publication on microfilm and electronically:

---

---

---

---

Chair

University of California, San Diego

2017

## DEDICATION

Dedicated to Linda Meccouri, who insisted that I “do what came here to do.”

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Signature Page.....	iii
Dedication.....	iv
Table of Contents.....	v
List of Supplemental Files.....	vi
Acknowledgements.....	vii
Abstract of the Thesis.....	viii

## LIST OF SUPPLEMENTAL FILES

File 1. *The Cherry Orchard*

File 2. *La Bete*

File 3. *Streamers*

File 4. *Streamers*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I bow down to my glorious classmates: Mary Glen, Kat, Caroline, Zora, Hunter, Terrance and Sean. I couldn't be prouder of our work together, in the classroom, out of the classroom, and yet to come.

I deeply thank my first rate faculty: Kyle Donnelly, Charlie Oates, Gregory Wallace, Eva Barnes, Ursula Meyer, Linda Vickerman, and Marco Barricelli. I feel so chosen to have learned from you all and will unpack our work together for years to come.

I also acknowledge that there is a God and it's not me. So thank you for this open door.



## ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

How Richie Got His Groove Back:  
Tension and Letting Go of the Inner Director in *Streamers*

by

Martin Meccouri

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Acting)

University of California, San Diego, 2017

Professor Marc Barricelli, Chair

I... campaigned to play Richie in David Rabe's *Streamers*, my last role at UCSD. He was so much like me: smart, confrontational, thorny, pining, and used to being on the outside. Plus, I had to come to this hilarious understanding of myself as an actor whose bad habits had all been worked through by now!

Nope. Once *Streamers* was in front of an audience, the play changed without my permission and I felt like a beginner. Another actor was doing things that didn't make sense! It was moving too slow! This important play was not having an impact because

our audience was quiet! Richie didn't stand a chance. I would mentally leave him and note things that were "off." I anticipated how to correct a scene by countering another actor's choices. I tensely waited and did everything but breathe and listen. Richie couldn't groove. First preview: bombed.

Infuriated, I took a long reflection. Thankfully, a spark: this training was not a magical antidote to Martin's less thrilling habits. This training was a cornucopia of techniques to inhibit them and midwife character. The next show, I reached in the creative water of all I learned here... and freed my neck. I touched my sound. I held my own feet down. I let myself want what Richie wanted (which wasn't to direct the play he didn't know he was in). My training allowed me to interrupt Martin instead of Richie. Beat by beat, Richie got his groove back. And he was fabulous.