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### Title

Let The Words Do The Work: The Power of Subtlety in Vieux Carre

### Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/59t0g5rh>

### Author

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### Publication Date

2017

### Supplemental Material

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/59t0g5rh#supplemental>

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

“Let The Words Do The Work” :  
The Power of Subtlety in *Vieux Carré*

A Thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements

for the degree Master of Fine Arts

in

Theatre and Dance (Acting)

by

Hunter Spangler

Committee in charge:

Marc Barricelli, Chair  
Eva Barnes  
Charles Oates  
Manuel Rotenberg

2017

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The Thesis of Hunter Spangler 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

2017

## DEDICATION

To my mother for being my constant source of motivation and inspiration and my father for always supporting me and being the calming voice I hear in stressful moments. You both have raised me to be a strong, respectful and kind man. I love you both very much and will do my best to pay my gratitude forward.

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## LIST OF SUPPLEMENTAL FILES

File 1. *Golden Boy - Tokio*

File 2. *Hamlet - Laertes*

File 3. *Rhinoceros - Dudard*

File 4. *Venetian Twins – Zanetto/Tonino*

File 5. *Vieux Carré - Tye*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my family for their support throughout this crazy journey. From the moment I said I wanted to act for a living you were on board and encouraged me to chase that passion. It has been an incredible journey so far and it's only beginning and I look forward to sharing what comes with all of you.

The Good Squad in Virginia deserve an incredible amount of recognition for being true friends and motivators throughout this time as well. You all are my second family and I am forever grateful for your friendship.

To my teachers, faculty and staff past and present, Derek Phipps, Mary Spears, Kerrie Seymour, Shannon Robert, Kendra Johnson, Chip Egan, Mark Charney, Greg Wallace, Kyle Donnelly, Ursula Meyer, Eva Barnes, Linda Vickerman, Marco Barricelli, Art Manke, Marybeth Ward, Mark Maltby, Jim Carmody, Lauara Manning, Maria Callaghan and Charlie Oates, thank you for believing in me and pushing me and giving me opportunities to do what I love.

To my family at UCSD, thank you for opening my eyes to diversity, art and culture and I hope this continues after I'm gone. To my classmates: Zora, Sean, Terrance, MG, Caroline, Kat and Martin, thank you for being a part of 3 years of my growth, inside and out. I am a completely different than I was and I am so proud of who I am today because I grew with people like you. I will cherish these years we had forever.

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

“Let The Words Do The Work” :  
The Power of Subtlety in *Vieux Carré*

by

Hunter Spangler

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Acting)

University of California, San Diego, 2017

Professor Marc Barricelli, Chair

“Stop pushing”, “You’re working too hard”, “Let the language help you.” These were all phrases I heard in my time at UCSD from different faculty members. What they all basically were saying: relax. Relaxation and the power of not trying to do something have been the most important things I’ve learned in graduate school. Both of these concepts came together in the production of *Vieux Carré* in Fall of 2016

In *Vieux Carré*, my second to last production at UCSD, I was cast in the role of Tye. During auditions I focused a lot of the physicality of Tye as a brutish man who didn't care much for his physical appearance or health. I also pushed really hard to make sure everyone understood that Tye was a "bad" guy.

After realizing that although my physical life was important to the character, the more tender and intense moments would actually rely on the camera projection on the wall behind the stage. If I forced this character onto the audience, they would see through it, there was no hiding. So I had to remember the teachings of my faculty of how less is more in these moments. Now I was able to keep my body relaxed and focus my energy in the eyes and face. Soon I became so relaxed into the role it created a sensation of comfort I hadn't experienced before.

I've learned that my presence is enough. Movement is not always necessary. Forcing it is never necessary. Connection and relaxation with the text is the key. Because of UCSD I have the confidence that I have the ability to do that now and for the rest of my career.