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UCSD troublemakers Welcome

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

UCSD...Troublemakers welcome

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

in

Theatre and Dance (Acting)

by

Jane Anyanwu

Committee in charge:

Professor Kyle Donnelly, Chair
Professor Ursula Meyer
Professor Charlie Oates
Professor Manuel Rotenberg

2013

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

Chair

University of California, San Diego

2013

DEDICATION

To Josephine and Kenneth and the rest of my clan. And to the tribe I've found here at UCSD.

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- File 2. As Lucille in June Moon
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- File 4. As Bertha In Joe Turners Come and Gone
- File 5. As Mama Moja in In Red and Brown Water
- File 6. As Katerina in The Storm
- File 7. As Kelly in small Prophecies
- File 8. As Ana in Drawn And Quartered
- File 9. As Chiron in Titus Andronicus
- File 10. As The Woman Who Reminds You in In Red and Brown water

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You know who you are. But incase you don't. Faculty you teach with love.
Classmates you listen with open hearts. You are all part of my process and I am better
for it I think.

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

UCSD: Troublemakers Welcome

by

Jane Anyanwu

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Acting)

University of California, San Diego, 2013

Professor Kyle Donnelly, Chair

I am a performer. It is what I do. There's a time I believe where I tried to suppress it. I think I lied for a few years in my teens telling my parents I wanted to be a doctor. But I wasn't interested in math and I was really loud. All it took was a student performance of Lend Me a Tenor, and my parents hopes and dreams for their bright eyed middle child to be a doctor, dashed. See, I come from a Nigerian, well-educated ambitious bunch of arguing intellectuals. My mother is a nurse my father was an engineer who in his youth, fought in the Biafran War. He refers to me as Wahalla or problem maker for seeking a life in the arts. There are not many artists in our family. In fact I think I am the first actually. And so I came to UCSD heart in throat, arms crossed wanting “my education” I got so much more. This is the place where I was basically told all Wahalla are welcome. And so for three years I got to explore the woman, the artist, the black girl, and the African within me. I was taught by the leading troublemakers in the country. And I am a better artist for it. And if I am lucky, when I am out there in real world I too will inspire a young crop of in coming Wahalla and keep the cycle moving.