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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Fantasies and Awakenings

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

in

Theatre and Dance (Design)

by

Halei Parker

Committee in charge:

Professor Judith A. Dolan, Chair
Professor Andrei Both
Professor Susan Mary Narucki
Professor Victoria A. Petrovich

2013

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The thesis of Halei Parker 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 my husband, the best and most patient man I know, Nickalas Parker.

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ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Fantasies and Awakenings

by

Halei Parker

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Design)

University of California, San Diego, 2013

Professor Judith A. Dolan, Chair

My ennobling journey through Graduate school vaulted me through expansive fantasies which could range from mundane to grotesque to glamorous --sometimes-- in a matter of seconds, empowering me with hopeful aspirations, and equipping me with the tools to set out in the world and tell the stories I want to tell. Through this inspiring peregrination, I faced numerous illuminative opportunities, propelling me towards self discoveries and personal artistic awakenings, making me a stronger individual and a more confident artist endeavoring to see and think from new and different perspectives. When designing The Fantasy Project, I learned to let go and trust in the process through collaboration with a group of immensely talented artists. Using taxidermy as a springboard, we were able to create a bold, imaginative, extremely abstract, and nonlinear

“story” that left enough air between the lines for the audience to come away from the experience, each with a different meaning or interpretation. The production *Spring Awakening* helped to hone my ability to see through a different lens as we strove to create a dark and suffocating world perceived from the minds of the adolescents dying under its weight. A part of my graduate school experience has also been self-reflection as well as observation of my peers and mentors in an effort to become a better artist and collaborator whilst further broadening my aesthetics. My journey has bolstered my conviction to never stop searching because inspiration is sometimes in the most peculiar places, and to always remain curious.