

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

“I Want to Get Closer.”

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

in

Theatre and Dance (Acting)

by

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Chair

University of California, San Diego

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DEDICATION

THIS GOES OUT TO

all my Sensei's to have woven their knowledge into the fabric of who I am.

And to my Sister/Queen/Goddess/Mother Eartha Markland.
I am eternally grateful our souls found one another. Love you for-I-va. SHABA.

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LIST OF SUPPLEMENTAL FILES

File 1: *La Bete*, Princess Conti

File 2: *La Bete*, Princess Conti

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

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Professor Gregory Wallace, Chair

I became into a body that attracted more attention than my mind. I developed inseparably from a physique that betrayed who I was inside. Inside a battered ego sprawled its limbs out for eternal embrace: validate me. If at birth my mother named me Intelligent, how then did I view my knowing as primitive, stupid? Nancy Drew-ing this alone failed to free me, so creating inner confidence as artist became my purpose. Out I journeyed into the pockets of Galbraith Hall where I worked *so hard* that all you could see in my work was work-ing, effort-ing. But confidence is not work alone -not a mere creation. It's self-possession,

something you already are. How ironic was it then that my final role at UCSD, Princess Conti, demanded from me just that? I mean, you can't rule a nation that speaks in rhyming couplets whilst strutting -no, gliding- across a room in 6" crystal-encrusted heels without knowing first-hand that *everything* you are, do and know is The Shit. Princess Conti was the definition of self-possession for me. In and out I was sensei, was senseid as I said "*how do I be her without forcing her?*" Use the text as power, breath and thought as inspiration; listen to play and play to receive, but, most importantly, believe. I believed. *Still*, in and out I was senseid; schooled by an art that requires years more of mastery.

How far I've come. How much farther I have to go.