

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

My Mosaic Masterpiece

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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Professor Manny Rotenberg
Professor James Winker

2012

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The thesis of Natalie Birriel is approved and it is acceptable
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Chair

University of California, San Diego

2012

DEDICATION

To my family, without whom none of this would have been possible. All my love.

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LIST OF SUPPLEMENTAL FILES

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File 2. Phantom Band

File 3. Hedda Gabler

File 6. Man, Hat, Wife

File 7. The Storm

File 8. June Moon

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am extremely grateful to everyone I have had the great opportunity to work with during my graduate studies. Their dedication, hard work, and passion will continue to inspire me long after graduation.

I must also thank my mentors Greg Wallace, Eva Barnes, Ursula Meyer, James Winker, Charles Oates, Kyle Donnelly, and Jennifer De Castroverde. Without these amazing people none of this would have been possible.

Lastly, I would like to thank my amazing class for their unending love and support: Megan Robinson, Taylor Shurte, Jenny Putney, Gabriel Lawrence, Mark Christine, Zach Martens, and Daniel Rubiano.

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

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At a young age I had my voice taken from me. For as long as I could remember, playing pretend for me was not just a fun childish game but rather a vital component in my development of discovering my voice, as well as myself. From the moment I could speak I found that doing impersonations of other people, or creating characters myself helped me achieve fluency with my speech.

Growing up with such a wild imagination, I desperately needed to learn how to control all the creative impulses I had. Specificity, and precision became the goal from the moment I walked into grad school. I have had the great fortune to tell the stories of characters such as Wife, who taught me the meaning of love, and what sacrifice is. Stacey, who challenged me to take more risk than I ever had before. Goldie, who taught me that timing and precision were everything. From Katherine, to Lady M, to Juliet all of who took me on a journey to another time, by teaching me how to blend my eccentricities to their worlds.

This program has given me the tools necessary to be an artist who doesn't just run on impulse. In these three years I have been encouraged to bring my wild imagination to the table, my voice, and spontaneity with precision and specificity.