UC San Diego

UC San Diego Electronic Theses and Dissertations

Title

All Your Curves and All Your Edges

Permalink

https://escholarship.org/uc/item/8nr4142h

Author

Elie, Tesiana Dalys

Publication Date

2015

Supplemental Material

https://escholarship.org/uc/item/8nr4142h#supplemental

Peer reviewed|Thesis/dissertation

eScholarship.org Powered by the California Digital Library
University of California

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Love Your Curves and all Your Edges

A thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements

for the degree Master of Fine Arts

in

Theatre and Dance (Acting)

by

Tesiana Elie

Committee in charge:

Gregory Wallace, Chair
Ursula Meyer
Charles Oates
Manuel Rotenberg

2015

©
Tesiana Elie, 2015
All rights reserved.

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

Chair

University of California, San Diego

2015

DEDICATION

I want to dedicate this to my mother. Without your teachings and discipline the advancement of my career and of my character would not be possible.

I would also dedicate this to the fearsome foursome. Thank you for burning the midnight oil with me and forcing me to be a better artist everyday.

Lastly I dedicate this to children who look like me, who come from less than ideal situations, and who have a dream. Your voice, and your lives matters.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Signature Page..... iii

Dedication..... iv

Table of Contents..... v

List of Supplemental Files..... vi

Acknowledgements..... vii

Abstract of the Thesis..... viii

LIST OF SUPPLEMENTAL FILES

File 1. *In the Crowding Darkness*

File 2. *She Stoops to Conquer*

File 3. *Burial of Thebes*

File 4. *Drums in the Night*

File 5. *Hamlin*

File 6. *Tonight We Improvise*

File 7. *In the Red and Brown Water*

File 8. *Venus*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to give thanks first to God. I want to thank my faculty, Gregory Wallace, for passion and different viewpoints, Art Manke for specificity, Michael Rudko for thought, Eva Barnes for warmth and international peeks, Charlie Oats for treating me as family and reconnecting my body to my brain, Marco Barricelli for discoveries, Ursula Meyer for being tough and teaching me its ok not to smile when I'm hurt. To Linda Vickerman for reaching my falsetto and giving me keys to my melodies.

Thank you Laura Manning, Michael Francis, Michael Fullerton, Doug Dutson, Laura Jimenez, Jim Carmody, Hedi Jafari, Mark Maltby, for always allowing me to burst into your office for no reason at all, and always welcoming me with open arms.

Thank you to my class of divine leaders. Smoli Ollie, Tamms, Mad Dog, Kimbra, Lito, Romeo, Ler Bias. You guys inspire me, challenge me, and helped mold me into the woman I am today.

Thank you to my extended mothers. Kyle Donnelly for feeding me mind, body, and soul, and to my mama bear Marybeth Ward who is my biggest supporter, the reason I came to grad school and my personal therapist.

Thank you to my friends and family especially Daniella Dagrin, for being an excellent mother and educator. Thank you for being a great example for me to aspire to.

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Love Your Curves and all Your Edges

by

Tesiana Elie

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Acting)

University of California, San Diego, 2015

Professor Gregory Wallace, Chair

During this year I've formed many special relationships. The most intimate was being reintroduced to my skin and voice. I had the privilege to learn about Sarah Bartman. A woman whose beauty, women today are still trying to replicate. By learning

this woman I had the honor in learning about myself. Sarah was seen by all and heard to by none and sometimes as an actor I feel that way. But the beauty of Sarah was, she taught me how to use my voice when I felt the most hopeless. I had to learn how to be heard, while being proud of who I am. I know there is power in silence, but what I learned is that there is more power in being vulnerable.

Nina Simone said, “It’s an artist’s duty to reflect the times in which we live.” Being here gave me the permission to call myself that. An artist. Where I come from names have power. So, if we as artist have power in our tongues, then can’t I also change the meaning of beauty? Can I be a reflection of the most powerful, diligent, and divine women I know, and not have a European standard looking back? What I’ve learned is that we have the authority to strip silent fears and public struggles of their bondage. So I’m not interested in the world’s standards I have my own. I would say this year was for reinforcing the curve of my hips and edge of my tongue.