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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO

I'm Scared

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

in

Theatre and Dance (Design)

by

Samuel Keamy-Minor

Committee in charge:

Professor Robert Brill, Chair
Professor Judith Dolan
Professor Victoria Petrovich

2020

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The Thesis of Samuel Keamy-Minor is approved, and it is acceptable in quality and form for publication on microfilm and electronically:

Chair

University of California San Diego

2020

DEDICATION

To Mark C.Benz

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. *Life is a Dream* Photo 1, KeamyMinor_LifeisaDream_Photo1

File 2. *Life is a Dream* Photo 2, KeamyMinor_LifeisaDream_Photo2

File 3. *Man in Love* Photo 1, KeamyMinor_ManinLove_Photo1

File 4. *Man in Love* Photo 2, KeamyMinor_ManinLove_Photo2

File 5. *Man in Love* Photo 3, KeamyMinor_ManinLove_Photo3

File 6. *SERE* Photo 1, KeamyMinor_SERE_Photo1

File 7. *SERE* Photo 2, KeamyMinor_SERE_Photo2

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Lastly, I need to acknowledge the amazing designers who make up my 2020 cohort: Doti, Chris, Mextly, Justin, Stephen, MaeAnn, and most of all my fellow scenic designer Hsi-An Chen. You all have made me the artist I am today!

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

I'm Scared

by

Samuel Keamy-Minor

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Design)

University of California San Diego, 2020

Robert Brill, Chair

I'm Scared.

Last week I watched as every theater company in the country shut down. I wash my hands every hour or so. I'm down to the last roll of toilet paper. I scroll the internet for updates on an epidemic that will define my transition from student to artist.

In this tense moment I find new reverence for the formalized ritual of gathering together to watch live theater. The anxiety of social distancing reminds me that people crave connection through shared experience. We want to be in one big room with each other. As a theater-maker, this fundamental desire for proximity reminds me of why I love the performing arts.

In a few months this pandemic will be behind us, and theater artists will be on the front line teaching the public how to be together again. In the mean time I'll search for ways to feel closeness, and to help others feel closeness, even when while quarantined in my home