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Halford, Sarah Juliette

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Orbiting.

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

in

Theatre and Dance (Acting)

by

Sarah Juliette Halford

Committee in charge:

Professor Kyle Donnelly, Chair
Professor Charles Oates
Professor Ursula Meyer
Professor Manuel Rotenberg

2013

The thesis of Sarah Juliette Halford 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 family, who always believed in my sparkle. Love and gratitude.

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ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Orbiting.

by

Sarah Juliette Halford

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Acting)

University of California, San Diego, 2013

Professor Kyle Donnelly, Chair

I always knew I was from another planet. Earth was my home, yes, I liked hamburgers and roller coasters, but there was still an orbit in me that seemed out of place. My imaginative orbit felt like it didn't spin the "normal" way. As a performer I spent more time alienating myself and judging how different I felt, rather than owning the creative space I lived in and applying it to my craft.

My past three years at UC San Diego have been the perfect atmosphere for my artist self. I have been challenged to own who I am as an actor, and continue the search for truth and the intangible power of connection. This program has replaced my negative self-awareness with active listening, and my insecurities with a spirit of play. Here, I have learned how to ground my rambunctious imagination and channel it

through technique, time, and letting go. Through class work, scenes, and productions I have created a working process that frees me to connect with my fellow actors. From a make shift Tinkerbell to Tilly Boom to Tamora I have dwelled in the stories of women that have shown me that we all orbit a little differently. This program, once a landing place for me to trust in my uniqueness, is now a launching place. Empowering me to embrace as well as use my imagination to better the world.