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The Antidote To Lack of Confidence and Elusive Inspiration

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

The Antidote To Lack of Confidence and Elusive Inspiration

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

in

Theatre and Dance (Acting)

by

Luis Carrasquillo

Committee in charge:

Gregory Wallace, Chair
Ursula Meyer
Charlie Oates
Manuel Rotenberg

2016

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

Chair

University of California, San Diego

2016

DEDICATION

For my mother.

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. <http://jimcarmody.zenfolio.com/moversshakers/h618d1b5c#h618d1b5c>

File 2. <http://jimcarmody.zenfolio.com/rhinoceros/h613e4856#h613e4856>

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File 4. <http://jimcarmody.zenfolio.com/goldenboy/h2f39e936#h2f39e936>

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ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

The Antidote To Lack of Confidence and Elusive Inspiration

by

Luis Carrasquillo

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Acting)

University of California, San Diego, 2016

Professor Gregory Wallace, Chair

Going into grad school I was sure that I would develop the confidence to face any artistic or creative challenge. Inspiration would no longer be something that I would have to seek out, nurture, or patiently await; it would simply be there. I've been forced to face many things during my time here at UCSD, the reality of these two falsehoods however, are by far the most valuable. After one day confessing to Gregory Wallace my interest in developing greater confidence as an actor he responded in so many words with "confidence is a fair-weather friend in this business. Get used to it." In a similar vein, the bottomless bounty of inspiration

that I thought I would have at my beck and call has also proven unpredictable. What three years at UCSD have taught me however is that the solution--or rather remedy--to both of these truths is work: hard, uncompromising, rigorous work. Don't know your lines, uncertain about your character arc, not sure if you're good enough? Put in work. The result is unequivocally in tall or short order, greater confidence. The same applies to inspiration. Have I developed a greater number of avenues to pursue inspiration than I had never dreamed? Certainly. Does inspiration continue to elude me at times? Of course. As before, putting in the time, digging deep, remembering my love for language, the stage, and collaboration...and then putting in the work.