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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO

FOR PURPOSE, NOT AS A PROP

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

in

Theatre and Dance (Acting)

by

Danielle E. B. Wineman

Committee in charge:

Richard Robichaux, Chair
Eva Barnes
Stephen Buescher

2019

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The Thesis of Danielle E. B. Wineman is approved, and it is acceptable in quality and form for publication on microfilm and electronically:

Chair

University of California San Diego

2019

DEDICATION

I dedicate this to the women who still feel the need to stay quiet, whether out of fear of losing a job or career, or out of clinging to personal safety.

I dedicate this to the women who get roles based solely on the cover of their book and not their ability to feed creativity or imagination.

I dedicate this to the women who are fighting to be taken seriously in rooms where they are only seen as props or ploys.

I dedicate this to the women who are fighting for the representation that their body and mind deserves.

I dedicate this to the women who are trying to find a place of value and worth that isn't solely based on the way they are viewed or wanted by men.

I dedicate this to the women who came to grad school to grow and stretch their craft only to be met with the expectation of conforming to a status quo established by someone who isn't listening.

I dedicate this to the women who were forgotten and uncounted.

I dedicate this to the women who struggle trying to identify their identity, or trying to live outside the box which is they didn't place themselves.

I dedicate this to the women who are trying

I dedicate this to the women who are working.

I dedicate this to the women who are struggling.

I dedicate this to the women who are thriving and inspiring.

I dedicate this to the women who are hustling to make dream lives a reality.

I dedicate this to the women who teach for you provide more than just an education but and elementary learning of female agency.

I dedicate this to the women who we look to as lighthouse when we feel lost at sea.

I dedicate this to Kimberley Butterworth, my rock, my guardian angel.

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LIST OF SUPPLEMENTAL FILES

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File 2. *53% Of Photo*

File 3. *A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes Photo*

File 4. *A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes Photo*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would be remised and ungrateful if I didn't start by thanking MARYBETH WARD. I not only wouldn't be here physically or mentally had she not time and time again saved my life. When I considered leaving due to the suffocation of egos of students and professors, or my own personal struggle, she was always there to hold me up.

My faculty who are here today or were here yesterday. Thank you for the education you provided. Kyle, Greg, Marco, Charlie, Kathleen, Jaime, Eva, Richard, Jenn, Vanessa, and especially the lady who has been with us since day one Ursula, I can't thank you all enough. It has been an emotionally, physically, and spiritually demanding journey but I am now the artist I am because you provided.

Jenn Chang, Vanessa Stalling, Willie Mae Michael and Juliana Kleist-Mendez thank you for being powerful forces in rooms that allowed me to identify what it means to be a brave artist in a safe space. Your ability to hold space, cultivate proposals, and beautifully create an experience that renews my belief in my artistry.

To my classmates...I will never be able to accurately thank you for everything you have done these past three years. I have thanked God many times over that in this crazy journey he blessed me with you. We may not have always seen eye to eye but as I learned very early in our time that we will always be family. Hannah, your energy and generosity; Janet your fierceness; Sidney your presence and boundless heart; Allyn your ability to just know and to care for everyone; Max your bravery and genuineness; and of course Nicole. Nicole thank you for being my person, you have been a ground force for me. You have allowed me to find lights in tunnels

and have talked me into new understandings while fuming. I'm so proud of you and so thankful that we have literally been in it together since callback weekend.

Brandon, I love and miss you everyday. Thank you for fighting like siblings with me and at the same time being a pillar in my life. I never doubted for a second that you cared for us, and I always knew I could call you for anything. Love you B!

Marianne Adams and Lysa Fox, my mentors and guides, the advice you gave me day 1 has been a foundation during this time. Thanks to you both I proudly preach to my students while daily affirming myself to "not be good, be brave," and to "fail gloriously."

I want to thank my strongest support system, my family. They have often had to accept thoughts and energy in place of physical presence. Alexis, Amanda, and Nick you are rocks in my life and I love you so much. Daddy you are the reason I haven't punched anyone. You have been my release, you have been my laughter, you have been my driving force, and the reason I do what I do. You often say after I have thanked you, that you don't do anything. All four of us are who and where we are because of you. You deserve some kind of Master's degree just for having put up with me these past three years. Mom, it is a daily reminder that you are no longer here but thank you for showing up in new ways. Never has there been a bigger advocate for education, and you instilled in us the love for learning and the grit to seek out opportunity. I know you're proud.

Finally I'm here always thanks to the plan God has set for me. It is never the easiest but I know that this was part of the plan and the next adventure is because I'm being held and guided. In Matthew 14:27 Jesus reminds his disciples "Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid." I have no

idea the extent of why I was needed here but I release my understanding to the adventure of your plan for me.

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

FOR PURPOSE, NOT AS A PROP

by

Danielle E. B. Wineman

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Acting)

University of California San Diego, 2019

Professor Richard Robichaux, Chair

Before coming here I didn't know the difference between "grit" and "agency." I always knew I was a gritty person, When life proved tough, hardships arose, the realities of being a woman in the theatre, or the even the realities of being a woman at all, began to fog my path I knew I could persevere and keep moving forward.

After walking into many rooms and rehearsals I began to notice a theme in my roles, I was a prop, I was the pretty face and my purpose was to be the sexual conquest or the flirty foil. These rooms often left me feeling helpless, unheard, and plagued with doubt of my own self value. But I was a gritty person so I knew I could and would keep going, but I didn't believe

there was anything I could do to change the established “status quo,” because that just how things were done...or so often I had been told. It wasn't until I walked in to the rooms of *53% Of* and *A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of Great Lakes*, that I learned that I could have agency. These experiences, lead by compassionate powerful women, taught me that I had a voice worthy of exploration. From their example I felt brave enough to realize my worth, that my book was worth more than just the cover, to take charge, and how to truly be seen.

The effort needed to fulfill the grit equation was now being used to supplement a new found feeling that I was worthy of being seen, heard, and respected. This worth and self allowance was the fire behind putting my foot down on “status quo” and not accepting a room or a role that would not serve me or meant for me. Thus my pursuit of something more serving began and *An Iliad* became a reality. These lessons and powerful new skills have made me proud to say that I serve a higher purpose and am no longer just a prop. It is now my mission that I am an adventurous artist dedicated to the fostering of empowering, exploratory and engaging work.