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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Be Still Young Man

A thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements

for the degree Master of Fine Arts

in

Theatre and Dance (Acting)

by

Toby Onwumere

Committee in charge:

Gregory Wallace, Chair
Ursula Meyer
Charlie Oates
Manuel Rotenberg

2015

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

Chair

University of California, San Diego

2015

DEDICATION

To my mother for being my light and my smile, my father for being my earth and my foundation, Dean for being my north star along the path, and Dubem for being my inspiration every single day. I love you all.

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ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Be Still Young Man

by

Toby Onwumere

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Acting)

University of California, San Diego, 2015

Professor Gregory Wallace, Chair

One of the greatest things I have learned during my tenure in grad school was in my 2nd movement class; it was the power that comes not in movement, but ironically in stillness. This has been paramount in my progression as an actor and an artist from my introductory to my last year of training here at UCSD.

In Venus, my final production, I was cast as The Negro Ressurrectionist, a part that I anticipated performing due to the high energy and physical nature of the role. Throughout most of the rehearsal process I outfitted the Negro Ressurrectionist with the swagger and the fluid movement befitting the showman that I thought him to be.

Although this was gratifying, as it demonstrates my abilities, it was in the stillness of the showman that provided me with the most interesting and memorable moments in the production. The stillness before the keyboard strike to incite a party within a love nest, the stillness shortly after the demise of the Venus Hottentot, and the stillness right as the spotlight opens its eye to reveal the audience's Master of Ceremonies all carried with them an exceptional amount of anticipation, gravity and power.

In the end, I have gained a deep appreciation for movement, but through the lens of Venus I am now able to fully realize the importance and necessity of stillness, and I will carry this for the rest of my life. It is from the stillness, the potential, that anything is possible.