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Christine, Mark

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Three Years Later: A Reflection

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

in

Theatre and Dance (Acting)

by

Mark Christine

Committee in charge:

Professor Kyle Donnelly, Chair
Professor Charlie Oates
Professor Manny Rotenberg
Professor James Winker

2012

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Chair

University of California, San Diego
2012

DEDICATION

“I have tricks in my pocket, I have things up my sleeve. But I am the opposite of a stage magician. He gives you illusion that has the appearance of truth. I give you truth in the pleasant disguise of illusion.”

- Tennessee Williams

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LIST OF SUPPLEMENTAL FILES

File 1. Camino Real – Fall 2009

File 2. The Revenger's Tragedy – Winter 2010

File 3. Oyster – Spring 2010

File 4. Kasimir and Karoline – Fall 2010

File 5. The Threepenny Opera – Winter 2011

File 6. Guthrie Experience, Going Live! – Summer 2011

File 7. On An Average Day – Fall 2011

File 8. The Glass Menagerie – Winter 2012

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Three Years Later: A Reflection

by

Mark Christine

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Acting)

University of California, San Diego, 2012

Professor Kyle Donnelly, Chair

In evaluating my experience at UCSD I find it helpful to begin by reexamining my frame of mind as represented in the personal statement included in my application. In it I referred to the quote by Epictetus that states: “It is impossible for a man to learn what he thinks he already knows.” I took Epictetus’s advice one step further and outlined for myself what exactly it was that I didn’t know. As a result, my decision to attend a graduate training program was not based on a desire to “gain technique” in the general, but, rather, guided by a very specific set of personal goals. The goals outlined in my personal statement included:

- Growing my creative and emotional impulses
- Opening and freeing my speaking voice
- Exploring text in a thorough, educated way, while still allowing creative impulse to flourish and not be overpowered by intellectualism
- Using my athleticism and body awareness to help achieve a higher level of physical expression

- Bettering myself as an actor in multiple disciplines so as to provide myself with the widest breadth of potential career paths possible

Looking back on my time at UCSD I can honestly say that I have achieved every one of these goals. By no means do I feel that my training is done – it is certain to continue until the day I die – but I am incredibly proud of the growth I’ve made in the past three years. As I make the transition back to the professional world I look forward to the next steps in my creative, emotional, and intellectual journey, and all the questions, goals, and unknowns that lie ahead of me.