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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Playground

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

in

Theatre and Dance (Acting)

by

Jenni Putney

Committee in charge:

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

2012

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

Chair

University of California, San Diego

2012

DEDICATION

To Mom, Dad, and Sam, for allowing me to let my imagination run wild.

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LIST OF SUPPLEMENTAL FILES

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- File 2. *Kasimir and Karoline*
- File 3. *Three Penny Opera*
- File 4. *Salamander Leviathan*
- File 5. *The Dybbuk*
- File 6. *June Moon*

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I would also like to thank my classmates for making this journey a fulfilling one, and for being my partners in crime.

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Playground

by

Jenni Putney

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Acting)

University of California, San Diego, 2012

Professor Kyle Donnelly, Chair

When I would play pretend as a kid, I always liked to have some sort of structure to play on. Whether it was the jungle gym at school, a fort I had built with my brother, or the local *Chuck E. Cheese*, I had the most fun, and my imagination was the most free when there were more tubes to slide in or trampolines to jump on. Over the past three years at U.C. San Diego I feel like I have built my actor playground. I have gained a structure that has allowed me to freely play wherever I need to go; to the back woods of Wisconsin, to the east river slums of New York, to lavish palaces in Egypt, to heaven and back. During my time at school I have picked and pieced different tools together so I can be free and confident with each new part that comes my way to play. I now feel that I have built a playground that suits me perfectly, where I can set my mind and body free to create anything imaginable.