

UC San Diego

UC San Diego Electronic Theses and Dissertations

Title

The Strength of Awareness: Seeing the Bigger Picture During The Burial at Thebes

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3vk0k07j>

Author

Dion, Sarah E.

Publication Date

2015

Supplemental Material

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3vk0k07j#supplemental>

Peer reviewed|Thesis/dissertation

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

The Strength of Awareness:
Seeing the Bigger Picture During *The Burial at Thebes*

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

in

Theatre and Dance (Stage Management)

by

Sarah E. Dion

Committee in charge:

Lisa Porter, Chair
Charles Means
Charlie Oates
Manuel Rotenberg

2015

©
Sarah E. Dion, 2015
All rights reserved.

The thesis of Sarah E. Dion is approved and it is acceptable in quality and form for publication on microfilm and electronically:

Chair

University of California, San Diego

2015

DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate work to my mother, Theresa Dion. Thank you for always supporting my passions and dreams.

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. *The Burial at Thebes* Calling Pages 7-11A

File 2. *The Burial at Thebes* Calling Pages 46-51

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To my Family, who stood by me every step of the way and never let me give up.

To my UCSD family, who joined me on this crazy adventure and gave me memories and relationships that will last a lifetime.

To Lisa Porter and Charles Means, whose unconditional support and mentoring has inspired me to keep working on, and learning about myself and who I am as a Stage Manager. There will never be enough words to express my gratitude.

To Kate Guthrie and Rachael Albert, who laughed and cried with me through each step on the journey. Thank you for listening to my ramble and vent my way through Grad School.

To Andy Hoar, for giving me the ASM position at my very first MCLA crew lottery and never giving up on me. Without you, I could never have achieved this.

To the Red Door Theatre, thank you for inspiring the artist within me and fostering my passion for theatre early on in life.

To the late Van Farrier, for encouraging me to move beyond my barriers and for first introducing me to the world of Stage Management. You will always hold a special place in my heart. “Never say goodbye, because saying goodbye means going away, and going away means forgetting.” –Peter Pan

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

The Strength of Awareness:
Seeing the Bigger Picture During *The Burial at Thebes*

by

Sarah E. Dion

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Stage Management)

University of California, San Diego, 2015

Professor Lisa Porter, Chair

In *The Burial at Thebes*, King Creon uses the metaphor “ship of state” to describe his kingdom. He emphasizes the importance of focusing on the community of *Thebes* instead of the desires of individuals, just like a group of sailors must prioritize arriving at their destination without overly identifying with the needs of the rest of the crew. I have learned that the theatrical production process can be compared to the running of a ship, including a group of sailors, or collaborators, working toward a common goal. As the Production Stage Manager of *Thebes*, I played an important part in navigating the ship

towards the goal of a fully realized production. Much like Creon states at his inauguration about making choices “in the interest of all citizens,” I was challenged to act instead of react and intentionally focus on the big picture.

During my graduate studies, I have been challenged to sustain an embodied presence when triggered by production challenges. I have learned multiple tools to assist in refocusing my energy to the demands of the overall production. My ability to remain present, without judgment, to the needs of all collaborators, has empowered me to make wiser choices. This insight has provided me with an awareness and heightened clarity that will be vital in future endeavors, and the knowledge that subtle choices have a significant impact on the production process. In moving forward, I plan to continue build upon this strength of awareness as I embark on my next voyage.