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Leading with Positivity

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Leading with Positivity

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

in

Theatre and Dance (Acting)

by

Josiah Rey Cajudo

Committee in charge:

Professor Ursula Meyer, Chair  
Professor Marc Alexander Barricelli  
Professor Stephen W. Buescher  
Professor Shahrokh D. Yadegari

2024

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University of California San Diego

2024

## DEDICATION

I dedicate this to my parents and grandparents for following their American Dreams so that I can be where I am today.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## VITA

- 2021 Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, Film, and Digital Production (Acting with a Minor in Music), University of California, Riverside
- 2024 Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Acting), University of California, San Diego



## ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Leading with Positivity

by

Josiah Rey Cajudo

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Acting)

University of California San Diego, 2024

Professor Ursula Meyer, Chair

Learning to lead by example and to lead with positivity creates a world of opportunity. Voice work with Ursula Meyer showed me that I had a wide range to work with when I was using very little before. Movement work with Stephen Buescher reminded me that I love to play and full commitment is easier than achieving perfection. Text work with Marco Barricelli made me realize how important it is to put in the hours and understand not just the words, but the life behind them. All of this and more helped me to stay on top of my craft and allowed me to come prepared and ready to play for every day of rehearsal. When I was in Preston Choi's *900 Years*, I was thrust into a leadership position as I became an anchor in production because people started

to drop out. Everyone started to get worried, and I felt a need to make sure everyone who was there was being looked after. Though it was a very stressful environment, I lead by example with my work and did my best to stay positive in the uncertain times. In the end, we were able to tell a beautiful story about the love of family. More recently, I was a part of Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* and continued to stay on top of my work and outputted positivity to keep the ensemble moving in a forward direction. We came together and made a fun experience with many laughs. A world filled with positivity is a world filled with opportunities.