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How Lighting Design Will Eventually Kill Me

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### Author

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### Publication Date

2020

### Supplemental Material

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO

How Lighting Design Will Eventually Kill Me

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

in

Theatre and Dance (Design)

by

Justin Beets

Committee in charge:

Robert Brill, Chair  
Victoria Petrovich  
Chris Rynne  
Shahrokh Yadegari

2020

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The Thesis of Justin Beets is approved, and it is acceptable in quality and form for publication on microfilm and electronically:

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Chair

University of California San Diego

2020

## DEDICATION

This is dedicated to my siblings, blood and chosen.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge all the people who gave me physical and emotional refuge:  
Olivia Salazar-Mendez, Isaac Mendez, Ari Romano, Kaci Kent, Mark Mutrix, Natalie Mutrix,  
Aj Martorell, Sarah Salazar, Antonio Salazar, Alexis Wilson, Katie Wilson, Marilyn Beets,  
Gregory Beets, Jonathan Beets, Jennifer Beets, Jason Beets, Rodney Beets, Joyce Beets,  
Roy Larson, Edith Larson, Johanna Whitmore, Charles Hobby, Sarah EC Maines, Chris Rynne,  
James Ingalls, Brian Gale, Howell Binkley, Amanda Zieve, Brandon Bagwell and Mextly  
Couzin.



## ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

How Lighting Design Will Eventually Kill Me

by

Justin Beets

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Design)

University of California San Diego, 2020

Professor Robert Brill, Chair

Emotions are rampant when one considers the non-physical form of lighting design. I often had to feign laughter with others in the room when I decided to introduce myself as an Emotional Support Designer.

Pieces of me go into every design, one could say I should be heightening the emotion of the character's, But I have never once tried to accomplish that task. I most likely will never be that character, and I will never feel the same in the exact way that they are feeling, that is the actor's job. I put my emotions on stage, how I feel in that moment, I want to heighten the viewers emotions, not the character's.

Being born male I fell into the stereotype of not being able to (or maybe it would be better to say not wanting to) express my emotions. While studying to obtain my undergraduate

degree I collected the practical skills of Lighting Design. Here at The University of California, San Diego, I expanded the skill of true emotional expression. I have created some of the most fulfilling pieces of art, but they slowly destroy me when my emotions cannot be fully understood.

Color has been theorized to effect emotion and is the world I live in. When my emotions are passionate my designs are deep in hue and vulgar, and when my emotions are dulled my designs are pale and stolid.

I hope my emotions constantly change throughout my career, and I hope to die, full of emotions.