

UC San Diego

UC San Diego Electronic Theses and Dissertations

Title

Dreaming of "Perfection"

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/7fr436zm>

Author

Gutierrez, Andrew

Publication Date

2021

Supplemental Material

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/7fr436zm#supplemental>

Peer reviewed|Thesis/dissertation

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO

Dreaming of “Perfection”

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

in

Theatre and Dance (Stage Management)

by

Andrew Gutierrez

Committee in charge:

Lisa Porter, Chair
Jennifer Chang
Lora Powell
Shahrokh Yadegari

2021

©

Andrew Gutierrez, 2021

All rights reserved.

The Thesis of Andrew Gutierrez is approved, and it is acceptable in quality and form for publication on microfilm and electronically.

University of California San Diego

2021

DEDICATION

This degree is dedicated to my family; Arturo Gutierrez, Margarita Gutierrez, Angelica Garcia, Andrea Garcia Gutierrez, Adora Ryan Thomas, Harliee Jade Flores, Josefa Garcia, Irma Garcia, Joe Garcia, Lupe Garcia.

Thank you for the life you have given me, for allowing me to be myself, encouraging me to chase a wild dream, and always believing in me; I would not be here today without your love and support.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Thesis Approval 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. *Midsummer* Photo 1, gutierrez_Midsummer_Photo1.jpg
- File 2. *Midsummer* Filming Script, gutierrez_Midsummer_Script.pdf
- File 3. *Midsummer* Filming Tracker, gutierrez_Midsummer_FilmingTracker.pdf
- File 4. *Midsummer* Segment Breakdown, gutierrez_Midsummer_SegmentBreakdown.pdf
- File 5. *Midsummer* Photo 2, gutierrez_Midsummer_Photo2.jpg
- File 6. *Midsummer* Photo 3, gutierrez_Midsummer_Photo3.jpg
- File 7. *Midsummer* Photo 4, gutierrez_Midsummer_Photo4.jpg
- File 8. *Midsummer* Photo 5, gutierrez_Midsummer_Photo5.jpg
- File 9. *Midsummer* Photo 6, gutierrez_Midsummer_Photo6.jpg
- File 10. *Midsummer* Photo 7, gutierrez_Midsummer_Photo7.jpg

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to Lestat's on Park for the copious amounts of Iced Vietnamese Coffees, breakfast sandwiches with bacon, and brownies.

Thank you to my numerous teachers and friends along the way for their work and patience: Lisa Porter, Lora Powell, Colleen Kollar-Smith, Steven Adler, Nikki Hyde, Alison Mayer Bloomfield, Leila Knox, Shannon Richey, Sarah Maines, Cheri Prough-DeVol, Scott Vandenberg, Michael Francis, Laura Manning, and many many more.

Thank you to my cohort-mates Topaz Cooks, Rebekah Fegan and previous cohort mates, teachers, and friends Willie Mae Michiels, Tyler Rae Larson, Amber Dettmers, Nico Lambros-Smith, Jacob Halpern-Weitzman, Emily Searles, Allison Bailey, Gemma Maliszewski, Jared Halsell, and Gillian Lelchuk.

Thank you to the BA Students who have taught me more than I could wish to teach them: Alex Luong, Austin Harper, Justin Livengood, Kiko Lu, Hazel Parks, Joseff Paz, Sabina Fritz, Amelia Llamas, and Jake Bradford.

Thank you to the friends and my additional support system who have stuck it through the fun and demanding last few years, Ellen Greetham, Holden Fox, Layne Eli Elkins, Willow Laverne Gutierrez, etc.

Thank you to the family that has come before me and afforded me the opportunity to chase a wild dream, taught me love and patience, and encouraged me to persevere throughout life's difficulties.

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Dreaming of “Perfection”

by

Andrew Gutierrez

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

University of California San Diego, 2021

Professor Lisa Porter, Chair

During the production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, I expanded beyond my comfort zone of traditional production and engaged in a pre-recorded project to be debuted online during a global pandemic. While orchestrating this production, a compelling dynamic in the play resonated with me: the relationship between Peter Quince, a new up-and-coming producer, and Bottom, an experienced and seasoned producer and actor. In the play, there are collaborative challenges between these two characters and, after an enormous fiasco, they come together to make a captivating piece of theatre. This relationship reminded me of several rather complex collaborators that I have worked with during my academic career. I connected with the struggle of evaluating relationships, establishing expectations, and regulating heightened emotions.

During this production, I learned the essential and lifelong takeaway: adaptation is necessary to grow and perfection is a myth.

Adaptation takes many shapes, and for me, it means the shifting of expectations, asking for help, and assessing what is and what isn't working. After an arduous few days of navigating uncharted waters at the beginning of filming, I discovered that I was holding myself and my collaborators to an unrealistic standard. I believed that we would get through the process with few, if any mistakes due to how much we had prepared. I realized this idea of reaching perfection was unattainable. The realization that I could loosen my grip on my expectations allowed me to ask mentors, friends, and collaborators for help and to rapidly diagnose the situation.

Throughout my academic career, I have been taught in predominantly white spaces. I have been considered the “exceptional” BIPOC student, which has caused me to frame my worth around perfection and productivity. In my experience and research, I have found that perfectionism and exceptionalism are ideals perpetrated by White Supremacy and are related to other -isms such as racism and ableism. These ideals held by white-centric education systems (and often imposed on BIPOC students) leave little space for healthy fault or failure. As a result, I was conditioned to believe that failure was not an option. During my time at UCSD, I have found that there truly is no perfect outcome, no perfect collaboration, and no perfect product. What I have found is that there is constant room for growth, learning, and exploration. This production pushed me to thrive in the unknown and rely on the instinctual traits I have been building throughout my life, allowing me the space to fail forward. I have learned that what I do in the imperfect moments, the moments that require adaptation, are the breakthrough insights that lead to growth.