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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Dark Side of the Moon

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

in

Theatre and Dance (Acting)

by

Hannah Tamminen

Committee in charge:

Greg Wallace, Chair
Ursula Meyer
Charles Bruce Oates
Manuel Rotenberg

2015

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

Chair

University of California, San Diego

2015

DEDICATION

For my parents and late grandmother, for their everlasting support and encouragement.

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. Production Photo, Fall 1st year: *Elizabeth I*
- File 2. Production Photo, Winter 1st year: *Titus Andronicus*
- File 3. Production Photo, Spring 1st year: *Casagemas*
- File 4. Production Photo, La Jolla Playhouse Wow Festival: *Cornerstone*
- File 5. Production Photo, Fall 2nd year: *Drums in the Night*
- File 6. Production Photo, Winter 2nd year: *She Stoops to Conquer*
- File 7. Production Photo, Spring 2nd year: *Deluge, or The Panda Play*
- File 8. Production Photo, La Jolla Playhouse Residency: *Ether Dome*
- File 9. Production Photo, Fall 3rd year: *Golden Boy*
- File 10. Production Photo, Winter 3rd year: *Hamlet*

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ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Dark Side of the Moon

by

Hannah Tamminen

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Acting)

University of California, San Diego, 2015

Professor Greg Wallace, Chair

When I was younger and my friends and I played pretend, in whatever scenario we imagined ourselves in, they always played the same character, while I, on the other hand, created the world around them - playing numerous colorful characters they'd interact with. I've always loved acting for the opportunity it gives me to take on the personas of others. And for that reason I am grateful to have been given the challenge to play Lorna Moon. Playing Lorna was a particular challenge for me because she is one of the closest characters to myself that I have performed. What I learned through that process is how much more difficult it is for me to play characters like myself than

characters that are vastly different from me. Playing Lorna made me feel especially vulnerable. She didn't have an extreme physical difference from me, or a flashy costume, crazy wig, fat suit, or a "presentational" style for me to rely on. One of Lorna's most truthful lines to me is when she tells Joe: "I'm not much interested in myself." In the last 3 years, I have been compelled to examine myself, which has been both a thrilling and terrifying experience - but beyond that, enlightening. I feel the most valuable lesson I've learned at UCSD is that the most rewarding experiences come from when you are playing someone else ...only to discover that you have come to know your own personal self just a little bit better.