An Actor's Statement of Artistry

Debbie Merary Banos

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

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An Actor’s Statement of Artistry
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A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Drama

by

Debbie Merary Banos
University of Arkansas Fort Smith
Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, 2011

August 2014
University of Arkansas

This thesis is approved for recommendation to the Graduate Council.

_________________________________________  ________________________________________
Amy Herzberg, M.F.A.                           Mavourneen Dwyer, M.F.A.
Thesis Director                                Committee Member

_________________________________________  ________________________________________
Kate Frank, M.F.A.                             Committee Member
ABSTRACT

This thesis consists of my statement of artistry, and documentation of my thesis performance.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to:

All the people who made me who I am.

My mother, Merary Banos who sacrificed her dreams for mine.

My father, Ricardo Banos whose heart I’ve inherited.

My brother, Kenneth Banos who loudly sang with me everywhere.

My sister, Ashley Banos who never ceases to amaze me with her unique view of everything.

My professors who taught me how to keep learning.

My friends who believe in me.
DEDICATION

This is dedicated to:

Everyone who feels jaded by life may you peel back the pain and thrive against all hope.
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STATEMENT OF ARTISTRY

I believe theatre has the power to change lives. On March 23, 2014 I attended a production of “Into the Woods” as performed by the Hypocrites in Chicago. Going in to see “Into the Woods”, I did not know that I needed to see that show more than anything. At the time I was dealing with deep personal pain that I couldn’t make peace with and that show, that funny, fairy tale, musical, gave me the power of forgiveness; Forgiveness for myself and for others. That is what theatre can do.

My goals concerning acting and theatre come in steps. First I must make sure that I can create the kind of theatre that can reach people, then I would like to accomplish my personal goals, and finally and most importantly I want to change the world.

Theatre can only genuinely transform the audience if the performance is honest. Honest theatre work is what I want to create. I truly believe that if my work is honest, my work will reach someone. I plan on doing this by working on approaching everything with an egoless heart. I think the most important thing that I have learned during my training at the University of Arkansas is not an acting technique but a way of looking at my work. Amy Herzberg always says, “Do unto yourself, as you would do unto others,” which is to say be generous and patient with yourself. If I am not generous with myself I get in my own way, my self-pity can overwhelm my performance and all I end up doing is worrying about things that are out of my control. However on the other hand it does me no good to come into anything with ego. The moment I feel “I should know this,” or worse “I know this,” I become obstinate and can’t see past my own ideas, and as a result I become frustrated and useless. What I will strive to do is to
approach everything as a student of theatre, a person who has no judgment on her shortcomings and no arrogance about her ability, but trust in the process.

I have many personal goals that will bring me great satisfaction and they include exploring three specific types of work: Shakespeare, new works, and film. I love Shakespeare and feel that his language is a spiritual experience. And because I feel so strongly towards Shakespeare I would love to at some point in my career become a part of a Shakespearean company. To accomplish this goal I will continue with my Shakespeare training in Chicago and I will audition for as many Shakespeare companies as possible. During my time at the University of Arkansas I have fallen in love with new works. I love working with a playwright during the development process because of how raw and real the playwright’s original impulse is. I want to continue working on new plays. To accomplish this I will be active in finding new play readings that I can be a part of wherever I go. Film reaches so many people and I don’t know much about it. I want to learn because I am curious, and also because as an actor I should take advantage of another venue for my talents. I love learning new things and I love films. I’m excited about the prospect of doing film work. To accomplish this I will take an on-camera class immediately.

To change the world I want to tell the kind of stories that need to be heard, the stories of marginalized people, and the stories of the Latino/Hispanic community. The first step to changing the world is getting the information out there to start combating ignorance and prejudice. The next step has to do with the frequency of exposure. This just means get the stories out there more often. This work will never be done. There will always be something that needs to change. To accomplish as much work on changing the world, I will first seek out the work that needs to be performed, be it a story about human rights, politics, society, religion, or
the environment. Finally I will create my own company that will operate under my value system so that steps one and two can be accomplished in a more reliable manner. I am sure that once I start working on my goals my heart will direct me where I am needed.

Above all, I never want to loose my love for people and the desire to serve them.
Family and Friends, Thank you for your support.

Also, thank you to everyone in this wonderful department.

Gibbs, and Kris Stoker.
Lee, Gail Larchuch, Les Wade, Dr. Andy
Dwyer, Michelle Landman, Bob Ford, Jeananne
Amy Herberger, Kate Frank, Marjounmeen

Thank you to our wonderful faculty members who helped us grow.

Thank you to our wonderful faculty members who helped us grow.

Bara Springer.
Odom, Darian Dore, Chris Hecke, and Ben
Khosrow Sarmadi, Laura Shakhun, James
Shawn Rish, Nate Shakhun, Les Wade.

Limited to: Jeananne Lee, Jason Shiphman,
We would like to thank everyone who made

Acknowledgements
Program designed by author.

Program

5.

1. "Move On" from Sunday in the Park with George
2. "Lesson #9" from Sunday in the Park
3. "Agony" from Into the Woods
4. "Breath" from In the Heights
5. "I Believe" from The Book of Mormon
6. "All the Wasted Time" from Parade
7. "Henry IV Part II" - The Two Noble Kinsmen
8. "Waiting for Godot"
9. "Three Sisters"
10. "Spike Heels"
11. "The Mother Tucker With a Hat"
12. "Mauritus"
13. "Proof"
14. "Reasons to Be Pretty"

Henry IV Part II
The Two Noble Kinsmen
Waiting for Godot
Three Sisters
Spike Heels
The Mother Tucker With a Hat
Mauritus
Proof
Reasons to Be Pretty

Program

Hon. Requirements:
This performance is in partial fulfillment with graduation.

Summer of '44
Missy Marmara
15.
Is moving to Los Angeles in the spring of
Kieran Cronin
Is moving to Chicago in the fall of '44.
Debbie Barros
Actors

An Evening With Actors
HEADSHOT AND RESUME

Photo reprinted with permission from photographer, Rob Sutton.
Debbie Baños
Height: 5’3” · Hair: Black · Eyes: Brown · Voice: Mezzo-Soprano

Regional

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<th>Role</th>
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<th>Director</th>
<th>Company</th>
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<td>Octavio</td>
<td>Don Chipotle</td>
<td>Morgan Hicks, Juan Francisco Villa</td>
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<td>Hamlet</td>
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Educational

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<td>Wonder of the World</td>
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<td>Anonymus</td>
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Education

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Training


Skills

WORKS CITED

APPENDIX A.1

Email Correspondence with Rob Sutton

USE OF HEADSHOT IN THESIS

2 messages

Debbie Banos <[redacted]@gmail.com>  
To: Rob Sutton <[redacted]@gmail.com>  
Mon, May 12, 2014 at 1:26 PM

Hello Rob,
This is Debbie Banos. You took lovely headshots of me last spring and I was hoping that you would give me permission to use the photos you took as a part of my thesis to complete my M.F.A. Would you give me permission? I would very much appreciate it.
Debbie.

Rob Sutton <[redacted]@gmail.com>  
To: Debbie Banos <[redacted]@gmail.com>  
Mon, May 12, 2014 at 1:27 PM

Of course my love!!!

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]