

5-2018

Beside Myself

Grant Hockenbrough
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/etd>



Part of the [Acting Commons](#), and the [Performance Studies Commons](#)

Citation

Hockenbrough, G. (2018). *Beside Myself*. *Graduate Theses and Dissertations* Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/etd/2747>

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@UARK. It has been accepted for inclusion in Graduate Theses and Dissertations by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@UARK. For more information, please contact uarepos@uark.edu.

Beside Myself

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

by

Grant Mitchell Hockenbrough
University of Arkansas
Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, 2015

May 2018
University of Arkansas

This thesis is approved for recommendation to the Graduate Council.

Amy Herzberg, MFA
Thesis Director

Michael Landman, MFA
Committee Member

Steven Marzolf, MFA
Committee Member

Abstract

This thesis consists of my statement of artistry, and documentation of artistic materials and thesis related performances.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to:

My mother, Judy for being my biggest fan and loving supporter.

My father, Ken for loving me in my worst moments and encouraging me to follow my dreams.

My sister and brother in law, for teaching me the patience to follow my own path.

My friends, for their unconditional love and understanding.

My professors, for the time they invested in me and advice they have given.

Last but far from least, my grad mates: Chris, Cody, Courtney, and Charlie. My ride-or-dies for life. In a three-year period that felt both too quick and far too long at the same time, I found four people that mean more to me than any group ever will again. The Breakfast Club.

Dedication

To my parents. I would not be here without your support and understanding.

Table of Contents

I. STATEMENT OF ARTISTRY / TEACHING PHILOSOPHY.....1

II. THESIS ROLE PHOTOGRAPH AND PROGRAM.....2

III. THESIS PERFORMANCE PROGRAM.....5

IV. APPENDIX A: PROOF OF PERMISSIONS8

V. APPENDIX B: WEBSITE LINK.....9

VI. APPENDIX C: HEADSHOT.....10

VII. APPENDIX D: RESUME.....11

I. Statement of Artistry

When I first joined the University of Arkansas MFA Acting program, I was already looking forward to the pressures that I knew would come in our third and final year. I imagined myself tackling one or two of the great roles that I have held in reverence ever since I began acting. I thought about the possibility of taking my turn in one of Tennessee Williams', Shakespeare, or Arthur Miller's great pieces. Little did I know, something else entirely was in store for me. In my third year of graduate school, I found myself in two brand new plays that had never been done before. A fictional piece written by playwright John Walsh and the other an autobiographical one person show written by myself. In both of these shows, I played a young man battling the pitfalls of addiction. When I first found that both of the roles that I played my final year of graduate school would be so similar and brand new unproven pieces, I was a bit artistically and creatively disappointed. It was not until I started to receive some feedback after the shows that I realized that I had found my Statement of Artistry through these two shows.

As an artist, my mission is to provide hope for those who feel they have none. Whether this be solely through comedic relief of life's struggles, a heroic dramatization of perseverance, or anything in between. In a house of three hundred or more people, I consider having a positive effect on even one of them to be the greatest victory I can achieve as an actor. As playwright John Walsh so aptly wrote, "it's a minute by minute fight trying to stay positive." I hope to make that fight easier for someone every time I step on a stage or screen.

II. Thesis Role Photograph and Program



Grant Hockenbrough as *Me* and *Inner Me* in the University of Arkansas One Person Show: *Beside Myself*. December 2017. Photos courtesy of the University Of Arkansas Department Of Theatre.

Thank you for attending these works-in-progress presentations!

The pieces originated in the "Creating a One Person Show" class, a course that explores the process of writing, acting and directing solo performances. Our group this semester included eight M.F.A. students: six actors and two playwrights, aided in performance by the graduate lighting designers.

The aim of the course is to enable these artists to begin to express their unique imaginations and theatrical sensibilities, telling the stories they're compelled to share with the world.

- Michael Landman

Crew, Sound, & Stage Management:

The Performers

Thank You:

Shawn Irish

Tyler Micheel

Joe Millett

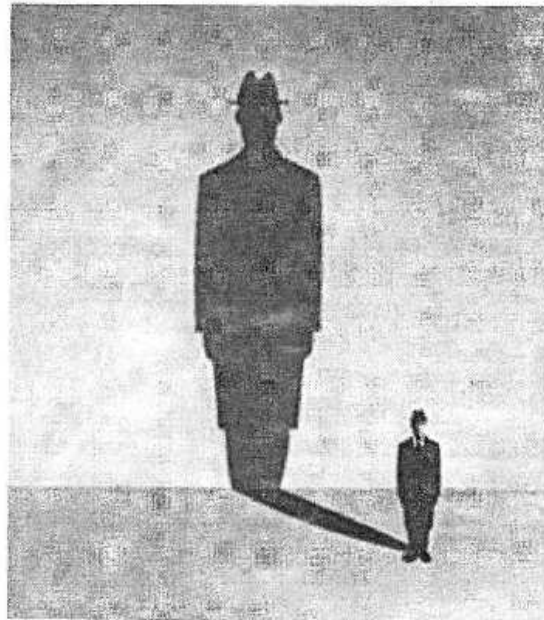
Michael Riha

Barbara Springer

Weston Wilkerson

ONE PERSON SHOWS
Original Works-in-Progress

Kimpel Studio 404
December 5, 7, & 11, 2017



Program for One Person Shows, courtesy of the University of Arkansas Theatre Department.
Pages 4 and 1.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 7:30PM

DR. DOERMANN'S DATE

Meghan McEnery

*

DA QUEEN, 1971

Paul Randall McInnis

*

BESIDE MYSELF

Grant Hockenbrough

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 7:30PM

DAYO: A BATHROOM STORY

Courtney Jensen

*

TAKIN' CARE OF BUSINESS

Cody Shelton

*

THE GREAT DEBATERS

Austin Dean Ashford

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 3:30PM

STORMS

Chris Tennison

*

WILL ACT FOR WORK

Charlie Rodriguez

Lighting Design:

Eric Armstrong

Catie Blencowe

*There will be brief
pauses between the shows.*

Program for One Person Shows, courtesy of the University of Arkansas, Department of Theatre.
Pages 2 and 3.

III. Thesis Performance Program

**WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE
OUR 2018-2019 SEASON!**

CLYBOURNE PARK
by Bruce Norris

SHE KILLS MONSTERS
by Qui Nguyen


TOP GIRLS
by Carol Churchill

MACBETH
by William Shakespeare

TOPDOG/UNDERDOG
by Susan-Lori Parks


A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by Hugh Wheeler

Season Subscriptions will be on sale April 20th!




Festival of New Works


<p>April 20 THEATRE FOR ONE 4:30 - 6:30 PM WEST OF WHY 7:00 PM (I)SLAND (T)RAP 9:30 PM</p>	<p>April 27 THEATRE FOR ONE 4:30 - 6:30 PM RISE 7:00 PM 10 MINUTE PLAYS 9:30 PM</p>	<p>April 28 RISE 2:00 PM THEATRE FOR ONE 4:30 - 6:30 PM THE POODLE TRAINER 7:00 PM 10 MINUTE PLAYS 9:30 PM</p>
<p>April 21 THEATRE FOR ONE 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM THEATRE FOR ONE 4:30 - 6:30 PM WEST OF WHY 7:00 PM LATIN X 9:30 PM</p>	<p>April 22 THEATRE FOR ONE 4:30 - 6:30 PM WEST OF WHY 7:00 PM</p>	<p>April 29 THE POODLE TRAINER 2:00 PM THEATRE FOR ONE 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM RISE 7:00 PM</p>
<p>April 26 THEATRE FOR ONE 2:30 - 6:30 PM THE POODLE TRAINER 7:00 PM 10 MINUTE PLAYS 9:30 PM</p>	<p>Thank you for joining us at the newly renovated UA Black Box Theatre, where we are hosting exciting original works from the next generation of playwrights!</p>	



DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE
J. WILLIAM FULLBRIGHT COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



CitiScapes
MAKING IT



ARKANSAS Democrat Gazette

TICKETS: 479-575-4752 or theatre.uark.edu

Program for *A Hamlet: West of Why*. Courtesy of the University of Arkansas, Department of Theatre. Pages 18 and 1.

A Hamlet: West of Why

About the Players

This play was written for the 2018 MFA acting class at the University of Arkansas: Charlie Rodriguez, Grant Hockenbrough, Courtney Jensen, Cody Shelton, and Chris Tennison.

While not a devised work, the play was developed with the actors contributing pieces of themselves, issues that were on their mind at the time, and random bits like lima beans. While everything here is fiction, their collective contributions are an essential part of the marinade that made the sauce of this play. My abundant thanks to them for contributing and engaging in this process.



The Merry Players play their parts outside Yuma, AZ

Theatre for One

Pine

Playwright.....Geffery Davis
Director Kholoud Sawaf
Actors Chris Tennison, Scott Russell

Lies

Playwright..... Padma Viswanathan
Director Kate Frank
Actors Courtney Jensen, Jenn Nesbitt

The Box

Playwright..... Emily Schwend
Director Jeremiah Albers
Actors NaTosha DeVon, Jenee Childers

Two Dollars

Playwright..... John Waich
Director Jeremiah Albers
Actors Cody Shelton, Trey Smith, Landan Stocker

You Love Dogs

Playwright..... Robert Ford
Director Cole Wimpee
Actors Grant Hockenbrough, Justin Mackey, Zach Currie

Otherlands

Playwright..... Les Wade
Director Kate Frank
Actors Mollie Armour, Emily Ogden

Dawn

Playwright..... Lisa D'Amour
Director Cole Wimpee
Actors Halley Mayo, Mischa Hutchings

Support is provided by the McLlory Family Visiting Professorship in
the Performing and Visual Arts.

Theatre for One

Theatre for One is a mobile state-of-the-art performance space for one actor and one audience member. Conceived by Artistic Director Christine Jones and designed by LOT-EK architects, Theatre for One commissions new work created specifically for this venue's one-to-one relationship. Embracing serendipity and spontaneity, Theatre for One is presented in public spaces in which audience members are invited to engage in an intimate theatrical exchange and enter the theatre space not knowing what to expect. Actor and audience member encounter each other as strangers in this suspended space and through the course of the performance allow the divisions and distinctions that separate us to dissolve.



CHRISTINE JONES (Artistic Director) is a Tony-award winning set designer and the Artistic Director of Theatre for One. SET DESIGN: *Broadway: Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Pts I & II*, *American Idiot* (Tony Award); *Hands on a Hardbody*; *On a Clear Day*; *Spring Awakening* (Tony Nomination); *The Green Bird* (Drama Desk Nomination); *Everyday Rapture*. *West End: Close to You*. *Bacharach Reimagined*; *Let the Right One In*. *Opera: Rigoletto* (MET). Other Selected Work: *The Book of Longing* (Lincoln Center Festival), *Burn This* (Signature Theatre) and *True Love*. 2015 OBIE for Sustained Excellence in Set Design.

A Hamlet: West of Why

Cast

Alain Charlie Rodriguez
 Clay Grant Hockenbrough
 Joyce Courtney Jensen
 Chase Cody Shelton
 Paul Chris Tennison

Digital Assistants

Rimshot/Troll/Other Voices Mason Bell, Caroline Dean

Production Team

Director Shana Gold
 Playwright John Walch
 Assistant Director Jeremiah Albers
 Fight Choreography Charlie Rodriguez
 Set Designer Brandon Roye
 Lighting Designer Kathleen Schmidt
 Costume Designer Kelsey Looney
 Sound Designer Austin Aschbrenner
 Scenic/Projection Designer Brandon Roye

Crew

Stage Manager Samuel Murphey
 Assistant Stage Manager Caroline Dean
 Wardrobe Crew Head Adam Rutiaga
 Wardrobe Crew Haley Goodebiddle
 Deck Crew Samantha Schreyer
 Light Board Op Annika Howard
 Properties Autumn Percy

Setting:

Place: The open road—America.

Time: A few years from now, toward the tail-end of a tour.

Program for *A Hamlet: West of Why*. Courtesy of the University of Arkansas Department of Theatre. Pages 11 and 8.

IV. Appendix A: Proof of Permissions



J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Theatre

To: Graduate School and International Studies, University of Arkansas
From: Ashley Cohea, Business Manager for Department of Theatre
Date: April 14, 2018
Re: Use of Department of Theatre production programs, photos, and publicity materials in thesis publications

The University of Arkansas Department of Theatre grants permission for students seeking a BA or MFA in our department to use programs, photos, and publicity materials for productions in which they participated for the purpose of advancing their academic or professional careers. This permission includes both electronic and print format used for thesis publications, professional portfolios, websites, etc.

Photos should be credited with the photographer, as well as the University of Arkansas and Department of Theatre names. Programs or posters must be used in their entirety. Artwork from a program or poster may not be used in any other format without permission from and credit to the designer of said artwork. The program may not be altered in any way from the original PDF format provided by Department of Theatre. Photos may be resized or cropped to suit the needs of the publication or website, but may not be filtered, touched up, or edited in any other way.

This permission includes any and all programs and publicity material from productions presented by or on behalf of the University of Arkansas Department of Theatre. Use of productions from other companies such as TheatreSquared or Trike Theatre are not under our jurisdiction and may require a separate memo. In cases where an officially licensed logo or artwork are used, federal trademark law and the bounds of the licensing agreement entered into by the University of Arkansas supersede the permissions granted in this memo. Students should consult the Department of Theatre Business Office and request additional permissions before including any licensed or trademarked materials.

If there are any questions on this matter, or any dispute over whether production material is being used in an inappropriate manner, please contact the Department of Theatre Business Manager, listed below.

Ashley Cohea
228 Fine Arts Center
University of Arkansas
(479) 575-6067
acohea@uark.edu

V. Appendix B: Website Link

<https://www.ghockenb.com>

VI. Appendix C: Headshot



Photo courtesy of *The Jamesons*.

VI. Appendix D: Resume

Grant Hockenbrough

THEATRE

<i>The Champion</i>	Frasier	TheatreSquared	Reg Douglas
<i>Transatlantic (SR)</i>	Connor O'Shee	TheatreSquared	Shana Gold
<i>The Jefferson Bottles</i>	Johnson	Block Street Theatre Co.	Jason Shipman
<i>Living History</i>	Steven K Stone	Artist Laboratory Theatre	Cole Wimpee
<i>Kin</i>	Gideon	University Theatre	Amy Herzberg
<i>Lysistrata</i>	Harold	University Theatre	Morgan Hicks
<i>Hedda Gabler</i>	Judge Brack	University Theatre	Cole Wimpee
<i>The Metal Children</i>	Tobin Falmouth	University Theatre	Jenny Mcknight
<i>Hay Fever</i>	Richard	University Theatre	Kate Frank
<i>As You Like It</i>	Duke Frederick	University Theatre	Morgan Hicks

FILM

<i>Marjoun and the Flying Headscarf</i>	Featured	Suzan Youseff
---	----------	---------------

TELEVISION

<i>True Detective</i> Season 3	Deputy O'Bannon	HBO	Under 5
--------------------------------	-----------------	-----	---------

TRAINING

MFA: University of Arkansas
Vocal and Dialects: Mavourneen Dwyer
Meisner: Amy Herzberg
Alexander: Kate Frank
Viewpoints: Michael Landman
Devised Theatre: Les Wade
Chekhov and Pinter: Amy Herzberg
Shakespeare: Steven Marzolf

SPECIAL SKILLS:

Accents: RP, Cockney, Irish, Australian, Southern Gen Am.
Skateboarding, skilled with football, soccer ball, basketball, volleyball and baseball.
Dance: (beginner) Ballet, tap, musical theatre, hip hop and period.