Beside Myself

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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    Steven Marzolf, MFA
Committee Member     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.
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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.
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 explored 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 Michael
Joe Millet
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.
III. Thesis Performance Program

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 revised work, the play was developed with the actors contributing pieces of themselves, issues that were on their minds 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 pic their parts outside Yuma, AZ

Theatre for One

Pine

Playwright.......................................................... Geffrey Dav's
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.............................................................. Natasha DeVon, Jenee Childers

Two Dollars

Playwright.......................................................... John Walsh
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.............................................................. Haley Mayo, Mischa Hutchings

Support is provided by the McIlory Family Visiting Professorship in the Performing and Visual Arts.
Program for A Hamlet: West of Why. Courtesy of the University of Arkansas Department of Theatre. Pages 11 and 8.

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.

A Hamlet: West of Why

Cast

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

Digital Assistants

Rimshot/Toll/Other Voices ......................... Mason Bell, Caroline Dean

Production Team

Director .............................................................. Shana Gold
Playwright .......................................................... John Walsh
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 Murphy
Assistant Stage Manager ................................ Caroline Dean
Wardrobe Crew Head ........................................ Adam Rutkaga
Wardrobe Crew ................................................. Haley Goodiebiddle
Deck Crew ......................................................... Samantha Schreyer
Light Board Op .................................................. Annika Howard
Properties ........................................................ Autumn Pearcy

Setting:

Place: The open road—America.
Time: A few years from now, toward the tail-end of a tour.

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 Parts 1 & 2, American Idiot (Tony Award); Hands on a Hardbody; Or a Clear Day: Spring Awakening (Tony Nomination); The Green Bird (Drama Desk Nomination); Everyday Ruiner. West End: Close to You, Bacharach Reimagined; Let the Right One In, Opera: Rigoletto (NET). 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.
To: Graduate School and International Studies, University of Arkansas
From: Ashley Cohea, Business Manager for Department of Theatre
Date: April 14, 2018

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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

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

FILM

*Marjoun and the Flying Headscarf* Featured Suzan Youseff

TELEVISION

*True Detective* 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:

Skateboarding, skilled with football, soccer ball, basketball, volleyball and baseball.
Dance: (beginner) Ballet, tap, musical theatre, hip hop and period.