Title
In a World of Desensitzation

Permalink
https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1pj9x10k

Author
Garcia, Sara Marie

Publication Date
2011

Supplemental Material
https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1pj9x10k#supplemental

Peer reviewed|Thesis/dissertation
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

In a World of Desensitization

A thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the degree Master of Fine Arts in
Theatre and Dance (Acting)

by
Sara Garcia

Committee in charge:
Professor Kyle Donnelly, Chair
Professor Eva Barnes
Professor Charlie Oates
Professor Manuel Rotenberg

2011
The thesis of Sara Garcia is approved and it is acceptable in quality and form for publication on microfilm and electronically:

___________________________________________

___________________________________________

___________________________________________

___________________________________________

Chair

University of California, San Diego

2011
DEDICATION

This work is dedicated first and foremost to my husband, Jason Post. Together we continue to learn lessons no grad class could ever encompass. On the practice of compassionate love, patience, and friendship: I’ve met no greater teacher. It is also dedicated to my mother, Elsie Garcia, who instilled in me a thirst for knowledge and a hunger for the freedom that it presents. Thank you.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Signature Page……………………………………………………………………………… iii

Dedication………………………………………………………………………………... iv

Table of Contents……………………………………………………………………... v

Abstract of the Thesis………………………………………………………………… vi

In a World of Desensitization on file at Geisel Library
ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

In a World of Desensitization

by

Sara Garcia

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance

University of California, San Diego, 2011

Professor Kyle Donnelly, Chair

Approaching the end of my graduate career, reflecting on purpose amidst this beast, this industry, this crazy craft. Why did I come to grad school? Why have I chosen to act? During three years of tremendous flux, has my mission stayed intact? So many questions, so few words to examine the answers.

The decision to pursue a career in acting was birthed in a fiery need to sensitize. Our media options leave one with little alternative for any semblance of a thing wholesome. Not that conservatism is at all the heart, or any part of my art – that’s not the case at all. The truth of the matter is this: I still cover my eyes and ears at the onset of gratuitous violence – theatricalized and otherwise. My soul weeps and I feel battered at the sight of senseless humiliation passing itself off as entertainment: in music, movies, television programming, and the like. Degradation finds its way onto the lips of our youth under a guise invisible to those accustom: it’s just a song. It’s not real. It’s funny – not a big deal. I beg, I scream and plead to differ.
In a world of desensitization, I found myself ill equipped. That is why I’ve come: to arm myself with tools essential to the highlighting of the humane. In a dark room of patrons, the actor is granted opportunity to whisper a tendril of truth. This instrument is designed to move: laughter, grief, love, mayhem, shame. Three years later, I can answer: my mission remains the same.