The Alchemy of Trust in *Spring Awakening*

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

by

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

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Chair

University of California, San Diego

2012
DEDICATION

To Vivian Humphrey, the first person to ask “Do you want to be my stage manager?” and without whom I never would have found my path.

And to Robert Cormier, for the inspiration and faith in my writing, forever and always.
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ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

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*Spring Awakening* is the story of adolescence, of finding oneself in a moment of chaos, and discovering the bonds of friendship that defy the odds. In the final scene of the play, it is Melchior and Moritz’s unswerving commitment that gives the audience hope and faith in the future. Similarly, the relationship between the director (Anthony) and I became the inspiration for discovery and peace amidst the chaos. The organic and wordless evolution of our connection formed an authentic collaborative energy that filled the room.

It is hard to explain chemistry--there was no hesitating, only instinctual flow, and even with conflict, we returned to the trusted bond that we had built. We shared a commitment to the show and tackled the provocative subject matter and complicated dynamics of a large cast by balancing our strengths and challenging one another to fulfill
our creative potential. Our relationship was surprisingly intuitive and as comfortable as breathing, possessing a magic that was foundational to the entire process. Anthony and I stood together as artistic partners and I emerged as the leader of a team.

This collaborative energy emerged through the stage management team dynamics on last year’s production of *Hedda Gabler* and continued to grow with the cross-cultural bond I formed with Cambodian performers on my residency in Brazil. These symphonic encounters have been catalysts in my graduate work, inspiring me to discover synergy in my working style and relationships.