Title
Engaging with Risk: Leadership in The Taming of The Shrew(d)

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Engaging with Risk: Leadership in The Taming of The Shrew(d)

A Thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the degree Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Stage Management) by Hsiu-I Lu

Committee in charge:
Lisa Porter, Chair
Kyle Donnelly
Charles Means

2017
The Thesis of Hsiu-I Lu is approved and it is acceptable in quality and form for publication on microfilm and electronically:

Chair

University of California, San Diego

2017
DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this work to my family in Taiwan. Thank you for all the support you’ve been offering.
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File 1. *The Taming of The Shrew(d) Calling Page Preshow*

File 2. *The Taming of The Shrew(d) Calling Pages vii & viii*

File 3. The Taming of The Shrew(d) Calling Pages 56 & 57

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I am extremely grateful to many individuals who have supported me throughout this journey. First, I would like to thank my mentors, Chuck Means and Lisa Porter, for taking me on this journey three years ago, throwing challenges to me, pushing me out of my comfort zone and then guiding me to grow. I have always appreciated the care, warmth, patience, encouragement, and immense knowledge that you show and offer. Second, a big thank-you to Queens of 2017 Jessie, Kamra and Mandisa for the support, company and help that you share. The time we spent together in our office, especially struggling with the productions and homework, is never forgettable. I am so lucky to have you three amazingly brilliant souls as my classmates to nourish my graduate school life. Third, I would like to acknowledge the Stage Management cohorts: Ashley, Jackie, Kasson, Bryan, Tyler and Willie as your valuable spirits. You present the diversity of this Stage Management group and I learn a lot from all of you. Finally, I must express my very profound gratitude to my parents and my older and younger brothers for providing me countless support and love throughout my years of study. This accomplishment would not have been possible without you. Thank you.
ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Engaging with Risk: Leadership in *The Taming of The Shrew(d)*

by

Hsiu-I Lu

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Stage Management)

University of California, San Diego, 2017

Lisa Porter, Chair

Throughout the process of *The Taming of The Shrew(d)*, my ability to take risks and adapt my approach prompted me to grow as a leader. At the beginning of the process, I was uncertain about the boundaries of my formal authority. Some of my ingrained cultural norms blocked me from partnering with the faculty director. I had the expectation that I would step outside of my comfort zone and confront my identity as a leader. The cultural differences were obstacles before the process that transformed into an open door when I clarified my stakes and engaged in daring communication skills. I used direct language and engaged in transparent conversation. I learned that allowing my voice to be heard was more comfortable than I had previously perceived, and I started to take risks that developed my strengths as a leader.
Owning and exercising my authority became more intuitive when the process moved into tech rehearsals. I navigated uncertainty and chaos on our first day in the theater, asking for help from my collaborators, and working towards our common goal of beginning tech with all elements intact. I learned that my focus on each moment of the process, rather than pleasing my collaborators, supported me as a leader. I realized when I dared to take risks and experiment with actions outside of my comfort zone, I was free from fear and anxiety, and embraced my formal authority by actively taking risks.