Title
Light the Story: The Lost and the Found

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Author
Britt, Joel Ian

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Light the Story:
*The Lost and the Found*

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

Theatre and Dance (Design)

by

Joel Britt

Committee in charge:

Alan Burrett, Chair
Robert Brill
Charles Means

2018
The Thesis of Joel Britt is approved, and it is acceptable in quality and form for publication on microfilm and electronically:

University of California San Diego

2018
DEDICATION

To my loving and supportive family and friends, thank you for understanding and tolerating the long hours and the late nights that I was away. You were always on my mind and in my heart. Thank you all for the inspiration.
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Alan Burrett for your mentorship and encouragement. Thank you to the faculty and staff of the Department of Theatre and Dance for all your guidance and support. Here is to knowing the rules and then breaking all of them.
ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Light the Story:
_The Lost and the Found_

by

Joel Britt

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Design)

University of California San Diego, 2018

Professor Alan Burrett, Chair

The process of transforming a raw material into a finished good requires vision and skill. Likewise, the transformation of an empty room into an environment in which a story, characters, and emotions can be supported and heightened requires imagination and a proficiency in highly technical elements. The more effective the design of the environment, the greater the impact on the story and the audience. Whether the story calls for a simple park bench under a streetlight, or a boat caught in a rainstorm on the ocean, it is the job of the design team to create a believable environment that supports the needs of the production. The process of creating the environment was the focus of my studies at The University of California, San Diego.
The University of California, San Diego requires that a written thesis be submitted by every student that wishes to obtain a Master’s level degree. This paper represents the minimum written requirement by the University and should in no way reflect the merit or stand in judgement of the body of work produced while in the Theatrical Design program at UCSD. The department of Theatre and Dance confers Master’s Degrees through a detailed review and defense of a student’s complete design portfolio by a panel of esteemed faculty and theatre practitioners. The portfolio review process includes presentation of research, paperwork, and photos of each production designed while a student at UCSD. The Faculty can challenge the student about any aspect of the process including the collaboration with the rest of the creative team. The goal of the thesis defense is to establish that the student has mastery in all areas of theatrical design and design process. The goal of this paper is to provide examples of work from the portfolio that was presented for review.

My research included classics, new works, dance, and opera. Each new research project presented unique challenges and numerous learning opportunities. In the supplemental files you will find examples of my research while enrolled in UCSD.