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Leading Courageously Through the Unknown: An Assertive Approach to Mr. Burns, A post-electric play

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Guthrie, Kate

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Leading Courageously Through the Unknown: An Assertive Approach to

Mr. Burns, A post-electric play

A thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements

for the degree Master of Fine Arts

in

Theatre and Dance (Stage Management)

by

Kate Guthrie

Committee in charge:

Lisa Porter, Chair
Charles Means
Ursula Meyer
Anna Springer

2015
The thesis of Kate Guthrie is approved and it is acceptable in quality and form for publication on microfilm and electronically:

Chair

University of California, San Diego

2015
DEDICATION

For
Mom & Dad,
Mark, Eric, & Grant,
Jessica, Sarah, & Jane.

Thank you for all of your love and support.
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File 2. *Mr. Burns* Calling Excerpt

File 3. *Mr. Burns* Calling Excerpt
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you Chuck and Lisa for all of your guidance and support over the past three years.

I now approach my future with hope and courage.

Thank you, fellow stage managers for all of your encouragement and love. I couldn’t have made it through without you.
ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Leading Courageously Through the Unknown: An Assertive Approach to

Mr. Burns, A post-electric play

by

Kate Guthrie

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

University of California, San Diego, 2015

Professor Lisa Porter, Chair

Toward the end of Mr. Burns, Bart is confronted by death and reaches within himself to find the hope and courage necessary to defeat his biggest fear, Mr. Burns. This newfound courage propels Bart to fight back and lead the citizens of Springfield to safety. Many times throughout the production process, I felt like Bart at this moment. Circumstances arose and I had to choose to face my fears or step aside and be defeated.
As Bart realizes in the play, courage comes from a genuine need to protect and defend those you are leading. Throughout this process, I faced many fears and like Bart, found inspiration from my team and colleagues. Courage became essential in leading this production through the many fears and doubts of the unknown.

During my graduate studies, I have been committed to developing a more assertive approach to my leadership style. I have challenged myself to trust my intuition and take courageous risks to create a safe space without fear of judgment and where trust and respect are given freely. I have learned the importance of building trusting and respectful relationships that support and inspire my team to do their best work. By being more assertive, I demonstrate to the collaborative team and the company that I am looking out for their needs. Moving forward I will continue to challenge myself to courageously follow my intuition and be assertive while supporting my collaborators and the production.