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RESEARCH STATEMENT

Feminism in theatre has become the epicenter of my work. Focusing on gender dynamics in political theatre and gender representation through costume and scenic designs is where I've come to focus over the past three years. I highly value the female narrative in theatre, and strive to enhance the voices and experiences of historically underrepresented and under-served members of society.

Societal norms have always dictated the way art is created, from the fully mounted productions in the 17th C. French court to the Guerilla performances that now take place in protest on city streets. Examining the way our geopolitical climate affects how and why we perform provides an insight into the way story-telling becomes a healing process, one that is determined to dismantle oppressive behaviors and to fortify the strength and voice of a nation.

The ideas of femininity, gender representation, and intersectional feminism can all be found in theory, but how do we accurately convey the nuances and intricacies of these ideas through design? This question has come to drive my research and design process. How do period textiles provide a roadmap for a character's journey through a script? How do I represent a gender-queer individual on stage when the text calls for a traditionally feminine aesthetic? Taking a deeper look into color choices, patterns, textures, garment structures, scenic elements, and lighting color theory all provide the avenue to make these statements with purely an aesthetic choice.

Theatre as a medium to provide traumatic and emotional healing has been utilized through text, but what about the aesthetic choices being made? How do they help heal the character, and in some cases, how do they help heal the designer? By asking these questions, the often-taboo subject of

mental health in society can be addressed. PTSD, obsessive-compulsive disorder, depression, anxiety, and other mental disorders, not only of characters on stage, but also of the creators, can be put under a magnifying glass and examined with scrutiny and sensitivity.