

## ABSTRACT

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Key Words: DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE, DRAMA IN SECONDARY SCHOOL  
CURRICULUM, ACTING, STAGE PLAYS, FILM, FILMMAKING,  
THEATER, DRAMA, CASE STUDY, QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

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Thesis Title: TRANSFORMING A LITERARY WORK INTO A DRAMATIC  
PERFORMANCE: A QUALITATIVE CASE STUDY OF THE  
EXPERIENCES OF SELECTED INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL STUDENTS  
IN THAILAND AND MYANMAR

Thesis Advisor: DR. ORLANDO RAFAEL GONZALEZ GONZALEZ

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This is a qualitative case study of how selected middle and high school students at two international schools, one in Thailand and another in Myanmar, took literary texts and transformed them into dramatic performances. From 2000-2015, I directed my students in three stage plays and three films. Ten student performers from those plays and films became participants in this study. I interviewed the former students about their experiences. My objective was to explore how each participant had reflected on their own personalities, characteristics, and experiences while developing their performance, whether the students, in retrospect, viewed their ultimate portrayal as being the character or themselves, and what benefits were accrued to each student through engaging in the dramatic performance. The resulting data confirmed that developing the dramatic performances had been a meaningful experience for the students. Indeed they *had* explored their own personalities and emotions. The participants reported powerful vicarious experiences, emotional catharsis, inward

contemplation, self-analysis, and self-realization. Many of the participants had overcome shyness, increased their level of self-confidence, developed close social relationships with their fellow actors, and achieved a deeper understanding of literature. The study is divided into six chapters: The background of the research, including an anecdote from the filming of 2012's *Romeo and Juliet* which served as the impetus for the study, a review of related literature, an explanation of the study's methodology, a narrative description of the data along with conclusions drawn from that data, and a discussion and recommendations for further research.



Field of Study: Curriculum and Instruction Student's signature.....

Graduate School of Human Sciences

Advisor's signature .....

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