

BIRTHMARK

By

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of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Fine Arts
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Advisory Committee:

Visiting Associate Professor, Dance, Karen Bradley, Chair
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ABSTRACT

Title of Thesis:

BIRTHMARK

Anthony Gongora, M.F.A., 2004

Thesis Directed By:

**Visiting Associate Professor Karen K. Bradley,
Department of Dance**

BIRTHMARK is a choreographic journey, inspired by a personal confrontation with kaposi's sarcoma and the moment of realizing ultimate recovery. The dance is divided into six sections, beginning with my depression and fears at diagnosis of the extreme form of the herpes virus. The next sections travel through pondering "Why Me;" expanding my spiritualization and embracing my friends; finding respect for my body and the world around me; realizing the profound changes for and in me; and, finally, experiencing hope, euphoria, that I was now given a second chance. The fifty-minute dance production is successful not only because of my vision and choreography. The outstanding performance danced by my talented cast, the ideas for costume patterns and construction offered by my luminous costume designer, the concepts for lighting and props suggested by my eminent technical director, and the continuous encouragement of my advisor, contributed to the production's triumph.