

Natalie E. Battistone
Student Research Conference 2013
Firebrand: Abstract
24 February 2013

Mimesis, or imitation, is one of the most ancient forms of human expression. This thesis is a representation of how the ideals of ancient societies, through drama and myth, still inform our world today. The humanities have recently been under siege in regard to their societal relevance and value. My original script, *Firebrand*, is a meta-theatrical call to arms against these accusations and assumptions. The play is a provocative retelling of the myth of Eros and Psyche, a story recognized globally in many different guises. *Firebrand* is intended to reinvigorate the topical, political, socio-conscious spirit of theatre as well as preserve and elicit the enduring power of myth. The myth is extant even in our modern society. Tracking its transmutation over time and through the art and literature of various cultures shows that it is often adapted to appeal to the culture's respective audience. With this model in mind, I have adapted the myth into a play that is geared toward our current society and trials familiar to the youth of the 21st century. One of the tenets of good drama is making the story *accessible* to the audience and providing *relatable* characters and situations. By morphing the myth into something plausible and realistic for a modern audience the central themes of the ancient story are preserved but conveyed in a way that makes the story less antiquated. The creative process in developing a piece of theatre does not yield tangible results. All audiences approach a piece of theatre with individual bias. The primary goal is to validate the cultural significance of the humanities and provoke audiences to experience the connection between their own lives and the myth enacted. *De te fabula narratur*- "Of you this story is told."

Word Count: 289