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Communication Arts and Sciences

Title of your research project.

"I Know You:" Burkean Identification and Fun Home's "Ring of Keys."

Description of research. Please provide a few sentences that explain the question and the methods employed in this research project.

Through a rhetorical analysis of the song "I Know You" in the musical Fun Home's lyrics, cast recording, and sheet music, this essay discusses first how the character of Small Alison identifies with a woman she sees at a diner in "Ring of Keys," and second, how the song creates Burkean identification between audience members and Small Alison. Finally, the essay contends that "Ring of Keys" is an example of invitational rhetoric, suggesting that, when used through an invitational rhetoric "offering perspective," Burkean identification, rather than working in conjunction with persuasion, instead can serve to help audience members learn something about themselves.

Did this project include Penn State students as researchers?

No

If yes to the above question, please state where it was published.

Yes, in Relevant Rhetoric -

<http://relevantrhetoric.com/I%20Know%20You%20Burkean%20Identification%20and%20Invitational%20Rhetoric.pdf>

What problem do you address with your research?

How Burkean identification is used to connect characters and audiences through a particular musical theatre song. Invitational rhetoric in the song is also addressed.