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www.upstage.org.nz

For immediate release

101010: the Fourth Online Festival of Live Performance

More than 50 artists from around the world will collaborate online, in real time, to present 18 cyberformances in the 101010 UpStage Festival, 10-11 October 2010.

The diverse programme ranges from who-dunnits, sports training and comedy, to physical and theoretical explorations of contemporary digital life – and more. Most of the shows, which are no longer than 20 minutes each, will be performed twice during the festival to cater for audiences in different time zones. Here's a taste of what you can look forward to.

Virtual Theatre, a Canadian group, whose innovative show *Lines* in 090909 involved audience members drawing mandalas that magically animated, will this year unveil a new, top-secret, interactive tool in *Murder 2.0*, enabling the audience to solve a murder. Wireless network data will be used to create colourful visuals in *Colourful WiFi Network*. The New Zealand school children who presented *Maui and the Sun* last year have created a new show, *West Side's Story*. Some performances, such as *Theatre of Exchange*, *make-shift*, *X marks the spot*, *Sprinkler Fountain* and *Aquifer Fountain*, are elements of larger projects that audiences can continue to follow after the festival. More details about all of the shows is online at www.upstage.org.nz.

Audiences can participate from anywhere in the world with a standard browser and internet connection. There will also be ten "real life" access nodes, located in New Zealand, Canada, the USA, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia and Vietnam. Nodes are physical venues where audiences gather to share the experience of the performances. In Auckland, the 101010 node is part of Tempo, New Zealand's major dance festival, while the first-ever open air node will take place at Le Petit Versaille in New York. Details of the locations and times of the nodes are below.

UpStage is a web-based platform for cyberformance – live online performance by remote players; audiences need only to click on a link in an email or web page to access the performances, and everything happens in the web browser. Audiences can interact with the players and each other via a text chat (and, in the case of *Murder 2.0,* via other yet-to-be-revealed means!).

UpStage is open source and is currently being developed and maintained by students from Auckland University of Technology's School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences. The UpStage server is generously hosted by CityLink. The 101010 UpStage Festival has received a grant from Creative New Zealand, and festival documentation is sponsored by Stray Media.

The 101010 UpStage Festival is the fourth annual international showcase of cyberformance created in UpStage; it is curated by Vicki Smith and Helen Varley Jamieson, two of the original instigators of UpStage.

This publicity pack includes:
- list of performances and artists
- RL access nodes
- UpStage background information
- links to images and showreels.

Further information:
info@upstage.org.nz
www.upstage.org.nz

101010 UpStage Festival performances

The <u>18 performances</u> have been grouped into four sections:

Temporal
These cyberformances explore sound and movement across time and networks, blurring the physical and the virtual, the tangible and the ephemeral. Enter into the temporary, transitory fleeting moment of live performance in cyberspace:
- *Die Totezone (The Deadzone) by Alexa Wilson (NZ/Germany) & Cat Ruka (NZ)*
- *Vibrations in a viral vitality - AP033, led by Jenny Pickett (France)*
- *Transient Spaces - Schaumbad - Freies Atelierhaus Graz (Austria)*
- *Strings Attached 2: Who's driving this thing? by Cindi L'Abbe & others (USA/Korea)*

Trajectory
A trajectory is the path of a moving object through space, and a curve that intersects with other surfaces. These cyberformances offer you the arc of the story, perhaps a trace, a trail or track (it depends what you are looking for …). Some of these performances invite participation prior to and after the festival, and we invite you to intersect with their trajectories:
- *West Side's Story* by Joanne, Ellen and Hannah (New Zealand)
- *Murder 2.0* by Virtual Theatre (Canada)
- *X marks the spot* – work-in-progress presentation by Vicki Smith (Aotearoa/NZ) & Helen Varley Jamieson (NZ/Germany)
- *Sprinkler Fountain* by Suzon Fuks (Australia), Miljana Peric (Serbia) and Tara Rebele (USA)
- *Colourful Wi-Fi Network* by Jung-Hua Liu (UK)

Tendrils
Twisting and turning through your synapses, these cyberformances will weave intricate webs of thoughts and concepts for you to ponder and enjoy:
- *MASS-MESS* by Katarina DJ. Urosevic & Jelena Lalic (Serbia)
- *S/Zports: A Training for the Possible Wor(l)ds* by Miljana Peric, Julijana Protic, Jelena Milosavljevic-Rubil, Goran Rubil (Serbia), Andrea Ass (Germany) & Suzon Fuks (Australia)
- *make-shift* work-in-progress presentation by Paula Crutchlow (UK) & Helen Varley Jamieson (NZ/Germany)
- *Theatre of Exchange* by Nathalie Fougeras (France/Sweden) & Malin Ståhl (Sweden/UK)
- *Aquifer Fountain* by ActiveLayers (Australia/NZ/UK)
- *Nino, Nina – Nin. that's who I am* by Helga Hofbauer, Lilly Axster & others (Austria)

Transgress
To transgress is to go beyond a limit, and these cyberformances cross different borders in different ways – questioning, challenging, provoking. Step out of your comfort zone and into these shows:
- *A little online communion* by Bishop Bishop (Sheila Bishop), Josh Cajinarobleto & Mitzi MIze (USA)
- *Plaice or Sole* by Francesco Buonaiuto, Mario Ferrigno & Simona Cipollaro (Italy)
- *darko milicevic's AUDIOvisualILLUSIONS [interactive multimedia performances]* by Darko Milicevic (Austria)

101010 UpStage Festival RL Access Nodes

You can enjoy the 101010 UpStage Festival from the comfort of your own home, or in some locations there is the option to share the experience by attending a "real life" access node. RL access nodes are venues that screen sections of the festival for proximal audiences; in some cases, performances are presented from the nodes. In the past, nodes have been held in galleries, museums, theatres, classrooms, cafes, bars and public libraries, all over the world. A node is normally a public space, but people can also host private nodes in their homes for small gatherings of friends.

This year, Le Petit Versaille in New York City will host the first outdoor node for an UpStage festival. Operating since 1996 as a community garden and avant garde arts venue in Manhattan's lower East Side, Le Petit Versaille runs seasonal programmes of performance, exhibitions and screenings. The 101010 UpStage Festival will be shown on computer monitors in the garden during the afternoon of Sunday 10 October, and when darkness falls it will be projected onto the wall of the neighbouring building.

In New Zealand, 101010 is part of the Tempo Dance Festival programme in Auckland on Sunday evening, with Cat Ruka performing in *Die Totezone* from the venue. During Monday 11 October a node will operate in Wellington at the New Zealand Film Archive, which was the location of the first UpStage festival, 070707. Another regular node is the Norsk Telemuseum in Oslo, participating for the third year in a row (pictured at right is the Telemusem's node for 080808; photographer Cato Normann).

The ten 101010 nodes confirmed so far are:

- Tempo Festival, Auckland, New Zealand: 8pm-10pm Sunday 10 October
- New Zealand Film Archive, Wellington, NZ: 10am-4pm Monday 11 October
- Syneme, Calgary, Canada, times TBC
- Le Petit Versaille, New York, USA: 3pm-11pm Sunday 10 October
- The Starving Artist Collective, Keene, New Hampshire, USA, times TBC
- AP033, Nantes, France: 9am-6pm Sunday 10 October
- Temporary Art Centre, Eindhoven, Netherlands, times TBC
- Norsk Telemuseum, Oslo, Norway: 11am-6pm Sunday 10 October
- Ljudmila Laboratory, Ljubljana, Slovenia, times TBC
- Vietnam, location TBC: from 7pm, Sunday 10 October

The times give here are local times; links to the venues' web sites can be found at http://upstage.org.nz/blog/?page_id=769

Additional nodes are always welcome. To find out more about hosting a node in your area, email info@upstage.org.nz

Background to UpStage

UpStage is a web-based platform for live online collaborative performance. First launched in January 2004, it is now used by artists and students around the world to create and experiment with the use of internet technologies in live theatrical performances.
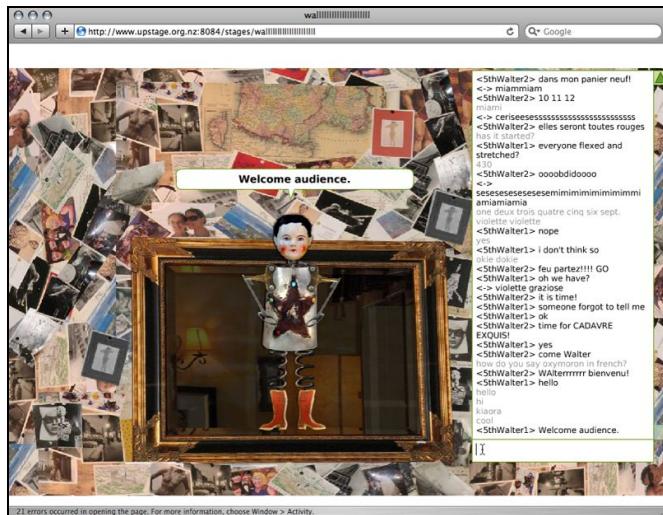
UpStage provides a set of tools for logged in players to work with a variety of media in real time; graphics (still images and animations), video (live web cam feeds or prerecorded video), audio (text2speech or prerecorded audio), text and illustration are collaboratively manipulated to create an improvised or rehearsed performance. Audiences do not need to log in, they simply click on a link in an email or web page, and everything unfolds in their browser window.

The original idea came from the globally dispersed cyberformance troupe Avatar Body Collision who were using various free chat applications to collaborate and perform online from their different geographical locations. Frustrated by the limitations of software that was designed for other purposes, they began to imagine a purpose-built application, made by and for artists, that would combine the best features from different chat applications into a single, accessible platform. The result is UpStage: browser-based, open source, cross-platform, accessible for audiences and easy to use.

UpStage is currently unfunded and survives on voluntary labour and donations. In the past, the project has received funding from the New Zealand government (via the Smash Palace Collaboration Fund, the Digital Strategy, and Creative New Zealand). Server hosting is donated by CityLink and an ongoing relationship with Auckland University of Technology has seen ongoing teams of computing students contribute to the software's maintenance and development since 2006.
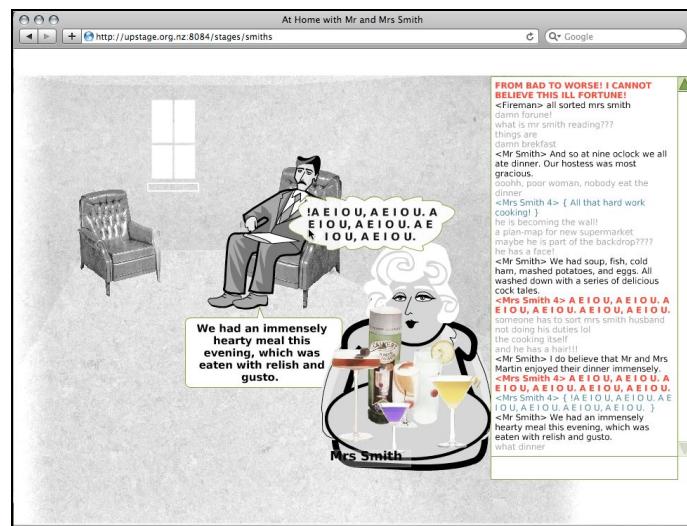
Screengrabs on this page: 4th Wall *by Suzon Fuks, Tara Rebele and Miljana Peric; and* At Home with Mr and Mrs Smith *by the Catastrophic Primadonnas. Both from the 090909 UpStage Festival*

Showreels

Showreels featuring exceprts from the previous three UpStage festivals are available online:
- 090909 UpStage Festival
- 080808 UpStage Festival
- 070707 UpStage Festival

Images
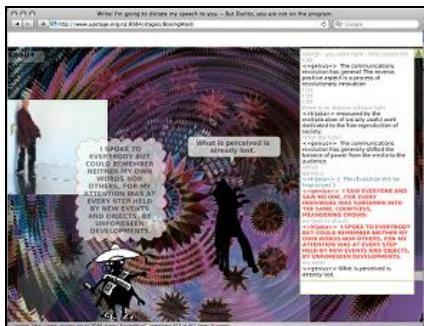
Durito's Dancing Box Manifesto: the @heoretical Cyberformance for/of Zapatismo by Miljana Peric, Julijana Protic & Teodora Peric (Serbia), & Suzon Fuks & James Cunningham (Australia), 090909 UpStage Festival.

A live web cam feed was used in conjunction with animated backdrops and avatars, live text2speech and prerecorded audio.

Click here to download full-size image.

Open Experimental Zone by AP033 (France), 090909 UpStage Festival.

This performance sampled media from all of the other performances during the festival, then re-presented everything in a live mash-up.

Click here to download full-size image.
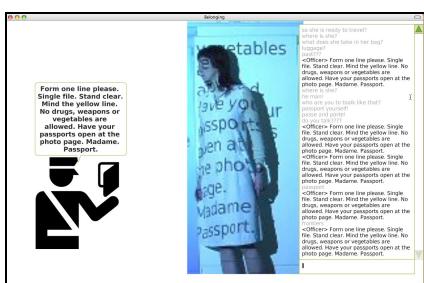
Belonging by Avatar Body *Collision*, 2007.

In this performance, the audience and player chat text was projected onto a performer's body then represented in UpStage via a live web cam feed; audience members commented that the liveness was reinforced when they saw their own text appear in the web cam image.

Click here to download full-size image.
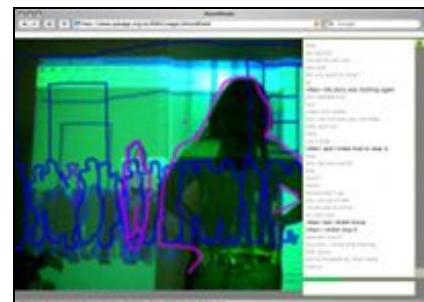
The Old Hotel by Cherry Truluck, Suzon Fuks, James Cunningham, Liz Bryce, Carolyn Goodyear and Jonathan Cliffe and performed simultaneously at the 070707 UpStage Festival and in a former hotel in London.

Live web cam feeds were mixed with prerecorded video panoramas of the site, integrating the London audience into the online performance.

Click here to download full-size image.

These images are screengrabs with a resolution of 72ppi. This is low but good enough to print. More images from these and other shows are available on request from info@upstage.org.nz.