

For immediate release

UpStage Festival

Reinterpreting the classics in cyberspace

Twenty-first century reinterpretations of traditional stories and canonical works feature in the 11:11:11 UpStage Festival of cyberperformance (live online performance), demonstrating the confluence of classic and avant garde genres that has emerged through digital technologies.

Well-known stories and characters provide audiences new to the medium of cyberperformance with a familiar framework from which they can read the performance. Such stories have endured not by chance, but because their universal themes resonate across time and cultures – including today's globally networked environment – and enable us to reflect on and better understand the world we live in. Reinterpretations are natural to the mash-up culture of digital technology, where sharing and remixing are fundamental to collaborative experimentation.

For the 11:11:11 UpStage Festival, Brecht's *Caucasian Chalk Circle* has been transposed to Egypt, 2011, as [Cyberian Chalk Circle](#) (by Christina Papagiannouli and Evi Stamatou, UK); its central quest traverses multiple interfaces including social media platforms, and explores the political power of the internet. [Where are the clouds?](#) (by Katarina DJ. Urosevic, Serbia and Francesco Buonaiuto, Italy) draws from the works of Pier Paolo Pasolini and Federico Garcia Lorca.



Reaching even further back in time for inspiration, [Edward King](#) takes off from Sophocles' tragedy *Oedipus Rex*. Marlena Corcoran, who developed the concept and script for this show, says that it seemed especially appropriate to use the medium of the internet to ask again, "Who am I?", through one of the oldest and most troubling myths of identity. True to the tradition of Greek plays, *Edward King* features three choruses: "The Chorus of Rockettes," complete with can-can dancing avatars ("crossing over" from Second Life); "The Hallucinated Hallelujah Chorus," combining fragments of a well-known prophecy with an invitation for the online audience to "sing" along in the chat space; and "The Chorus of Taxi Cabs," mixing human voices to plaintive effect, playing on the Greek philosopher Heraclitus' pronouncement about identity: "You can't step into the same river twice."



Folk tales, fairy tales, cartoons and nursery rhymes also provide narrative material for UpStage shows; two performances by New Zealand school children, [Goldie Kea and the Three Sheep](#) and [Humpty with a Twist](#), diverge from the familiar stories to take audiences to unexpected places. [The Serious Moonlight](#) explores multi-cultural lunar mythology through dance and visual art, and the initial inspiration for [Magfalda Meets the World in Pieces](#) came from a popular Latin American cartoon series.



The 11:11:11 UpStage Festival is the fifth festival of live online performance (cyberperformance) using the web-based platform [UpStage](#). The performances are created by artists – from school students to established artists – who collaborate in real time using a range of digital media. All that is required for the audience is a standard browser and domestic internet connection. Excerpts from previous festivals can be viewed [here](#).

A full list of the 11:11:11 UpStage Festival performances and more information is available on the web site: http://upstage.org.nz/blog/?page_id=2350

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