11:11:11

UpStage Festival

Artists bring decades of experience to cyberformance

The performances at the 11:11:11 UpStage Festival are imbued with decades of experience from artists across all disciplines, and particular experience in the field of cyberformance.

Cyberformance, or live online performance, is a relatively new artform that has been explored by inter-disciplinary artists for about two decades. The fifth annual festival of cyberformance in UpStage, taking place online on 11 November 2011, is a unique opportunity to experience live original cyberformances by some of the more senior artists in this field. Five of the twelve shows – *Where are the clouds?*, *The Serious Moonlight*, *String Games*, *make-shift* and *Edward King* – are all by artists experienced in the medium of cyberformance and the UpStage platform.

Edward King brings together four extremely skilled artists including Marlena Corcoran, who began working in online performance in 1995 with the Plaintext Players. She is joined by Ben Unterman, creator of numerous cyberformances in UpStage and other platforms since 2004; Marischka Klinkhamer, a sound and visual artist who has worked in UpStage since 2007 and more recently in Second Life; and visual artist Vicki Smith, who is one of the original instigators of UpStage and has a decade's experience in cyberformance.

"The four of us are experienced professionals, so the work goes quickly," says Corcoran, who is responsible for the initial concept and script of *Edward King*. "I find each new piece an inspiration to keep moving forward. We bring a good mix of specialisations to the production: writer, sound artists, programmers, choreographers, graphic artists, 3D character animators and more. I'd like to think the script serves as anchor, as a frame for the creativity of the individual collaborators." Sound plays a strong role in *Edward King*, and audio excerpts can be listened to here.

Vicki Smith is also presenting *String Games*, in collaboration with three school students who performed at the last two festivals. These experienced young cyberformers are simultaneously involved in a peer mentoring process, helping with the shows *Goldie Kea and the Three Sheep* and *Humpty with a Twist*.

At the other end of the spectrum, artists presenting work in UpStage for the first time include musician and visual artist Petyr Veenstra collaborating with Floris Sirag in *Flat Earth*, and students from the Piet Zwart Institute who will combine live programming, animation, poetry, physical performance in the show *Is This On?*. Both are by artists who bring a wealth of experience in other media to the online environment. UpStage is an excellent platform in which interdisciplinary artists can combine diverse practices and skills in real-time performance.

The 11:11:11 UpStage Festival is the fifth festival of live online performance (cyberformance) using the web-based platform UpStage. The performances are created by 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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