

Media Release  
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11:11:11

For immediate release

## UpStage Festival

### Performing Text in Cyberspace

*The cyberformance platform UpStage and its annual festival offers artists many audio-visual possibilities for the presentation of live, online performance – and in many cases the presence of text is still at the forefront of the work.*

One such performance, featured in the 11:11:11 UpStage Festival taking place on Friday 11 November, is *Where are the Clouds?* by Francesco Buonaiuto and Katerina Đorđević Urosević. Remixing texts from Lorca's *El Publico* and Pasolini's *Che cosa sono le nuvole*, along with lines from *Romeo and Juliet*, *Othello* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, it is a dynamic, real-time exploration of the performance of text in online digital media. Words are spoken, sung, written and employed as scenographic objects within the virtual stage, as the avatars of cyberformance artists are commandeered and manipulated by a mysterious "author" who appears only as hands on a keyboard.

"The play has an angle that is displaced in relation to the patterns of already seen and learnt. The very fact that well known dialogues take place in a digital environment changes our perception and opens up a new perspective", says Urosević.

Buonaiuto and Urosević explain that their idea is to use mixed, displaced media and poetic visual elements to discover new dimensions in well known texts. Working in the digital environment enables them to have distance from the palpable, material space and enter into the world of zeros and ones, where they can escape from their daily lives and experiment with new ideas.

"Upstage considerably changed the perception of everything we might have formerly called creativity. It has raised certain issues and opened new horizons. It has gradually become our everyday artistic practice," says Urosević.

The full programme of the 11:11:11 UpStage Festival demonstrates the range of artistic potential of cyberformance. The selected performances incorporate animated graphics, live web cam feeds, soundscapes, audience interactivity, other online social media platforms and various expressions of text. Typical of internet culture, many performances borrow from contemporary and classic stories, to mash-up and remix images, sounds, words and ideas and offer a new interpretation or perspective.

The 11:11:11 UpStage Festival is the fifth festival of live online performance (cyberformance) using the web-based platform [UpStage](http://upstage.org). It begins at 10.45am New Zealand time on Friday 11 November and ends at 11pm European time on Friday 11 November. The full schedule, including converter links to find your own local time for each performance, is available at .

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](http://upstage.org.nz/blog/?page_id=2350)

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