

For immediate release

## UpStage Festival

### Interacting with online audiences

*The 12 cyberperformances (live online performances) featured in the 11:11:11 UpStage Festival offer a variety of opportunities for online audience interaction.*

In all UpStage shows, audiences interact with the artists and other audience members through the text chat; this is often a very lively space, generating a fascinating commentary that can be at times profound or hilarious. Cyberperformance redefines the relationship between performer and spectator in a number of ways, and the shows presented at the UpStage festival explore many possibilities.

Many shows are specifically devised with audience interaction in mind; for example, at past UpStage festivals audiences have been invited to follow clickable clues to solve a murder, create animated mandalas by drawing on the stage, trigger sounds, answer questions and contribute stories; this year's festival is no different.



In the style of a “choose your own adventure” story, [The Serious Moonlight](#) (Cindi L'Abbe and Karoline Anderson, USA/Korea) asks the audience to vote to determine the combination of dance, visual art, narrative and symbols drawn from lunar folktales; in [Property & Theft](#) (Olivia Furber and Harry Giles, UK), audience confessions will contribute to the performance materials; and in [Cyberian Chalk Circle](#) (Christina Papagiannouli and Evi Stamatiou) audiences will journey across different social media platforms.

Local audiences can participate in [Is This On?](#) (Inge Hoonte and Birgit Bachler, Netherlands) at a 11:11:11 access node being held at the Piet Zwart Institute in Rotterdam, as well as having the opportunity to join workshops beforehand. The show takes as its theme the first steps of learning to programme, creating the perfect setting for a “geek tragedy” to unfold.

Excerpts from [make-shift](#) (Paula Crutchlow, UK, and Helen Varley Jamieson, NZ/Germany) will discuss how the performance is co-authored with the audience and aims to create a meaningful dialogue between the audiences in two separate houses and the online audience, distributed around the world.

At least nine “[real life access nodes](#)” around the world will provide physical venues where audiences can gather to watch screenings of the performances, creating another interface through which to access the festival and another, and yet another reconfiguration of traditional modes of being audience.



The 11:11:11 UpStage Festival is the fifth festival of cyberperformance in the web-based platform [UpStage](#). 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](http://upstage.org.nz/blog/?page_id=2350)**

**For further information and interviews, contact:**

**[info@upstage.org.nz](mailto:info@upstage.org.nz)**

**Vicki Smith (Aotearoa/New Zealand): +64 21778067**

**Helen Varley Jamieson (Germany): +49 176 99083788**