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121212: Walking Backwards into the Future

The 121212 UpStage Festival of Cyberformance begins this Wednesday, 5 December, with a retrospective programme entitled "Walking Backwards into the Future."

Proverbs from many cultures express the concept of "walking backwards into the future" (in Maori, "ka mura, ka muri"), to learn from those who have gone before us as we forge new paths; it is also a quote from media theorist Marshall McLuhan. In this spirit, the first part of the 121212 UpStage Festival seeks to acknowledge and celebrate the body of cyberformance work that has been created since the first UpStage festival in 2007.

[Walking Backwards into the Future](#) takes place from 5-11 December, and is followed by a programme of new works, [Testing 1 2, 1 2, 1 2](#), over 27 hours on Wednesday 12 December (with a bit on the 11th and 13th, depending on your time zone).

Opening the festival is *Come and Go* by Avatar Body Collision, the cyberformance troupe who initiated UpStage in 2003. In this cyberformance the group faithfully represent's Samuel Beckett's short play *Come and Go* in the online environment. The avatars' words and actions adhere strictly to the script, under the watchful eye of a tyrannical director and with comments from Beckett himself.

Other highlights from 070707 are: *Baba Yaga*, incorporating shadow puppet techniques into a beautiful cyberformance; *Freeze Flight or Fight*, which invites audiences to share their experiences of dealing with rejection; *Learn to Hear Through the Lies of Your Eyes: The Cyberforming Hybridization of Tuxedomoon*, which "addresses the position of the contemporary musician in a relation to predominantly scopophilic regime of the Artworld based on information technology"; and *Interface*, a playful face-to-face meeting on the surface of the interface.

From the 080808 UpStage Festival, there is: *Calling Home: The Big Get-Together*, the show which spawned the cyberformance troupe Activelayers; *RxEgo-go*, exploring the role of medi(c)ation in a symptomatized, technologized society; *Mysterious Mali's Drawings*, a super-hero tale by children in Brisbane; and *Veni! Ελθï! Dodji! to the Zapata Private/Pirate Birthday Party. And, Vice Versa ...* a cyberformance celebration of the birthday of Mexican revolutionary Emilio Zapata.

A "kitchen of the future" is the setting for *The Dish*, originally presented at the 090909 festival. From 101010, *MASS-MESS* explores the meaning of symbols in a world of mass production, and *S/Zports: A Training for the Possible Wor(l)ds* applies the vocabulary of sports to alternative social relations. And from last year's festival, 11:11:11, we have *Flat Earth* - a poetic journey on the source of ideas - and *Magfalda Meets the World in Pieces* - a journey of discovery.

All of the performances are accessible to online audiences via a standard web browser: visit www.upstage.org.nz to find live links to the stages at the performance time.

On Thursday 6 December there will be a "node" - screening of performances at a physical venue - at Odin Teatret in Holstebro, Denmark, from 4pm-6pm CET.

The 121212 UpStage Festival of Cyberperformance is organised by Festival Architects Vicki Smith and Helen Varley Jamieson, with a team of dedicated volunteers and the talented artists. It is the sixth annual festival of cyberperformance - live online interactive events created and presented for online audiences.

For more information,
visit www.upstage.org.nz or email
info@upstage.org.nz

Your donation to UpStage
is much appreciated and will help
to make 121212 a success!

<> Welcome to the
<> **121212 UPSTAGE
FESTIVAL OF
CYBERPERFORMANCE!**
5-12 December 2012

schedule and info here:
<> <http://www.upstage.org.nz>

<> **5-11 DECEMBER:**
<-> Walking Backwards into the Future
a retrospective of shows from the past 5 UpStage festivals

<> **12 DECEMBER:**
<> Testing 1 2, 1 2, 1 2
new shows in UpStage and a variety of other online platforms

<> { more than 100 artists! }
<> { more than 40 live shows! }

all you need is a web browser
and standard internet connection

<> **WWW.UPSTAGE.ORG.NZ**

see you there!



Walking Backwards into the Future: schedule of performances

NZ times	Artists' local times	Show
Wednesday 5 Dec		
8pm NZ find your local time	8am CET	121212 UpStage Festival of Cyberperformance Opening
8.10pm NZ find your local time	7.10am UK 8.10am CET 9.10am Finland	Come & Go
8.30pm NZ find your local time	8.30am CET	MASS-MESS
9pm NZ find your local time	9am CET	The Dish
9.30 find your local time		Discussion in the 121212 Foyer
10pm NZ find your local time	10am CET	Veni! Ελθέ! Dodji! to the Zapata Private/Pirate Birthday Party. And, Vice Versa ...
Friday 7 Dec		
Thurs 6 Dec		
4.30am NZ find your local time	4.30pm CET	Magfalda
5am NZ find your local time	5pm CET 11am Eastern USA	Freeze, Flight or Fight: or main reactions to rejection
5.30am NZ find your local time	5.30pm CET	Baba Yaga

6am NZ find your local time	5pm UK 6pm CET 7pm Finland	Come & Go
6.30am NZ find your local time	6.30pm CET	Discussion in the 121212 Foyer
7am NZ find your local time	7pm CET 1pm Eastern USA 6pm UK	Calling Home: The Big Get-Together
Saturday 8 December		
12.30pm NZ find your local time	00.30 CET	S/Zports: A Training for the Possible Wor(l)ds
1pm NZ find your local time	10am QLD Australia	Mysterious Mali's Drawings
Sunday 9 Dec		Saturday 8 Dec
10.30am find your local time	10.30pm CET	Learn to Hear Through the Lies of Your Eyes: The Cyberforming Hybridization of Tuxedomoon
11am NZ find your local time	11pm CET 5pm Eastern USA	Interface
Monday 10 Dec		Sunday 9 Dec
5.30am NZ find your local time	11.30am EST 5.30pm CET	RxEgo-go
6am NZ find your local time	12 noon Eastern USA 6pm CET	Interface
6.30am NZ find your local time	6.30 CET	S/Zports: A Training for the Possible Wor(l)ds
Tuesday 11 Dec		Monday 10 Dec
7.30am NZ	1.30pm Eastern USA	Freeze, Flight or Fight: or main reactions to rejection
8am NZ find your local time	8pm CET	Flat Earth
8.30am NZ find your local time	2.30pm Eastern USA 7.30pm UK	Calling Home: The Big Get-Together
9am NZ find your local time	8pm UK 9pm CET 10pm Finland	Come & Go
9.30am NZ find your local time	9pm CET	Veni! Ελθέ! Dodji! to the Zapata Private/Pirate Birthday Party. And, Vice Versa ...
Wednesday 12 Dec		Tuesday 11 Dec
6am NZ find your local time	6pm CET	The Dish
6.30am NZ find your local time	12.30 EST, 6.30pm CET	RxEgo-go
7am NZ find your local time	7pm CET	MASS-MESS
Wednesday 12 Dec		Tuesday 11 Dec
9am NZ find your local time	9pm CET	Learn to Hear Through the Lies of Your Eyes: The Cyberforming Hybridization of Tuxedomoon
9.30am NZ find your local time	9.30pm CET	Flat Earth