

101010

UpStage Festival

presents

Aquifer Fountain by ActiveLayers, UK/Australia/NZ

Short videos inspired by water in our immediate domestic, environmental and cultural surroundings (London, Brisbane and Bay of Plenty, New Zealand). Sound bites from news, movies and documentaries on emotional, geological and recreational connections with water from other parts of the globe. Photos from personal memories and travel. These media form a background for open audience interpretation and discussion on water - aquifers - the moving currents underground.



Created by ActiveLayers, a globally-dispersed cyberformance group, *Aquifer Fountain* continues their experimentation with the both the creative potential of the UpStage platform and the new opportunities it provides for artist-audience relationships. This is the fourth UpStage show that the group, who have never met together in person, have created.

In 2008, their show *Calling Home* employed multiple simultaneous UpStage stages as well as using other online networking tools to facilitate audience participation. Their first collaboration, *The Old Hotel*, combined online audiences with proximal spectators at a site in London.

The artists involved have many years' experience in their specific fields, and the combination of different skills opens up many possibilities within the UpStage platform. Suzon Fuks has more than three decades experience as a photographer, videographer, choreographer and director. Liz Bryce has a background in the visual arts and site-specific interventions. James Cunningham is a dancer and cyberformance artist, while Cherry Truluck is a theatre designer and media artist.

Along with *Sprinkler Fountain*, also being presented at the 101010 UpStage Festival, *Aquifer Fountain* is a feeder to the VIRTUAL FOUNTAINS project. This project will allow people interested by water access to an online creative platform: THE WATERWHEEL & THE TAP (to be launched early next year).

Aquifer Fountain is one of 18 cyberperformances that will be presented at the 101010 UpStage Festival, taking place on 10-11 October 2010. Visit www.upstage.org.nz for a full list of performances and times, and further information about the festival and UpStage.

ActiveLayers

ActiveLayers was formed in March 2008 by Liz Bryce (NZ), Cherry Truluck (UK), James Cunningham (Australia) and Suzon Fuks (Australia/Belgium). They began working together in early 2007 and are interested in discovering a mode of 'cyberperformance' which satisfies their need for the 'real' - the interactive.

Past work includes: *The Old Hotel II* (part of UpStage 070707 festival), *The Old Hotel III* (both these works used online performance platform UpStage as well as taking shape on site in Hammersmith, London) and *Calling Home* (an interactive storytelling mission using Upstage, email and blogs).

ActiveLayers collaborate on experimental cross-disciplinary works that have layers of meaning and push the boundaries of the different media involved. They combine their disciplines of theatre, dance, video and visual arts not only through digital media but also in the method of working an idea. They challenge the ideas of location and 'site,' using the places where they happen to be (local site) combined with a variety of media and performance software that allows them to work together in real time from their different physical locations and across different time zones. ActiveLayers makes work which enables a genuine proximal and haptic experience of space for its geographically dispersed audience and performers. This is achieved through the imagining and projecting of 'in-between' spaces, spanning the concepts of the virtual and the physical by means of live and interactive performance. Their past performances have tested the limits of Upstage software, for example, finding ways to add audio before that was available as a feature and using multiple stages in a performance.

More information about ActiveLayers: <http://www.igneous.org.au/activelayers-bios.html>