

Media Release
26 May 2010

For immediate release

UpStage

www.upstage.org.nz

Performances announced for 101010 UpStage Festival

A record 19 performances have been selected for the 101010 UpStage Festival, the fourth annual showcase of cyberformance using the UpStage platform which takes place this year on and around 10 October.

Artists from 11 countries, traversing seven time zones, will present shows on a wide variety of themes. Common to all shows is the use of UpStage, a web-based platform that enables remote performers to collaborate in real time for an online audience. Audiences can easily access the performances with only a standard web browser and internet connection, and there will be "real life access nodes" in some locations.

Festival curators Vicki Smith, Dan Untitled and Helen Varley Jamieson said that once again the call for proposals had resulted in a diversity of ideas, themes and approaches. "We don't place any restrictions on the artists, other than the length of their shows (not longer than 20 minutes)," says Jamieson. "We leave the form and content open to encourage experimentation and innovation. It also means the programme has something for everyone."

This year, the programme has been divided into four groups. "Temporal" groups together shows which explore sound and movement across time and networks. The performances in "Trajectory" follow traces, trails and tracks. Thought-provoking and brain-teasing shows can be found in "Tendrils", while those in "Transgress" invite audiences to cross boundaries or limits.

There are dance-based performances, theoretical meditations, comedy, explorations of sexuality, conceptual works, who-dunnits, creative interpretations of technology and numerous interactive works. Several performances will have participatory contexts prior to the festival and some are part of larger projects. The full list of performances is included at the end of this release, and information about each show is online at www.upstage.org.nz.

Just over half of the shows are by artists who have previously made work in UpStage, with eight shows coming from artists new to UpStage. Many of the new artists are established in other disciplines, including theatre, dance, music and visual arts, and are interested in the challenge of extending their practice into cyberspace.

"It's exciting to see the variety of approaches from new artists," says Jamieson, "as well as the directions in which experienced UpStage artists are moving. There is technical experimentation as well as pushing interactivity and the evolving relationship between performers and audience in a real-time online environment."

As with previous festivals, there will be RL (real life) access nodes around the world. So far RL nodes have been confirmed in New York, Slovenia, Wellington (New Zealand) and Calgary (Canada); others will be announced as they are confirmed. RL access nodes provide a physical venue where audiences can watch and participate in the festival. Sometimes performances are staged from nodes, combining the online and proximal environments and audiences.

The full list of performances, information about each show and links to participate, is available on the UpStage web site: <http://www.upstage.org.nz>. The schedule of performances will be available closer to the time of the festival.

For more information, contact info@upstage.org.nz

Performances selected for the 101010 UpStage Festival:

- "A little online communion" by Bishop Bishop (Sheila Bishop), Josh Cajinarobletto & Mitzi Mlze (USA)
- "MASS-MESS" by Katarina DJ. Urosevic & Jelena Lalic (Serbia)
- "S/Zports: A Training for the Possible Wor(l)ds" by Miljana Peric, Julijana Protic, Jelena Milosavljevic-Rubil, Goran Rubil (Serbia), Andrea Ass (Germany) & Suzon Fuks (Australia)
- "Vibrations in a viral vitality" - AP033, lead by Jenny Pickett (France)
- "Die Totezone (The Deadzone)" by Alexa Wilson (NZ/Germany) & Cat Ruka (NZ)
- "Nino, Nina – Nin. that's who I am" by Helga Hofbauer & Lilly Axster (Vienna)
plus others
- "X marks the spot" by Vicki Smith (Aotearoa/NZ) & Helen Varley Jamieson (NZ/Germany)
- "Transient Spaces" - Schaumbad - Freies Atelierhaus Graz (Austria)
- "make-shift" by Paula Crutchlow (UK) & Helen Varley Jamieson (NZ/Germany)
- "West Side's Story" by Joanne, Ellen and Hannah (New Zealand)
- "Murder 2.0" by Virtual Theatre (Canada)
- "Theatre of Exchange" by Nathalie Fougeras (France/Sweden) & Malin Ståhl (Sweden/UK)
- "Plaice or Sole" by Francesco Buonaiuto, Mario Ferrigno (Naples, Italy)
- "darko milicevic's AUDIOvisualILLUSIONS [interactive multimedia performances]" by Darko Milicevic (Linz, Austria)
- "Sprinkler Fountain" by Suzon Fuks (Australia), Miljana Peric (Serbia) and Tara Rebele (USA)
- "Aquifer Fountain" by ActiveLayers (Australia, NZ, UK)
- "Colourful Wi-Fi Network" by Jung-Hua Liu (UK)
- "Strings Attached 2: Who's driving this thing?" by Cindi L'Abbe & others (New Hampshire, USA)
- A show by Kristin Carlson (Canada) & Sheila Paige (USA)

**For more information about the performances, the artists
and the festival in general, please visit
www.upstage.org.nz**