

another language

performing arts company

Season XXXV

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Information

1991 DOCUMENTATION

Home Movies Concert (1991)



Sarah Hudelson, Michael Larkin
Eleni Kambouris-On PVC Pipe

Photo: Video Still

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SPOTLIGHT



Access Grid® Symposium
October 16, 2006

Pictured: Elizabeth & Jimmy Miklavcic
United Kingdom Participants

Due to the 2020 global pandemic, videoconferencing, though it's been used for years, has now come to the forefront as an important tool for communication and education. Schools are scrambling to install communication resources for online learning. COVID-19 is forcing people into unwanted isolation and many have turned to videoconferencing technology to continue social interactions, work, and education.

Rewind twenty-one years to 1999, Jimmy Miklavcic was working with a ground-breaking group of researchers called the Access Grid®, originally established for researchers across Universities to collaborate on major research projects. One of the original developers was Tom Uram at Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago, Illinois and once the Access Grid® was established, they basically gave it away to the larger community for the benefit of everyone.

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Once that happened, the people who think entrepreneurially began to develop videoconferencing platforms for purchase. Polycom had one of the early hardware and software packages for public use. The user had to purchase the hardware and software together to be able to videoconference and the users at both locations needed the same equipment. Presently, in 2020, videoconferencing is ubiquitous.

The Directors of Another Language Performing Arts Company, after early testing and development throughout 2000-2003, saw the potential for very interesting collaborations with the ability to connect with artists and researchers around the world. The 2003 prototype performance project was *InterPlay: Intransitive Senses* where the company tested the capabilities of the internal network at the Center for High Performance Computing. It was, at that time, one of the few buildings on the University of Utah Campus with a 1 gigabit network.

It took a year to evaluate and improve the logistics and equipment needed to produce each annual networked performance. 2004 *InterPlay: Hallucinations* was the first national project working with artists and technologists from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks and University of Maryland-College Park. A backhoe in Alaska accidentally severed the fiber optic network an hour before showtime, and the connection was quickly re-established just as the performance was to begin. Other challenges throughout the next decade included network speeds, audio and video lag time, audio synchronization, echo cancellation, equipment upgrades, world time differences, network communication etiquette, and ironically, difficulty in communicating even with all the different communication avenues available.

Subsequent *InterPlay* performance were 2005 *InterPlay: Loose Minds in a Box*, 2006 *InterPlay: Dancing on the Banks of Packet Creek*, 2007 *InterPlay: Nel Tempo di Sogno*, 2008 *InterPlay: Carnival*, 2009 *InterPlay: AnARTomy*, and 2010 *InterPlay: Event Horizon*. Additional networked telematic cinema performances included 2011 *Duel*Ality 1.0*, 2012 *Duel*Ality 2.0* in 3D, and 2013 *XYZ* also in 3D.

Participating institutions included University of Utah-Center for High Performance Computing; University of Alaska, Fairbanks-Arctic Region Supercomputing Center; University of Maryland, College Park; University of Illinois, Chicago-Electronic Visualization Laboratory; Purdue University-Envision Center for Perceptualization, West Lafayette, Indiana; University of Montana; Boston University, Massachusetts; University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign-National Center for Supercomputing Applications; University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign-Technology, Research, Education and Commercialization Center (TRECC); Cardiff University, Wales UK; Rochester Institute of Technology, New York; Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah; Tavel Arts and Technology Center, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis; Long Island University, New York; Human Interface Technology (HIT) Laboratory, New Zealand.

Papers included *InterPlay: Hallucinations: A Telematic Performance Form Case Study*; *The Role of the Performer within the InterPlay Process*; *InterPlay in Education K-12*; *Mind Waves Case Study: Performing A Work within a Work for InterPlay*; *Production Elements: Awareness of the On-Line Self*; *Visual Scripting*; *Poetics of Challenge - Adapting Artistic Works in an Emerging Digital Tool Set*; *InterPlay: Stepping Out of the Box*; and *InterPlay: Performing on a High Tech Wire* published in the *Body Space and Technology Journal* at Brunel University, West London, and won the "Best Paper in the Arts" Category in 2010 for the Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters.

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Newsletter



Another Language is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, donations are tax deductible.

Presentations and networked performances through the years included 2003 Utah Symposium in Science and Literature; 2004 Supercomputing Global in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; 2005 International Federation for Theatre Research at the University of Maryland-College Park; 2005 Humanities and Technology Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah; 2005 Mid-Atlantic Gigapop hosted in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for Internet 2; 2005 Supercomputing Global in Seattle, Washington; 2005 ACM SIGGRAPH computer graphics conference in Los Angeles, California; 2006 Supercomputing Global in Tampa, Florida; 2006 Locating Grid Technologies hosted by the University of Bristol, United Kingdom; 2007 Slice of Life Medical Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah; 2007 Humanities and Technology Conference at the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, in Terre Haute Indiana; 2007 Neumont University in Salt Lake City, Utah; 2007 Digital Resources in the Humanities and Arts Conference at the Dartington College of Arts in Devon, United Kingdom; 2008 Digital Resources in the Humanities and Arts Conference at Cambridge University, United Kingdom; 2009 Idaho State University Dance and Theater Department; 2009 Utah Dance in Education Association in Salt Lake City, Utah; 2009 The Leonardo Science Center in Salt Lake City, Utah; 2010 Utah Academy Sciences, Arts and Letters in St. George, Utah; 2011 Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters Conference in South Jordan, Utah; and a variety of additional presentations at the University of Utah throughout these years.

When Another Language began this explorative work, the Company was often met with local resistance, criticism, and misunderstanding as to why to the organization chose to forge forward in this genre. Funding continued to decline and support was minimal. Now, arts organizations are desperately depending on video conferencing and streaming technology as a way to continue performances and community outreach.

It is often the creative pioneers that hack a path through the entangled process of exploration. The Directors of Another Language Performing Arts Company believed, in this case, that there was something important to live video streaming, telematic performance, and network communications. What is happening now, with the adaptation of widespread online learning and artistic presentations, bears witness to the value of creative tenacity.

By Elizabeth and Jimmy Miklavcic Founding Co-Directors

ART Of The Month

Another Language Performing Arts Company's *Art-of-the-Month* was created to publicly feature a variety of visual art expressions created by the directors of Another Language. Exhibiting abstract acrylic to digital paintings, and running the gambit in-between, this gallery exhibition offers the viewer an online gallery experience with a new addition each month. The *Art-of-the-Month* web program began September 2010, and features a variety of paintings, showing a body of work spanning decades. Extensive visual art galleries are available to supporting members in the *Membership* area of the website. Below are four of Elizabeth Miklavcic's works:



Compass On A Red Foothill (2020)



Pointing The Way (2020)



Aurora Across The Lake (2020)

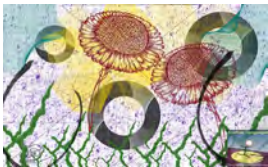


Compass On Licorace Lake (2020)

Memberships

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Twins



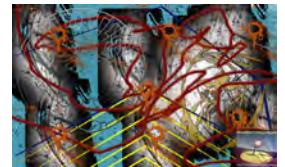
Gothic Tears



Fertile Ground



Mother's Butterfly



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