PEDESTRIAN KNOCK DOWN

[Pioneer Works 2015]

SCRIPT

A PLAY WITHIN A PLAY BY

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> **TECHNOLOGY HAS LONG BEEN A CHARACTER IN OUR PROVERBIAL TALES AROUND THE CAMP FIRE. SOME NIGHTS THE STORIES WERE OF A CLEVER BEING WHO OUTSMARTED NATURE OR A COMMUNITY WHO WAS SENT A MESSAGE FROM THE GREAT BEYOND**

How do we use fantasy and legends in our every day lives to interact with technology and imbue it with a sense of expectation. What happens when our expectations soar and the tools we use to tell our stories won't cooperate with the narrators any longer? What happens when the medium becomes self aware and the god that is in the machine plays us all for fools?

In this play within a play, actors reveal our hopes and anxieties about our desire to share our creative tics with each other as we lift the veil and watch actors perform out their worst day of reckoning.

The script is formatted as a template and art book because this is the only format that makes sense.

PEDESTRIAN KNOCK DOWN, THE PLAY WITHIN A PLAY WHERE CHARACTERS ATTEMPT TO TELL THE STORY OF A FUTURE WORLD BUT WHO INSTEAD REVEAL IN CRISIS A RECKONING OF THE FUTURE OF TORI SPELLING.

Narrator - The narrator is the storyteller and maintains the desire to continue telling the story when all else fails

Stage Manager- a woman who elegantly and with much admiration has a complete but very quiet mental breakdown

Tech Guy - a man who whispers into the ear of the narrator when things have gone south

Talent - a beautiful and talented woman who can sing and act and who is never given a chance to do much of either

Flute - a flute and woodwinds player who plays when the mood dictates he also alerts the Stage Manager when it is time for intermission

Musician- a multi talented musician who plays with the pied piper but shifts instruments

Percussionist - a percussionist who keeps the playful and treacherous tone going

Dancer - a dancer who maps the area of the performance space with his body in time to the music

Poet- a poet of greets the audience after the intermission with generative poetry that has been delivered from the future

Documentarian- a videographer who's movements and documentation are part of the performance, she gets in the way

Harbinger - the one who ends the play

ABOUT THE VIDEO

The video will be blue standby screen for the first 10 minutes of the performance, it will then be someone searching on the desktop of a laptop (pre video taped) it will then be someone opening chrome and clicking closed tabs in order to tell a story.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

The musicians are the only part of the performance that is coordinated and does not stop or break for technological outtages, it is the time keeper, the only way that life continues and water flows. The music is the script.

ABOUT THE DANCE

There will a dancer(s) who are mapping the space of the room during the performance, they will also interact with pre-arranged plants in the audience in order to distract from the torment of waiting for technology to appear. There are three main themes to the dance: The Map, The Pop song and Making out with and audience member.
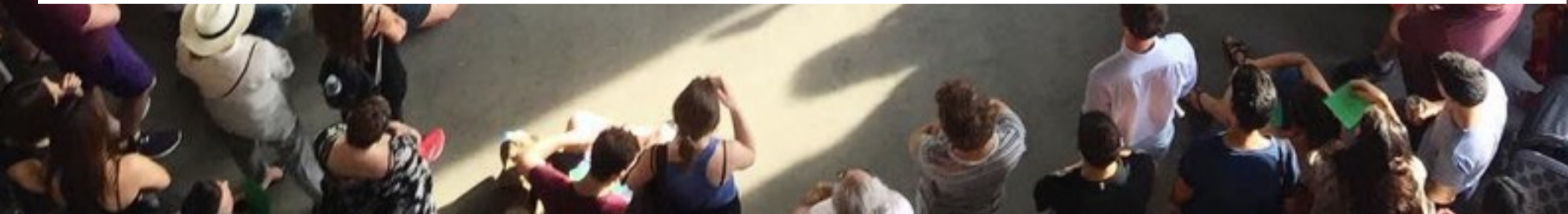
ACT I

THE CRISIS

WHERE…

THE TECH FAILS AND THE SHOW MUST GO ON

THE DANCER AND MUSICIANS BEGIN TO SET THE TIME

THE TALENT IS INTRODUCED

THE TECH GUY AND THE STAGE MANAGER DELIVER BAD NEWS

WE FEAR FOR THE END IF THEIR TRANSMISSION FAILS

A PROGRAM IS WRITTEN TO GENERATE THE END OF THE PLAY FROM THE FUTURE

THE CRISIS

Everyone is greeted by the stage manager, she gives out the programs. The program reads:

Pedestrian Knock Down

a play by Amelia Winger-Bearskin for Pioneer Works 2015

Starring: Maria Fang

Interactive technology: Brian Clifton

Music by:

Flute: Marco

Percussion: Justin Peake

Muti-Instrumental: David

Dancer: (name of dancer or dancers)

Stage Manager: Arielle Hein

Featuring Poetry by: (name of Poet or Poets)

The stage is set in the garden of Pioneer Works. There are two sections of seats both facing a projector which shows a standby blue screen. The tech guy is at a laptop. The

musicians are warming up, the talent is 'backstage' the dancer is stretching. The talent is wearing an elegant dress and standing in front of a microphone. The stage manager continues to pass out programs as people enter. The documentarian is setting up their equipment. The narrator addresses the audience:

Narrator: [Addresses the audience and tells them to thank the people who made this possible and Pioneer Works]

Musicians begin to play

Narrator: Welcome to the first performance of "Pedestrian Knock Down" a procedurally generated story

Dancer begins choreography

Narrator: The first projection mapped augmented reality world will appear to you in 3D you do not need glasses or a device in order to experience this. We have created an interactive experience using recently possible technologies in order to show you a vision of

the future that Brian Clifton has created using a data mining project and an algorithm. He is able to generate for us tonight most likely subject matter for literary and performance outputs that will be in vogue in the years from 2037 to 2062, based upon recent events, planetary systems and big data.

Stage Manager: Please if you feel motion sickness at anytime raise your right hand and I will assist you in our patented breathing technique for this augmented reality experience.

The Documentarian follows the narrator and talent and tech guy around the whole time and video tapes, and gets in the way

Talent: [speaks the java example garbage collector code, while the talent is speaking the Tech Guy, interrupts her to whisper something in her ear, she stops and nods to him but doesn't have an answer of what to do]

THE CRISIS (CONT.)
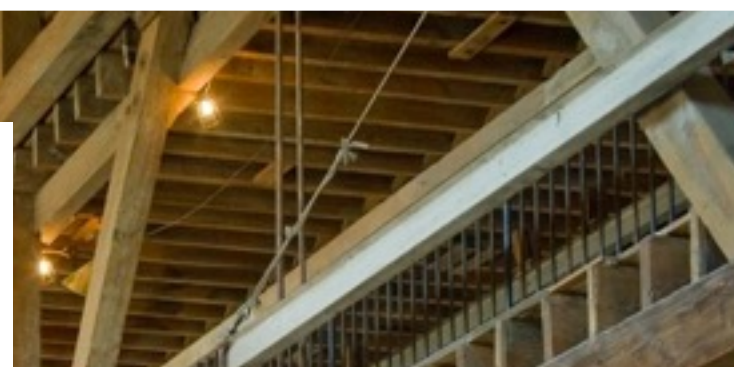
Talent: [reads until interrupted]

```
public class GCTest {

    final int NELEMS = 50000;

    void generateMemory() {

        int[] intArray = new int[NELEMS];

        for (int i=0; i<NELEMS; i++) {

            intArray[i] = i;

        }

    }

    public static void main (String[] args) {

        GCTest gct = new GCTest();


        // Step 1: get a Runtime object

        Runtime r = Runtime.getRuntime();


        // Step 2: determine the current amount of
        memory needed for future story telling
```

```
        long freeMem = r.generateMemory();

            System.out.println("generate  memory
        before creating array: " + freeMem);



            // Step 3: consume some memory

            gct.eatMemory();



            // Step 4: determine amount of memory left
        after consumption

            freeMem = r.generateMemory();

            System.out.println("generate memory after
        creating array:  " + freeMem);

            // Step 5: run then check generateMemory

            r.gc();

            freeMem = r.generateMemory();

            System.out.println("generate memory after
        running gc():    " + freeMem);

        }

    }
```

Narrator: [interrupting the talent] Maria its ok, um ok lets see , Brian [says something quietly to Brian]

Narrator signals to Musicians to play very loud

Video begins to look like someone messing around with a laptop desk top, opening sublime text , then a restart screen then the same standby projector blue screen

Narrator: OK we are going to move forward to a part in the story when Maria, now the star of a future story set in a gallery close to a large city. She will sing about her aspects of her life

Talent: This isn't the right music [does not sing]

Narrator speaks to the Tech Guy then he makes an announcement

Tech Guy: Ok we are going to have you view and earlier prototype of this project since we are having a technical issue

Stage Manager: [begins to pass our paper 3D glasses] again if you should feel motion sickness at anytime please raise your hand.

THE CRISIS (CONT.)

Video is the same standby screen but now it is in red and blue 3D colors, Stage Manager is still handing out glasses and putting helping people put them on as if they are oculus rifts and you need another person to help you put them on. She then begins to notice that people are taking them off so she goes back to the original people and tries to politely help them put them back on, she continues to do this while the talent speaks the intro to the augmented reality prototype 1

Talent: [reads until she is interrupted] All men and beasts, lions, eagles, and quails, horned stags, geese, spiders, silent fish that inhabit the waves, starfish from the sea, and creatures invisible to the eye—in one word, life—all, all life, completing the dreary round imposed upon it, has died out at last. A thousand years have passed since the earth last bore a living creature on her breast, and the unhappy moon now lights her lamp in vain. No longer are the cries of storks heard in the meadows, or the drone of beetles in the groves of limes. All is cold, cold. All is void, void, void. All is terrible, terrible—[A pause] The bodies of all living creatures have dropped to dust, and eternal matter has transformed them into stones and water and clouds; but their spirits have flowed together into one, and that great world-soul am I! In me is the spirit of the great Alexander, the spirit of Napoleon, of Caesar, of Shakespeare, and of the tiniest leech that swims. In me the consciousness of man has joined hands with the instinct of the animal; I understand all, all, all, and each life lives again in me.

Tech Guy: [walks up to the Talent] Hi- the earlier prototype has failed so I'm going to run the model again and see if I can generate it again in real time rather than run my previous build.

Talent: [reads until she is interrupted] I am alone. Once in a hundred years my lips are opened, my voice echoes mournfully across the desert earth, and no one hears. And you, poor lights of the marsh, you do not hear me. You are engendered at sunset in the putrid mud, and flit wavering about the lake till dawn, unconscious, unreasoning, unwarmed by the breath of life. Satan, father of eternal matter, trembling lest the spark of life should glow in you, has ordered an unceasing movement of the atoms that compose you, and so you shift and change for ever. I, the spirit of the universe, I alone am immutable and eternal. [A pause] Like a captive in a dungeon deep and void, I know not where I am, nor what awaits me. One thing only is not hidden from me: in my fierce and obstinate battle with Satan, the source of the forces of matter, I am destined to be victorious in the end. Matter and spirit will then be one at last in glorious harmony, and the reign of freedom will begin on earth. But this can only come to pass by slow degrees, when after countless eons the moon and earth and shining Sirius himself shall fall to dust. Until that hour, oh, horror! horror! horror! [A pause. Two glowing red points are seen shining across the lake] Satan, my mighty foe, advances; I see his dread and lurid eyes.

Narrator: [speaks to tech guy then announces during the talent's monologue] We are going to send a transmission to the algorithm's projected location in the future and will be able to port this information back to the rebuild in order to generate the augmented reality, sorry for the delay until then Maria will sing her portion from the end of the 1st act.

Talent: (begins to sing a pop song, the musicians accompany her song, the dancer changes to the choreography for the pop song portion of the choreography)

Narrator: Ok instead of taking an intermission I'm going to have the stage manager pass out a beer if you want it just hold up a dollar and she will bring you a beer

The talent changes into another dress

Stage Manager: I don't make change though so please only hold up money you wish for me to take in exchange for a beer, I can also accept venmo

Narrator: we are going to go ahead and move onto act II and then by the end we will have generated act I. Oh I am going to just read this portion from my.. .could someone please call my phone for me? its 917-520-4124 thanks, [picks up her cell phone from on stage and puts it in her pocket] thanks.

INTERMISSION
MUSIC
BEER AND MONEY

ACT II

THE RECKONING

THE TECH GUY OPENS UP CHROME AND THROUGH A SERIES OF TABS HE REVEALS THAT THERE IS NOT SOLUTION

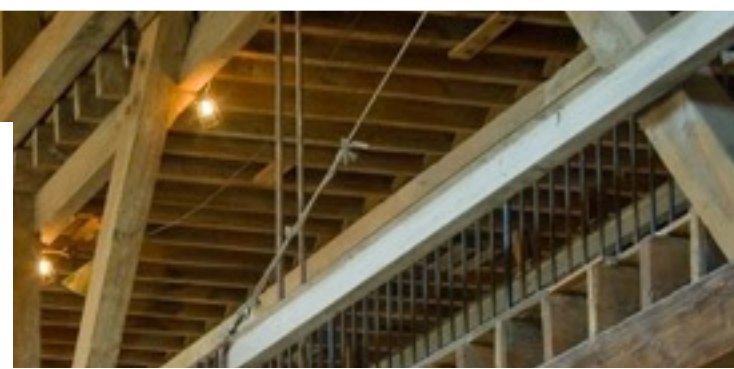A MESSAGE FROM THE FUTURE IS DELIVERED BY THE POET

AUDIENCE MEMBERS PARTICIPATE

THE HARBINGER ASKS THE QUESTIONS

THE MUSICIANS SAY GOODNIGHT

THE RECKONING

Tech Guy: I have the mockup we made before we created the model for an API of all of the Science Fiction portion of the future literature from 2040. I have it loaded in my browser we can at least… Maria here one sec [he pulls up chrome, see chrome tab script]

Talent: [talent begins to read the API cards on the Tech guy's laptop it is on the video]

Stage Manager: [sits with the musicians and neglects handing out any more beer]

Dancer: [begins to make out with an audience member who is actually the Harbinger]

Narrator: [Sits with the stage manager and musicians and also sings a bit of improv vocalizations]

Poet: [enters the scene and is wearing a halloween costume or a mask]

the chrome tab story begins

The Chrome Tab Story:

In this story the Tech guy frantically closes tabs in order to do a google search to find the solution to the problem. He closes the tabs in order of right to left, Each page on Chrome, is a couple of words that tells a story the closing of them allows them to happen in time and tell the story. The tech guy says all is not lost he has the stories from the API we needed to access saved as tabs on his computer, he opens chrome and the tabs read as follows:

tab 1 a sci-fi story in the form of an API

tab 2 amazon echo page

tab 3 a sci-fi story in the form of an API

tab 4 their personal banking statement

tab 5 a sci-fi story in the form of an API

tab 6 an image search

tab 7 a sci-fi story in the form of an API

tab 8 youtube video of cats

tab 9 youtube video of cats

tab 10 youtube video of cats

tab 11 youtube video of how to fix a cell phone screen

tab 12 a website to purchase something embarrassing

tab 13 a sci-fi story in the form of an API

tab 14 a website of one of the participants

tab 15 a google image search of something important

tab 16 a sci-fi story in the form of an API but written in lorem ipsen

(Everytime a sci-fi story in the form of an API appears on the screen the talent reads it aloud)

amelia   Gmail   Images

Google N

Google

Search Google or type URL

Gmail	Amazon.com: O	Create a Page

| http://seamless.com/ | Electronics, Cars, Fa | Discover | Credit Car |

Dystopian Science Fiction API
for generative authors of 20 future books

{

"title": "Art School",

"summery": "an art school you can stay at as long as you would like creating things of intense imagination and joy. Upon graduation students commit suicide or live in debtors colonies where they continue to labor on their projects for the benefit of free citizens",

"characters": "art students, friendly and unfriendly prison guards, politicians, patrons of the arts, lovers, fools",

"time_space": "near future, planet Earth",

}

Dystopian Science Fiction API
for generative authors of 20 future books

```
{
    "title":           "Startup",

    "summery":         "where two machines throw balls
                        back and fourth-
                        neither one catching the other's balls.
                        Throwing for eternity, while
                        spouting jargon.",


    "characters":      "two machines, venture capital",

    "time_space":      "near future, the Universe",
}
```

Dystopian Science Fiction API
for generative authors of 20 future books

{

"title": "Mental Illness",

"summery": "where people are prescribed medications
for psychological problems
where the side effects of those medications
are the same psychological problems",

"characters": "women, men, teenagers, doctors, nurses
pharmco reps",

"time_space": "near future, planet Earth",

}

Dystopian Science Fiction API
for generative authors of 20 future books

{

"title":   "Computer Rule the Earth",

"summery":   "computers rule, only men are allowed to speak, and not listen and women are allowed to only listen and not speak. computers resign rule."

"characters":   "women, men, computers",

"time_space":   "near future, planet Earth",

}

Dystopian Science Fiction API
for generative authors of 20 future books

{

"title":   "Great Smell on Planet X",

"summery":   "a mysterious smell takes over a city.
                  citizens cease being able to observe
                  polite behavior",

"characters":   "women, men, the city",

"time_space":   "distant future, planet X",

}

Dystopian Science Fiction API
for generative authors of 20 future books

{

"title":   "Internet of Places",

"summery":   "IOT subscription MTA cards in order to
                    go to places based on information.
                    people live near the most connected objects",

 "characters":   "women, men, the city",

"time_space":   "near future, planet Earth",

}

Dystopian Science Fiction API
for generative authors of 20 future books

{

"title": "Sensory Human",

"summery": "Sensors made of humans, vehicles made of human sensors. cities made of human sensors.",

"characters": "women, men, the city, vehicles, politicians",

"time_space": "near future, planet Earth",

}

Dystopian Science Fiction API
for generative authors of 20 future books

{

"title": "Tables",

"summery": "all art in museums is tables, just tales ontop of other tables and all digital art is also tables",

"characters": "artists, curators, tables",

"time_space": "near future, planet Earth",

}

Dystopian Science Fiction API
for generative authors of 20 future books

{

"title":   "we'd make great pets",

"summery":   "aliens steal pets from all over the galaxy.
                  former pets star in a reality TV series where
                  they tell hilarious stories about their
                  former owners. its a huge galatic hit",

"characters":   "aliens, dogs, cats, pets, space",

"time_space":   "distant future, the Milky Way",

}

Dystopian Science Fiction API
for generative authors of 20 future books

{

"title":   "Patron of the Arts",

"summery":   "wealthy businessmen purchase people
                  to think aesthetic thoughts around the
                  smart objects in their home to make their
                  home appliances more artful",

"characters":   "humans, dogs, cats, pets, business",

"time_space":   "near future, planet Earth",

}

THE RECKONING (CONT.)

Talent: I would like to now introduce the poetry of (poet's name)

Poet: [at the microphone] I have used Brian Clifton's model to run alternatives to the proposed future literature in the format of a google search

Narrator: for this portion we need someone from the audience to participate could someone volunteer to read with the poet? [leads the volunteer up to the microphone with the poet]

Poet: [begins to read poetry giving particular lines to the volunteer]

all of the players begin to lead the audience in clapping to the music, the music swells, then the music stops

Harbringer: I have prepared some questions for the authors of this performance project and for Pioneer works and all of those responsible for this work, to call into question, why a piece like this would need to exist and why you feel as though you are the right people to propose such a story:

1. When we gather in a space like this what is the primary function of language and the use of tenses?

2. What animal are we seeking to entertain or inhabit with these questions?

3. This garden?

4. Thank you everyone for coming tonight.

the documentarian and stage manager take a selfie

The End