



The Great Outdoors

by Annie Dorsen

project dossier: Summer 2020

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The Great Outdoors by Annie Dorsen

The Great Outdoors takes us on a sublime journey through inner space in the darkness of a planetarium. A lone performer reads texts culled from internet comments and fed through an algorithm, giving voice and body to the thoughts of countless individuals all tapping away at their keyboards in isolation. As fragments of narrative emerge from the chatter, Dorsen invites us to imagine the internet's infinite possibilities as a new form of celestial authority, and the comments as the internet's id—unrestrained and protected by anonymity.

The Great Outdoors is a love letter to a world in flux. It's a choreography of sound, image and word, a psychic machine that links actor, audience, text and space: what's out there, what's in here, what lies between. As an actor performs the algorithmically-selected text, we gather together around a digital campfire, under the computerized night sky, watching and listening as the world slowly winds down.



Planetarium dome, theatre installation

Our planetarium dome seats 45 people. It uses a bright projector fitted with a special fisheye lens which projects to a full 180 degrees. The dome is fully transportable and sets up in about an hour. Dimensions of the dome are 8m x 8m, and 5m high.

Artistic Team

Annie Dorsen – concept/direction

Miles Thompson/Marcel Schwittlick – text programming

Ryan Holsopple/Annie Dorsen – starshow design

Sébastien Roux – composer

Onome Ekeh – dramaturg

Ryan Holsopple – starshow programmer

Ruth Waldeyer – technical director

Kaija Matiss – performer

Natasha Katerinopoulos - management/production

Performance History

Kampnagel/Internationales Sommerfestival (Hamburg, DE)	Aug 16-18, 2017
Noorderzon Festival (Groningen, NL)	Aug 20-22, 2017
FIAF's Crossing the Line Festival, (New York, NY)	Sept 21-24, 2017
Théâtre de la Cité Internationale (Paris, FR)	October 18-19, 2017
BIT Teatergarasjen (Bergen, NO)	May 24-26, 2018
Stamsund International Theater Festival (Stamsund, NO)	May 28-9, 2018
RIMI/IMIR Scenekunst (Stavanger, NO)	June 1-2, 2018
Kaaitheter/Pompidou-Kanal (Brussels, BE)	Nov 22-25, 2018
Oslo International Theater Festival (Oslo, NO)	March 9-10, 2019
Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago, US)	May 21-24, 2019

Co-Producers and Funders

The Great Outdoors is a co-production of BIT Teatergarasjen & Bergen International Festival (Bergen, Norway), Crossing the Line Festival/French Institute Alliance Française (New York, NY), and Noorderzon/Grand Theatre Groningen (NL). *The Great Outdoors* is supported by the Hermès Foundation within the framework of the New Settings Program. *The Great Outdoors* is created with the support of King's Fountain; developed in part by Live Arts Bard at the Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College (Annandale on Hudson, NY); and supported by a residency at Abrons Arts Center (New York, NY).

Press

"Watching The Great Outdoors might be what it is like to listen to outer space at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory's Very Large Array, on a clear night in the New Mexico desert. While the cosmos whirls above us, the horizon tilts and the moon comes into greater and greater focus, we can hear what's being said "out there" somewhere."

-Molly Grogan, Exeunt

<http://exeuntmagazine.com/reviews/review-great-outdoors-fiaf-florence-gould-hall/>

"The Great Outdoors (2017), set in an inflatable planetarium, fashions a script from harvested Reddit comments, inviting spectators to contemplate the nature of human expression and communication... its text spanned a spectrum of expression from the banal to the idiosyncratic and deeply personal."

-Miriam Felton-Dansky, Fusebox

<https://www.fuseboxfestival.com/post/2017/12/13/feature-annie-dorsen-s-algorithmic-theater-a-decade-collaborating-with-computers>

Video

Promo Video: https://www.dropbox.com/s/r7c09j3eru404ci/dorsen_medium_6.23.mov?dl=0

Password: TGO

Filmed at MCA Chicago, Chicago, IL, March 22-24, 2019

Touring Details

Personnel: 4-5 people

3 New York: Director + Video/Programming + Performer

1 Berlin or New York (tbd): Technical Direction/Sound

1 New York: Producer / Company Manager (tbd)

Shipping

Freight travels in a single palet shipment (air freight or standard cargo van). The palet includes: one 80kg duffel bag (uninflated dome); a pelican case(video projector); two bouncy house fans; a wooden box (“hushes” the projector). The team travels with two stadard sized bags containing fragile equipment. Those include: 1) Fisheye lens and 2) computer equipment. Presenter to cover both shipment and excess luggage costs.

Space

Black box or similar space. Minimum grid height 6m. Minimal stage size: 12x12m

A full **Technical Rider** is available.

For **Touring Fees** please contact Natasha Katerinopoulos

Annie Dorsen Short Bio

Annie Dorsen is a director and writer whose works explore the intersection of algorithms and live performance. Her most recent project, INFINITE SUN (2019), is an algorithmic sound installation commissioned by the Sharjah Biennial 14. Previous performance projects, including THE SLOW ROOM (2018), THE GREAT OUTDOORS (2017), YESTERDAY TOMORROW (2015), A PIECE OF WORK (2013) and HELLO HI THERE (2010), have been widely presented in the US and internationally. Some of the venues where her work has been seen include Performance Space New York (formerly PS122), Le Festival d'Automne de Paris, The Holland Festival, BAM's Next Wave Festival, New York Live Arts, Kampnagel Summer Festival, Kaaitheater, and The New York Film Festival's “Views from the Avant-garde” series, along with many others. The script for A PIECE OF WORK was published by Ugly Duckling Presse, and she has contributed essays for The Drama Review (TDR), Theatre Magazine, Etcetera, Frakcija, and Performing Arts Journal (PAJ). She has collaborated frequently with musicians and choreographers, including Anne Juren, Ethel, Questlove/The Roots, DD Dorvillier, and Sébastien Roux. She is the co-creator of the 2008 Broadway musical Passing Strange, which she also directed. In addition to awards for Passing Strange, Dorsen received a 2019 MacArthur Fellowship, a 2018 Guggenheim Fellowship, the 2018 Spalding Gray Award, a 2016 Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grant to Artists Award and the 2014 Herb Alpert Award for the Arts in Theatre.