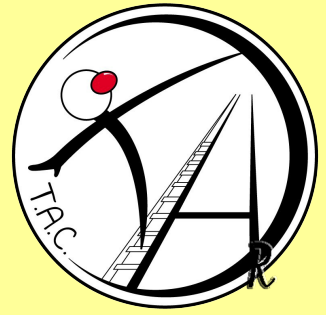


~T.A.C. RESEARCH INFO SHEET



This project has been launched with the aim of comprehensively documenting the performance techniques of virtual performers and situating them within the broader framework of techniques in theatre anthropology, following a thorough comparative study of the phenomenon of virtual performance.

How to achieve this

The method we propose consists of the following steps:

- **A series of interviews** with individuals who work professionally as virtual performers, or who possess a high level of scholarly knowledge of the field. These will be conducted under a strict confidentiality agreement and will be based on the principle of *barter*, whereby information flows in both directions and both parties can benefit from each other's experience. Furthermore, both to protect the interview data and to ensure its integrity and usefulness, the interviews will be conducted in person wherever possible, as information that does not circulate online cannot be stolen from the internet, and it is not possible to adequately demonstrate any physical technique without being in a physical space. The information gathered and recorded will always be of a technical nature; it will not include personal data or anything that could put the participants' lives or work at risk.

- An **optional** interview with each participant's *character*. Unlike the previous interviews, which are purely for documentary purposes and will only be accessible to project participants, the interviews with the characters will be for entertainment purposes and may serve as publicity for both parties, so that more virtual performers may become interested in the project and it provides an immediate source of prestige for those already taking part. No confidential information of any kind will be disclosed in these interviews, and they may, subject to consent, be published on YouTube, Twitch and similar platforms.

The content of both types of interview may be agreed in advance by both parties and will take the form of a free-flowing dialogue. In other words: we will improvise, but within certain rules. Where and when they take place must be agreed upon by both parties.

Once a mutual understanding has been established between colleagues, there is the possibility of taking the project a step further to create a **hybrid physical-virtual** stage show, in which a virtual performer will interact in real time with one or more flesh-and-blood actors. Performances of this kind have already been successfully staged at venues such as the Globe Theatre in London, incorporating virtual elements into live performances; we will go even further, ensuring that the virtual and physical characters interact on an equal footing. It is time to make history – will you be the intrepid adventurer to join us?

Funding

This is an independent research project born out of the desire of some members of an international third-theatre company to integrate the discipline of virtual performance into the global and historical spectrum of theatre anthropology; as such, it does not receive funding from any external institution. However, it will be submitted as a cultural project application to secure European funding from the **Horizon grants** and other potential research grants, such as the Maria Skłodowska grants. Having an existing base of participants will help to ensure the viability of these applications.

~ the TAC independent research team