

the future



by anonymous ensemble

the origin

In the wake of the 2016 U.S. presidential election, Anonymous Ensemble found ourselves deeply questioning the state of our nation and our individual roles in a global society. We imagined a group of intelligent beings from the future who are curious about why humanity took a drastic shift at exactly this moment in time. The future beings are on a mission to learn about current human biological and social systems to gain valuable universal insights, despite imperfect communication with the present.

“Do you feel personally selected by the leaders of your country?”

- Future Liz



“The social elements were uncomfortable at times. It was well done and thought inspiring.”

- Anonymous Participant, UNC

the subject

A group of beings from the future encounter an audience in the present moment. The future beings do not speak with their mouths; all of the dialogue and queries are operated digitally, i.e. telepathically. The performers operate complex technology stations that are clustered in the center of the space. The audience members are the subjects. They sit in concentric circles around the performance zone and wear headsets – each with an attached microphone. Additional audience members function as observers, wearing headphones without microphones. The observers are also equipped with small audio mixers so they can tune into the various channels of *The Future*.



“Do you feel sense control over
the destiny of your planet?”

- Future Jessica

“It felt like I was
in a live action
Black Mirror
episode.”

- Participant

the experience

We individually welcome the subjects into an environment that is composed of up-cycled materials: glass lenses, clear plastic, white plastic, a profusion of cables, and headsets suspended from above. We begin by asking each subject a telepathic question so that *The Future* can calibrate its systems to this particular human. We then alternate between musical sections and questioning sessions dealing with the subjects' relationships with themselves, those close to them, their country, the planet, and the cosmos. As the piece progresses, the experience transmitted to each headset becomes more and more tailored to the human wearing it, drawing from a limitlessness of possible narrative experiences. Each performance unfolds as an individualized event, precisely programmed, but guided by the specific qualities of each audience member in order to achieve a level of hyper-intimacy. *The Future* also processes human verbal input into music (live sampling) in order to better catalyze a collective emotional response to the intellectual material gathered. The lights and video are shaped by the input from the audience, further indicating that the humans in the room are the framework, the content, and the purpose of this performance. The running time is 1,000 breaths.

the object

“How do you contribute to warming your world?”

- Future Tiappa

The intricate digital audio routing technology that Anonymous Ensemble has developed specifically for *The Future* allows us to engage with audience members at levels ranging from very public to very private. Portions of the performance resemble a community forum and portions of the performance utilize the technological equivalent of whispering in the subjects' ears. We create sonic worlds where small groups of audience members can talk amongst themselves or even have one-on-one conversations with each other. All of these streams of engagement are in service of an overarching fictional narrative about the very real fate of the planet. Because each audience member is only privy to a portion of the narrative, they have to share bits of knowledge with each other in order to understand the whole of *The Future*.



“An exploration of the human psyche. Sucking you into a void.”

- Participant

Anonymous Ensemble creates original media and live performance that joyously challenges the audience/performer relationship. Founded in Brooklyn in 2002, we have created over sixteen original shows, including *Turing*, *Ship of Fools*, *Liebe Love Amour!*, *I Land*, *Troop Troupe*, *Wanderlust*, and *The Best*. Our work has been presented throughout NYC (National Sawdust, HERE, Mabou Mines, LaMama, Incubator Arts, JACK, The New Ohio Theater, Ars Nova) as well as internationally in Greece, the U.K., Norway, Germany, and Australia. We have engaged in performance residencies and workshops at The Hellenic American University, UNC, NYU, Princeton, Duke, and Wesleyan Universities.

“Different from
anything I’ve
experienced before.
Moving.”

-Participant

the ensemble

“What do you hope
for in the future?”

- Future Eamonn



The ensemble creating and performing *The Future* consists of eight artists who share roles as performers and technicians. In *The Future*, core Anonymous Ensemble members Jessica Weinstein, Eamonn Farrell, Liz Davito, and Lucrecia Briceño are joined by Tiappa Klimovitsky, Thomas Kavanagh, Gavin Price, and Stephanie Ghajar.

contact

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Link to 3 minute sample video from a development workshop
in The Process Series at the University of North Carolina:

<https://vimeo.com/259782032>