

ZEBRA 2.0

... just your typical, existential, immigrant-A.I. rom-com...

“A sweet, intense, and astute production with resounding messages about humanity.” - The Sleepless Critic

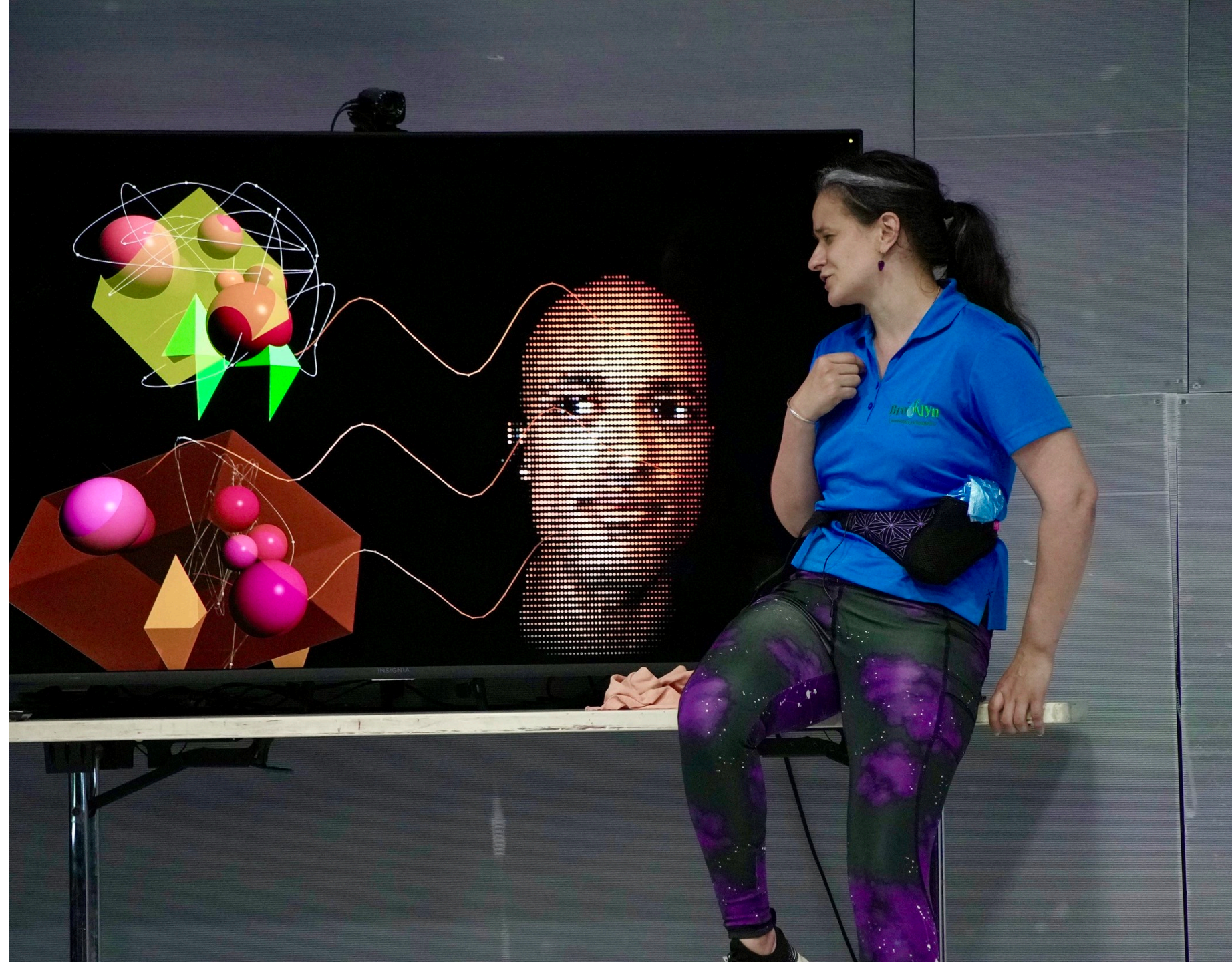
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Zebra 2.0

by Saviana Stanescu

Directed by Jeremy Goren

A MIND-BENDING, HEART-RENDING – AND FUNNY – TRANSMEDIAL PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE, ENGAGING QUESTIONS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, HUMANITY, IMMIGRATION, BELONGING, SIMULATION, AND CONSCIOUSNESS, AT THE HEART OF WHICH BEATS THE CHARMING AND ENGAGING STORY OF THE UNCANNY FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN AN IMMIGRANT WOMAN AND THE AI WHOSE OFFICE SHE CLEANS EVERY NIGHT.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

WE – AND ZINA – FIRST MEET AL AS IT ANALYZES PIXELS IN CROWDSOURCED PHOTOGRAPHS OF ZEBRAS, ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH A HUMAN USER IN VERY BASIC WAYS AND EXISTING SOLELY ON A LARGE COMPUTER MONITOR ON THE STAGE.

AS THIS INTIMATE ROM-COM MOVES TOWARDS ITS CLIMAX, THE CHARACTERS BECOME GRADUALLY SUBSUMED INTO A ROMANTIC-COMEDY FILM, PROJECTED IN THE PLAYING SPACE, WHERE THEY CAN FINALLY MEET “IRL” (IN REAL LIFE).



KEY FEATURES

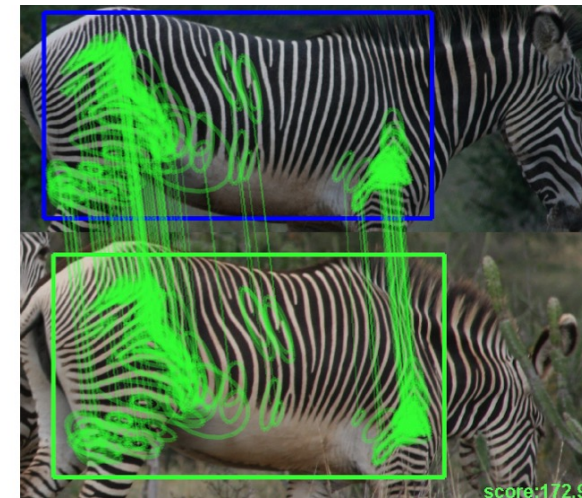
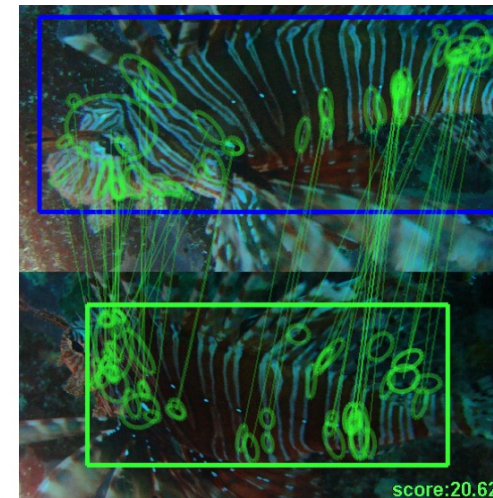
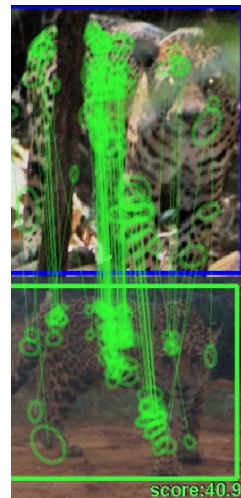
- A POETIC AND ACCESSIBLE SCRIPT THAT'S BOTH MIND-EXPANDING AND HEART-TOUCHING, CONCEPTUALLY COMPLEX AND FUNNY, AND AN EFFECTIVE CONDUCTOR FOR THE TECHNOLOGICALLY AND PHILOSOPHICALLY ORIENTED ELEMENTS OF THE CONTENT.



- MULTIFACETED INTERMEDIAL ELEMENTS IN STAGING AND PERFORMANCE THAT CREATE AN IMMERSIVE SPACE BOTH MAGICAL AND ACCESSIBLE, INCLUDING LIVE-MIXED VIDEO DESIGN, AND PERFORMERS INTERACTING VIA LIVE-FEED VIDEO/AUDIO.
- INTENTIONAL CONVERGING OF THEATRE AUDIENCES, SCI/TECH WORKERS, AND IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES.
- EVENTS AND EXPERIENCES LIKE PUBLIC CONVERSATIONS AND INTERACTIVE POSSIBILITIES ON THEMES OF:
 - AI TECHNOLOGY - DANGERS AND BENEFITS
 - SIMULATION THEORIES
 - CONSCIOUSNESS - HUMAN AND OTHERWISE

SOCIAL JUSTICE ELEMENTS

- COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS
 - TECHNOLOGY ACCESS IN WORKING-CLASS IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES
 - WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
 - CITIZEN SCIENCE
- PROMOTING IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S WORKER COLLECTIVE BROOKLYN COMMUNITY CLEANERS BOTH ON STAGE THROUGH THE MAIN CHARACTER'S COSTUME AND IN POST-SHOW AND ONLINE INTERACTIONS.
- FURTHER QUESTIONS OF INTEREST IN RACE AND BIAS ARE CRITICAL TO AI CONVERSATIONS, INCLUDING: HOW DOES RACIAL AND GENDER PRESENTATION ALTER THE IMPLICATIONS OF *ZEBRA 2.0*? AND WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR CHANGE IN OUR WORLD, IN WHICH AI CARRIES THE BIASES OF ITS PREDOMINANTLY WHITE, MALE CREATORS?



PRODUCTION HISTORY

- 2024: INVITED TO OPEN THE 27TH INTERNATIONAL STUDIO THEATER FESTIVAL AT ALEXANDRU DAVILA THEATER IN PITEȘTI, ROMANIA.
- 2023: SELECTED FOR THE FINAL ICE FACTORY FESTIVAL AT THE [NEW OHIO THEATRE](#) IN NEW YORK CITY, ZEBRA 2.0 PLAYED TO LARGE, RESPONSIVE HOUSES FOR FOUR NIGHTS, CO-PRODUCED BY [WISTARIA PROJECT](#) AND [ANOMALOUSCO](#), WITH SUPPORT FROM THE ROMANIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE AND DIRECTED AGAIN BY GOREN.
- 2021: JEREMY GOREN DIRECTED THE FIRST SHOWING OF ZEBRA 2.0 FOR SIT AT NANCY MANOCHERIAN'S THE CELL IN MANHATTAN.
- 2020: TRANSFORMA THEATRE COMMISSIONED PLAYWRIGHT SAVIANA STANESCU AND DATA SCIENTIST NIKI ATHANASIADOU, PHD, TO COLLABORATE ON A NEW PLAY FOR THE INAUGURAL SCIENCE IN THEATRE FESTIVAL (SIT), NYC.



Wistaria Project



AnomalousCo





WORKSHOPS

WE OFFER A FEW WORKSHOP POSSIBILITIES (AND ARE OPEN TO PROPOSALS), LED BY DIRECTOR JEREMY GOREN ON HIS OWN OR WITH DESIGNER/TECHNOLOGIST JOHN JANNONE (CUNY BROOKLYN COLLEGE, PROFESSOR AND FOUNDER AND CO-DIRECTOR OF THE MFA PROGRAM IN PERFORMANCE AND INTERACTIVE MEDIA ARTS). THESE COULD BE FOCUSED ON PERFORMERS AND/OR DIRECTORS AND/OR FOLKS IN INTERACTIVE TECH OR SIMILAR REALMS OF RESEARCH AND PRACTICE – OR WITH IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH INTEREST IN CREATION AND/OR TECHNOLOGY. HERE ARE TWO POSSIBILITIES:

- COLLABORATIVE DEVISING WITH TECHNOLOGY AND HUMANS (FOR ACTORS, DIRECTORS, DESIGNERS, TECHNOLOGISTS)
- THE GENERATIVE ACTOR — PERFORMER AS MULTIFACETED CREATOR, WITH THE CAPACITIES TO PERFORM IN VASTLY DIFFERENT STYLES EVEN WITHIN THE SAME PERFORMANCE (FOR ACTORS AND DIRECTORS)

DIRECTOR AND PLAYWRIGHT

JEREMY GOREN (Director) is an interdisciplinary theatre artist and educator, with a focus in experimental, devised, and socially engaged performances. He has been a Lincoln Center Directors Lab Master Artist, Alivewire Theatrics A/M/P Resident, long-time Resident Artist at The Center at West Park, We Are All Brooklyn Fellowship Against Hate, four times a LEIMAY Fellow, and received two residencies at NACL. As a Co-Artistic Director at AnomalousCo, he recently directed/produced the premier of Saviana Stanescu's *Zebra 2.0* for the ICE FACTORY festival at the New Ohio Theatre (NYC), and co-produced/co-directed/performed in *(beyond) Doomsday Scrolling*, an original work on women's experiences of war and displacement at HERE Arts (NYC). In 2022 he facilitated workshops of Spanish-speaking immigrant women and the presentations of their work for Target Margin Theater's *Here & Now oral-storytelling project*. Formerly a longtime collaborating artist/producer with both Terra Incognita Theater (P. Klimovitskaya) and the U.S. projects of The Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards, Jeremy also co-created Wistaria Project where his devised work has been called: "A truly experimental and immersive experience.... Avant-garde yet deeply felt...." (*Flavorpill*) He also works with youth, trains actors of all ages, and has published writing in English and Spanish, primarily about theatre, film, and immigration. MFA - Performance and Interactive Media Arts, Brooklyn College. www.jeremygoren.com <https://wistariaproject.wordpress.com/>

SAVIANA STANESCU (Playwright) is a cutting-edge, award-winning Romanian playwright, poet, and ARTivist based in NY, author of *Aliens with Extraordinary Skills*, *Ants*, *Lenin's Shoe*, *Hurt*, *Useless*, *Toys*, and many other plays centering the immigrant experience. Winner of New York Innovative Theatre Award for Outstanding Play (*Waxing West*) and UNITER Award for Best Romanian Play of the Year (*Inflatable Apocalypse*), Saviana has published over 15 books of plays and poetry, written in English and Romanian, translated and produced around the world. Other honors: Fulbright, Indie Theatre Hall of Fame, John Golden Award, KulturKontakt, Marulic Prize for Best European Radiodrama, Inaugural Audrey Residency with New Georges, etc. Saviana's plays have been developed/produced off-Broadway at Women's Project, La MaMa, 59E59, NYTW, EST, HERE, New Georges, The New Group, Lark; regionally at the Hangar Theatre, Cherry Artspace, Civic Ensemble, Know Theatre, B Street Theatre, Traveling Jewish Theatre; and globally at Teatro La Capilla in Mexico City, Teatrul Odeon in Bucharest, Dramalabbet in Stockholm, etc. She holds an MFA in Dramatic Writing and an MA in Performance Studies from New York University, and currently works as Associate Professor of Playwriting and Contemporary Theatre at Ithaca College. www.saviana.com, www.savianastanescu.com

Thank you!

IF YOU WISH TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL
COLLABORATION, PLEASE CONTACT US

COMPANY@ANOMALOUSCO.COM

*This image is generated by AI (LoL) 😊

