

REAL Stage

- An experimental research laboratory for the performing arts



HOW DO YOU TELL A STORY THAT IS CARRIED BY BOTH THE REAL AND THE VIRTUAL BODY IN A 4DIMANTIONAL SPACE WHERE THE AUDIENCE IS THE CO-EDITOR ?

REALstAGE – an experimental stage laboratory, seeks to answer this question.

REALstAGE establishes direct and individual contact between the stage and the audience.

Cell-phones, laptops and the Internet are used to create a web of communication lines - before, after and during the performance. - Creating a stage experience that is pieced together by the choices of the individual audience and that allows the performers to exist on different platforms simultaneously in time and space.

The showcase You, me and the others is a tangible introduction to the ideas and structures developed by the **REALstAGE** laboratory – giving an example of how a story can exist and expand within this new stage expression.

REALstage

- An experimental research laboratory for the performing arts

Concept, idea and development:
Architect MAA/installation artist Christina Back and Choreographer Helle Bach

CONCEPT_{REALstage}

The REALstage laboratory experiments with the development of a new stage expression by the incorporating of every-day communication technologies such as cell phones, camcorders, and Internet into the stage expression.

The communication technologies are used to break the physical boundaries of the traditional stage by establishing new points of contact – virtual and real – between the audience and the performer. REALstage explores what such an expanded and mobile stage space does to the stage expression in general, the choreographic expression specifically, and to the experience of the audience.

The REALstage laboratory, initially a dialog between architecture and choreography, is an ongoing process in an open-ended time frame. It consists of different platforms and collaboration partners with varying degrees of involvement in the research.

Partnerships are formed to explore the technological developments and use that in an innovative approach to the stage and the different artistic expressions of ourselves and our collaborators.

The REALstage laboratory has been working since 2005. A focal point is the collaboration with the Watermill Center, New York and Robert Wilson. REALstage was,

on invitation from Robert Wilson, part of the Watermill Center Summer Program 2006 and 2007. Other collaboration partners has been Copenhagen University, Department of Arts and Culture Studies, Dance and Theatre Research Section, the Dramaturgical laboratory, Entrescenen (Århus) and UNITS(Kanonhallen) at Kigkurren, Copenhagen.



STARTING POINT_{REALstAGE}

The many cell phones, camcorders, web-cams, screens, televisions and Internet tools we rely on in every day life, provide us daily with new communication and information platforms.

These tools challenge the experience and distinction between fact and fiction; they change our understanding of boundaries between public and private space, and they provide us with an entirely new means of experiencing the world around us.

In an attempt to create a contemporary expression for the stage, the REALstAGE laboratory brings together the daily technical communication tools with the stage and its artistic expressions, creating a stage form where the communication tools are used to tell a story, just as easily as in our normal lives.

THE LABORATORY_{REALstAGE}

The vision of the REALstAGE laboratory is to develop a new stage form by incorporating communication technologies from every day life as a part of the stage space (architecture/set design) and stage expression (choreography).

REALstAGE seeks to link the different communication technologies, such as cell-phones, camcorders, projectors, and the Internet into the traditional theatre space, creating a space consisting of real and virtual platforms for the artistic expression. We want to establish direct, individual lines of communication to the audience through cell-phones and the Internet before, during, and after the performance.

3 main themes define the explorations of laboratory into a possible new stage form:

Fluctuating space

The expanded space that relates to and is structured by the logic of the “zap” culture – quick changes of focus and interactive information streams.

Public and private space

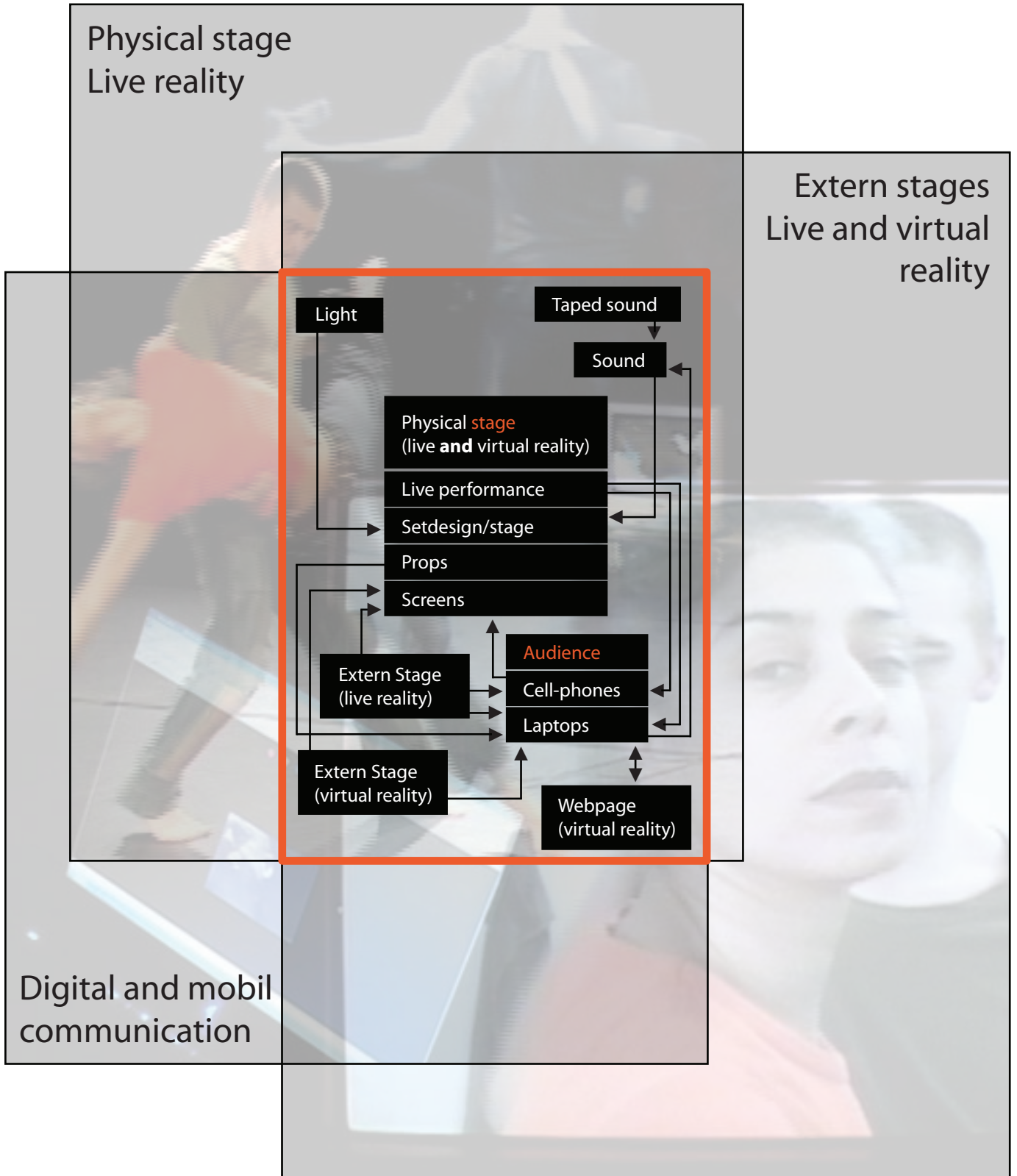
The breakdown of the boundaries between the public and personal space, via visual communication technologies, intimate presence and communication in the public space paired with the intrusion of the public space into the private sphere.

Live and virtual presence

New potential lines of communication arising from the meeting of live and taped presences. The consequence for both the audience and the performer, of real

ReAL Stage

- STRUCTURE: The variable platforms through which the story can be told



REALStAge

- THE SHOWCASE: *Dick and Jane*

An open digital construction and a co-production between REALstAGE and YOU

- We deliver the storyboard, the digital framework and know how.
- You deliver local dancers, interested digital artists, supplementary technique, technical staff and 14 days for rehearsals

CONCEPT DICK AND JANE

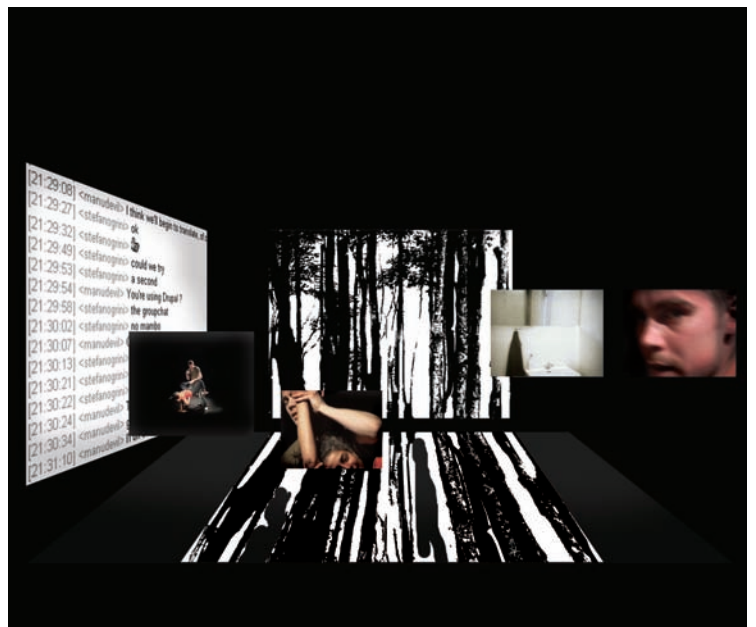
Dick and Jane consists of an approximately 40 min. performance, followed by a presentation of the ideas behind the project and a proposal for a discussion with the audience

The showcase, like the laboratory, is unique to each occasion and inspired by the individual collaboration partner, adapting the performance to the environment in which it is performed. This means that the showcase incorporate the locations, the individuality of the local dancers, and the abilities of the local artist and technicians into the framework we have developed.

THEME DICK AND JANE

Dick and Jane is the story of a love triangle between 2 men and a woman. This simple story raises questions on our modern way of life:

- What does all these new ways of communication do to our physical relations?
- Can we grow friendships, and have intimacy and presence in such environments?
- What do we do with the possibility of inviting everybody in to our most intimate life? (voyeurism, exhibitionism)
- What happens to our relations, when we can establish them without being physical present, through net-dating, blogs, communities, chats etc.?



Dick and Jane focuses on increasing the experience of the audience. The tools used are a variety of screens on stage, cellphones, and laptops. The audience is invited to bring their own cellphones and laptops to the showing. During the performance the complexity of the plot is built up through live streaming from camcorders on stage, offering alternative and intimate views via a local network, video, text messages, phone calls, and access to a webpage with parallel information.

ALTERNATIVES DICK AND JANE

Additional showcase constellations and work presentation options:

Lecture and showcase performance

Lecture on The REALstAGE principals and the full showcase performance.

The REALstAGE project provides everything; dancers, technicians and equipment.

Lecture, showcase installation and workshop

Lecture on The REALstAGE principals and the resulting showcase form with Helle Bach and Christina Back. Instead of a showcase performance a simple installation demonstration is set up giving a physical experience of the space. A workshop for performers and technicians introducing them to the ideas is given in connection with the lecture.

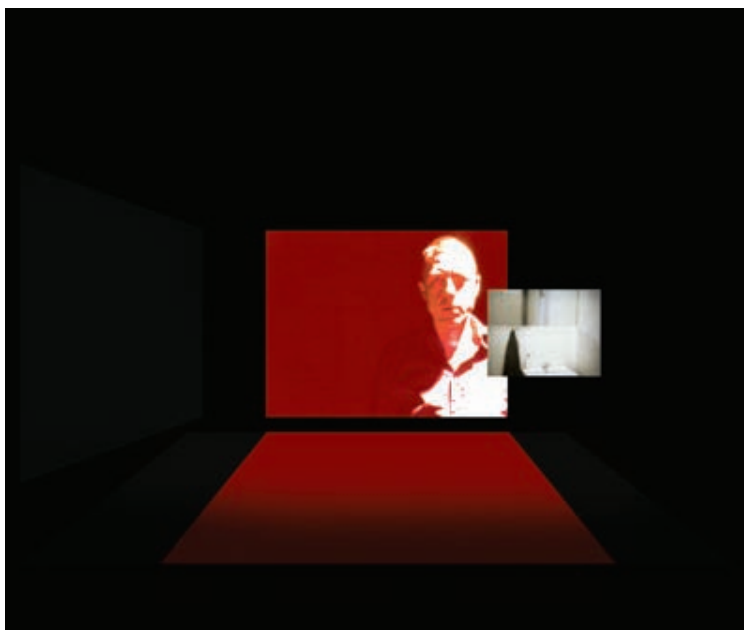
Lecture and showcase installation

Lecture on The REALstAGE principals and the resulting showcase form with Helle Bach and Christina Back. Instead of a showcase showing a simple installation demonstration is set up giving a physical experience of the space.

Lecture

Lecture on The REALstAGE principals and the resulting showcase form with Helle Bach and Christina Back.

REALstAGE is open for other presentation options so please feel free to contact us.



ReAL Stage

- THE SHOWCASE: Storyboard for Dick and Jane

INTENSITY OF INFORMATION



Personal screens

Stage screens

Stage projektions

Stage

Scene 1.1 Scene 2.1 Scene 2.2 Scene 3.1 Scene 3.2 Scene 3.3 Scene 3.4 Scene 4.1 Scene 4.2 Scene 4.3 Scene 5.1 Scene 5.2

TIMELINE

REALstage

- Who are we?

Architect & installation artist Christina Back and choreographer Helle Bach are the initiators of REALstage.

They are both established and independent artist experienced with the dance, theater, installation, architecture and performance scenes of Copenhagen, Paris and New York.

Christina Back is educated at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts – School of Architecture with specialization in perception. Through the last 9 years she has worked with space in relation to installations, performance and exhibition design. Her expression and work is found on the border between architecture, installation, light, movement, video, sound and interactivity.

Helle Bach is educated at the Ballet Academy of Gothenburg, Sweden and Menagerie de Verre, Paris, France. She has been choreographing since 1997 and is the artistic director of the dance company dadadans. Her original approach to choreography gives a universe that mirrors the off beat, poetical and ironic within us.

Based on a joint vision for a future theater, Christina and Helle established REALstage in 2005. They have been collaborating since then on furthering their ideas.



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REAL Stage

- Sponsors and collaboration partners

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Danmarks Nationalbanks Anniversary Foundation of 1968
(Danmarks Nationalbanks jubilæumsfond af 1968)

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ATT.: architects

The Danish Arts Council Committee for the Performing Arts
(Scenekunstudvalget)

COLLABORATION PARTNERS_{REALstage}

Copenhagen University, Department of Arts and Culture Studies

Robert Wilson and The Watermill Center, New York

The Dramaturgical laboratory, Entrescenén (Århus)

UNITS (Kanonhallen), Kigkurren (Copenhagen)