

WRITTEN BY
Saviana Stanescu

INSPIRED BY THE RESEARCH OF
Niki Athanasiadou, Phd

ZEBRA 2.0

NOVEMBER 13, 2021



SCIENCE IN THEATRE FESTIVAL

THE CELL THEATRE

Written by SAVIANA STANESCU

Based on a scientific research of NIKI ATHANASIADOU, Ph.D.

With

AMY LIOU, TIMOTHY CRAIG

Directed by JEREMY GOREN

Sound design by JUSTIN MATHEWS

Video design by RENEE WILLOUGHBY

Lighting design by MATT LAZARUS

Set and costume design by TSUI C WANG

Panel: Humans & AI - a possible love affair?

Panelists: Professor Massimo Pigliucci, Suzanne Dikker Ph.D,
Saviana Stanescu, Niki Athanasiadou Ph.D, Sara Wentworth Ph.D,
Jeremy Goren

Zebra 2.0, a play about an undocumented night-shift janitor who develops an uncanny friendship with her employer's main AI.

Plot

Zebra 2.0 is about ZINA, an undocumented woman, working as a night-shift janitor at an AI company in the US, who develops an uncanny friendship with the main AI, as they discuss identifying markers for zebras and challenge the rules of the human game.

Zebra 2.0 is the product of collaboration between playwright Saviana Stanescu and data scientist Niki Athanasiadou.

Cast



Amy Liou | Zina

AMY LIOU is a performance artist from Taiwan. Influenced by the training she had with SITI Company, she is interested in exploring the continuity and discontinuity between movement and text. She recently expanded her theater practice to puppetry and was having fun making and moving with inanimate objects.

Timothy Craig | Al

TIMOTHY CRAIG is a Southern artist based in Brooklyn. He became enthralled with performance in his youth and it has led to a lifetime of storytelling. He received his B.A. in his hometown at the University of Alabama at Birmingham where he was able to absorb many aspects of training and studying. He is a Producing Ensemble member of the Black Revolutionary Theatre Workshop. Timothy has appeared in the various Off-Broadway Productions such as Fabulation, A Street Scene, Paiseiu, Good Men Wanted, Romeo and Juliet. You can find him Deep in Warrior 2 on a Brooklyn Roof or Roaming the Historic Harlem streets guided by Prince Miles and King Ayers.



Jeremy Goren | Director

JEREMY GOREN (DIRECTION) is a multidisciplinary performing artist, primarily in devised works, with a focus on experimental, socially engaged performances, generally in non-theatre spaces. Formerly a longtime collaborator with Terra Incognita Theater and the U.S.-based projects of The Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards, Jeremy works as a lead/collaborating artist in Wistaria Project and with other artists and organizations. An educator both in arts and academics, Jeremy has facilitated performance and writing projects with youth and adults over many years, including 5 years creating, administrating, teaching, and mentoring Brooklyn youth in arts/academics/social justice programs through The Brooklyn College Community Partnership.

Niki Athanasiadou

NIKI ATHANASIADOU, MRes, PhD, is a New York-based data scientist with a background in computational molecular biology working in developing artificial intelligence solutions for healthcare. Niki's research in molecular biology and data science has received multiple awards and is published in top peer-reviewed journals. She is an experienced international speaker and has authored several articles for the general public on the capabilities and limitations of cutting-edge technologies."





Saviana Stanescu

SAVIANA STANESCU is a cutting-edge award-winning Romanian-born 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; 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

Panelists



Massimo Pigliucci

MASSIMO PIGLIUCCI is a Professor of Philosophy at the City College of New York, former co-host of the *Rationally Speaking* Podcast, and former editor in chief for the online magazine *Scientia Salon*. He is a critic of pseudoscience and creationism, and an advocate for secularism and science education.

Suzanne Dikker

SUZANNE DIKKER work merges cognitive neuroscience, performance art and education. She uses a 'crowdsourcing' neuroscience approach to bring human brain and behavior research out of the lab, into real-world, everyday situations, with the goal to characterize the brain basis of dynamic human social communication. As a senior research scientist at the Max Planck – NYU Center for Language, Music and Emotion (CLaME), affiliate research scientist at the Department of Clinical Psychology at VU Amsterdam, and member of the art/science collective OOSTRIK + DIKKER, Suzanne leads various research projects, including MindHive, a citizen science platform that supports community-based initiatives and student-teacher-scientist partnerships for human brain and behavior research.





Sara Wentworth

SARA WENTWORTH holds a Ph.D. in Digital Art from the School of Music and Theater at UCC, Ireland and lives/works in Brooklyn, NY. Drawing from her work in interactive installations and multimedia theater systems as well as a love of collage and stringed instruments, she continues to glue disparate elements together with code hoping to either make sense of the chaos or give into the madness. In her current solo project, classical music meets the avant-garde via misused DJ tools.

About Festival

The Science in Theatre Festival is a three-day women-driven festival in residency with Nancy Manocherian's the cell theatre that will take place on November 12-14. The event features science-infused plays, discussion panels, and an exhibit of theatre technologies. More at <https://www.transformatheatre.com/festival/>

Science in Theatre Festival's goal is to align forms of theater with current scientific research in neuroscience, artificial intelligence and epigenetics, and communicate this knowledge of technological possibilities to audiences through innovative storytelling. Each night will feature a fully staged theatrical work, followed by presentations and panels consisting of scientists and artists. During the day, different innovation technology brands will present their latest multi-purposed inventions such as haptics, EEG devices, and wearables.

The Science in Theatre Festival is produced by Transforma Theatre, a New York based not-for-profit with a mission to create interactive theatrical experiences at the nexus of consciousness, science and ritual. More at <https://www.transformatheatre.com/>

About Transforma Theatre

Transforma Theatre is pioneering a new form of theatrical expression and developing a close community of artists and scientists.

Founding Members of TRANSFORMA THEATRE:
Jacob Sebag, Natalie Kacinik, Tjaša Ferme



Special thanks

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Nancy Manocherian's the cell theatre and the whole team: Nancy Manocherian, Kira Simring, Brian Reager, Jonah Levy, and Ricardo Romaneiro. The Cell's mission is to curate, incubate and develop new works in the arts.



Camp David and Ashley Roberts

Team

- Founder and Creative Director: Tjaša Ferme
- Co-founder and Marketing director: Irina Nazarova
- Set and Costume Design: Tsui C Wang
- Light Designer: Matt Lazarus
- Sound Design and Composition: Justin Mathews
- Videography: Darpan Joshi
- Stage Manager: Terysa Malootian
- PR by Victoria Zavyalova, CEO/Founder, V Startup Agency
- Marketing Team: Sakshi Bharwani, Rohit Fernandez, Svetlana Semenova, Alex Webster

Sponsors

