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nttps://doi.org/10.1017/S1054204323000369

Special Issue Guest Edited by

Catie Cuan, Douglas Eacho & Sydney Skybetter



TDR is scholarly, accessible, and dynamic. TDR is inclusive and interdisciplinary. Each article is tightly focused—but taken as a whole TDR is global. With its broad range of topics, TDR is at the cutting edge of performance studies. Its writers and editors support progressive political and social movements, art and ideas. Written by and for scholars and artists—and their students—TDR is where leaders and future leaders in the field of performance studies go for performance texts, performative writing, editorials, reviews, interviews, and research articles about the performing arts, performance in everyday life, popular entertainments, sports, business, and politics—the broad spectrum of performance.

Editorial Office: TDR, Center for Research & Study, Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, 721 Broadway, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10003, email: tdr@nyu.edu.

Instructions for Contributors: Information about manuscript submissions can be found at https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/the-drama-review/information/instructions-contributors.

Abstracting and Indexing Information: Please visit https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/the-drama-review.

Subscription Information: TDR (ISSN 1054-2043 E-ISSN 1531-4715) is published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) by Cambridge University Press, 1 Liberty Plaza, New York, NY 10006, USA on behalf of the Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to TDR, Cambridge University Press, 1 Liberty Plaza, New York, NY 10006, USA.

The institutional subscription price for Volume 68 (2024), including delivery by air where appropriate (but excluding VAT), is \$312.00 (£258.00) for print and electronic or \$264.00 (£217.00) for electronic only. Orders, which must be accompanied by payment, may be sent to a bookseller, subscription agent or direct to the publisher: Cambridge University Press, Journals Fulfillment Department, 1 Liberty Plaza, New York, NY, 10006, USA; or Cambridge University Press, UPH, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8RU, England. For single back issues, please contact subscriptions_newyork@cambridge.org. More information about subscription rates, including individual and student subscription prices, can be found at: https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/the-drama-review/subscribe.

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This publication is made possible, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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the journal of performance studies

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Above: Promotional image of the Q-File in use. Detail from the Thorn Q-File brochure (1969). See "In Memory of the Q-File: Spontaneity, Digital Automation, and Deskilling in Theatre Lighting" by Martin Young.

Front Cover: Trevor Paglen, From "Apple" to "Anomaly," installation view, Barbican Art Gallery, 2019. See "Training Humans Not Machines: Artificial Intelligence and the Performance Culture of Its Critique" by Lisa Moravec. (Photo © Max Colson)

Back Cover: Lucinda Childs walking, pulling a heavy hemp rope across the stage in Robert Wilson's Bach 6 Solo, 2021. See "Presence and Physiovalence: Artful Resistance against the Neoliberal Digitization of Our Lives" by Ken Ueno. (Photo by Lucie Jansch; courtesy of the Robert Wilson Archives)



ין	ROVOCATION
	Aesthetics and their Aftermath
	Maxe Crandall
	A reflection on writing and codirecting <i>Together Men Make Paradigms</i> , a trans and queer experimental play.
	Maxe Crandall (Stanford University) is Associate Director of Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. He is a poet, playwright, and director interested in cross-disciplinary, community-centered performance. His book <i>The Nancy Reagan Collection</i> (2020) proposes the genre of the performance novel as an experiment in textuality, liveness, and audience. He has produced plays at venues including Dixon Place, the Leather Archives & Museum, the Baltimore Museum of Art, and The Stud, and received fellowships and support from MacDowell, The Poetry Project, Lambda Literary, and Onassis USA. beautifulmomentspopularculture.com
Ι	TDR Comment
	Art in and for a Democracy
	Dudley Cocke
5	pecial Issue
5	till Exhausted: Labor, Digital Technologies, and the Performing Arts
	Still Exhausted: Introduction
	Catie Cuan, Douglas Eacho, and Sydney Skybetter
	The Work of Art in the Age of Digital Commodification: The Digital Political Economy of the Performing Arts
	Sam Gill and Annie Dorsen
	Digitization is taking over every sphere of life—including the arts. Through the process of digital commodity fetishism, major technology companies threaten to efface the very qualities that make creative expression—particularly the performing arts—distinct and meaningful. By examining the basic mechanisms of the "creator economy," an invisible digital politics can be excavated, confronted, and resisted—in the arts and beyond.
	Training Humans Not Machines: Artificial Intelligence and the Performance Culture of Its Critique
	Lisa Moravec
	In the 21st century, the performance culture of critique has transformed with the increasing implementation of AI technologies upon which the operative functions of data capitalism are built. Operating within the performance-based culture industry, the works of Trevor Paglen, Gerald Nestler/Sylvia Eckermann, and Vladan Joler respond critically to data capitalism's modes of data extraction and how the societal performances of capitalism condition people's physical and digital performances.

Performing AI: Labor and Complexity on the Contemporary Stage
Marc-André Cossette and Chris Salter
"Performing AI" raises new questions about creative labor. Might the mathematical entities called neural networks that constitute much contemporary AI research be expressive and "perform," thus leveling the playing field between human beings and nonhuman machines? What human societal models do neural networks enact? What bodily, mental, and affective work is required to integrate neural networks into the profoundly anthropocentric domain of the performing arts?
What Other Movement Is There?: Rethinking Human-Robot Interaction through the Lens of Dance Performance
Kate Maguire-Rosier, Naoko Abe, and Fiona Andreallo
The way robots move often evokes horror. Dance—as an embodied, movement-based art form open to possibility—can expand motion-based Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) beyond popular approaches based on anthropomorphism and late-capitalist efficiency. The "super-machinic" robotic system coopts human-centered movement and perpetuates neoliberal capitalist agendas. Dance offers a provocation for HRI and an invitation to reimagine how we move.
Live Notation for Patterns of Movement
Alex McLean and Kate Sicchio
If computer programming languages can be used to control the movement of robots, they can therefore be used as choreographic notations. Weaving, dance, and musical forms can be taken as places of inspiration for this, bringing together patterns, computation, movement, and notation in live telematic performance involving live coding of both audience and robots.
The Human Labor of Digital Humanities: A Note from the Trenches of Fabula(b) Theatre + New Media Lab
E.B. Hunter
At the institutional and individual level, interest is growing in theatre and performance studies digital humanities (DH) projects. Too often, this interest fizzles out in the leap from digital imaginings to production timelines that real people must execute (with real budgets). A thorough understanding of the labor structures that drive such projects is necessary in developing realistic, sustainable models of DH work.
Presence and Physiovalence: Artful Resistance against the Neoliberal Digitization of Our Lives
Ken Ueno
The tendency to reduce the movements of performers in media art to data results in a flattening of identities and makes the performers' essence seemingly insignificant. Two case studies showcase what might be lost through datafication, even as they resist it: Lucinda Childs "walking" in <i>Bach 6 Solo</i> by Robert Wilson, and Michael Jackson standing still at the start of his 1993 Super Bowl Halftime show. The desire to detach the body from aesthetic significance can be traced back to America's historical racism.
I Become a Pattern
Lisa Talia Moretti
A poetic provocation that considers the embodied tone and feel of humans contra machines.

In Memory of the Q-File: Spontaneity, Digital Automation, and Deskilling in Theatre Lighting
Martin Young
Discussion of "digital performance" is preoccupied with themes of fluidity, variation, ambiguity, and resistance to rigid categorization. And yet these themes correspond more closely to analog principles. The digital ethos indicates regularity, precision, and the elimination of ambivalence. The rationalized industrial practices of stage management, blocking and, in particular, lighting cues prioritize the precisely timed and accurate reproduction of stage images through the instant recall of digital memory.
The "Joy Hook," "Weird Feedback Loops," "Quick Hit Pieces," and "Usefulness": Covering Digital Dance in Digital Journalism
Alexandra Harlig in conversation with Makeda Easter and Margaret Fuhrer
While dance has captured attention across platforms and media, remuneration is constrained by copyright issues, a devaluation of dance as a product, and racism. Media coverage of economic, labor, and crediting concerns in popular dance is a critical part of the circuit of creation, discourse, and culture-shifts in online dance. Coverage has an important role in an age of online organizing and the exposure economy, while it simultaneously extracts value from the creators being covered.
Mobilizing Workers Poetry: A Pedagogical Journal
Ilinca Todorut
Under lockdown in a boarding school in China, students staged a performance based on poetry written by Chinese migrant workers. The poems guided an exploration of biotechnical interdependencies in and between local and global environments and the composition of the resistance script and movement score of laboring bodies embedded in the poems.
Concerning Books
Mobilizing and Sustaining Affect: Collective Awareness as Leverage for Social Change
Ana Pais
The world is going through processes of change that emphasize the role of affect in fueling political mobilization and collective protest. Distinctive geopolitical affects emerge in different territories: Can affect both perform and sustain social change?
TDR Continued
Go to https://doi.org/10.1017/S1054204323000606
Breathing Down My Neck: Nonfiction Gone Wrong
a video by Lisa Müller-Trede
In this digital video supplement to the issue, Lisa Müller-Trede restages a 2022 performance in which she hired an actor to deliver her talk and then interrupted "her" talk at a conference on affective computing—an event that bursts open the academic norms that forbid consideration of the violent uses to which AI research, especially when connected to human bodies, can lend itself.