



VISIONS OF THE FUTURE

Futurism, Automation, AI, and the coming Singularity

In 1993, computer scientist and science fiction author Vernor Vinge introduced the idea of the singularity, a coming, as-yet-unknown technological advancement so dramatic that it renders the world before obsolete. In his words, the singularity is "a moment where our old models must be discarded and a new reality rules." Vinge's singularity model provides a helpful framework through which to approach *.dot: a RotoPlastic Ballet*, and some of the societal trends that inspire it.

It doesn't take a lot of speculation to see how rapid technological growth is having a dramatic effect on the world. Stephen Hawking points at both Brexit and last year's election as examples, citing how rapid automation of factories over the past 20 years is changing the shape of the labor force as a major factor in both votes. That change doesn't show any sign of slowing down either; IT research and advisory firm Gartner predicts up to one-third of jobs will be replaced by some form of automation by 2025. It's worth noting this is a very pessimistic view of our possible future, and one based entirely on an understanding of the currently-available technology. From a singularity perspective, it's incredibly difficult to say what kind of advancement might come into play and make our current paradigm irrelevant. One commonly-discussed option, true AI, could be closer than many think. At the 2012 Singularity Conference, a general survey of predictions regarding the emergence of a true AI resulted in an average date of 2040.

This is all speculation of course, but speculation is at the heart of any science fiction and *.dot* is no different. As Pointless Theatre's first foray into the future, it seems fitting that this production explore some of the possibilities of a coming singularity through aesthetics born of a previous one – the Futurist painting and sculpture of Fortunato Depero in reaction to the Industrial Revolution, but also the toy theatre style of puppetry, which dates back to England around the same time. Science fiction since its inception has rearranged the building blocks of the past and present to create new visions of the future, and *.dot* is Pointless Theatre's first attempt to do the same.

Alex Leidy

-Production Dramaturg

.dOt:: a RotoPlastic Ballet

Original story by Navid Azeez*, Aaron Bliden*, Patti Kalil*, Matt Reckeweg*

Inspired by the visual world of Fortunato Depero

NAVID AZEEZ* NAVI/Music Director/Lyrics/Composition

MIKE WINCH^ Sound Design/Composition

AARON BLIDEN* Olive Text

MATT RECKEWEG* Director/Set Design

PATTI KALIL* Puppet Design

FRANK LABOVITZ* Costume Design

E-HUI WOO Lighting Design

LAUREN JOY Projection Design

ALEX LEIDY* Dramaturg

NICK WILBY^, MIKE WINCH^ Musicians

RACHEL MENYUK* Voice of Olive

Puppeteers REBECCA BALLINGER, FRANK CEVARICH*,

MADELINE KEY^ SADIE LEIGH*, SYDNEY LO, MATT

SPARACINO^ MATT STROTE, SCOTT WHALEN*

CLAIRE ANIELA + SARAH WILBY* Understudies

JOSIE FELT* Production Stage Manager

HAYDEN MORRISSETT Assistant Stage Manager

*Company Member

^Artistic Associate

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SPECIAL THANKS

CulturalDC, Jennifer Osborn.

Brick Hill Properties, Steve Cosby, Renegade Productions

SCENES & SONGS

001... The System
"Good Morning System"

002... The Update
"These Models"

003... The Junkyard
"Junky Bug Out"

004... The Factory
"goto BACKUP"

005... The Offices
"Lay/off"

006... The Firewall
"Denial-Of-Service"

007... The Underflow
"Stage One"

008... The Motherboard
"The Turning Test"

Afterward

SPECIAL THANKS

To the 2016-2017 Members of Team Pointless

BERSERK

Lisa Carr
Leonard Frenkil &
Julia Davis
Laura Gross
Maria Marques
Victor Shargai

ABSURD

Janet Barlett
Melanie & James
Douglass
Katie Golden
Vickie & Paul Olson
Steven Stitche
Joanne & Mark
Whalen
Douglas Wilson
Jonathan Zuker

CRAZY

Edna Hirsch Bliden
Julianne Brienza
Cadie Chea
Henry Crawford
Cory Frank
Ed Gramlich
Joan & Jeffrey
Hamilton
David Kreibis
Peter Loge
Pete Miller
Tom Mounteer
Mayfield Piper
Jonah Richmond
Kendra Rivera
Catherine Schuler
Allan Stevens
Peggy Whalen
Greg & Cindy Wilby
Ryan Wilby

SILLY

Suzanne Barron
Ann Bent
Alison Beyrle
Elizabeth Carter
Ann Chismar
Todd Johanesen & Damon
Chizmar
Tara Cox
John Driscoll
Thomas Holzman & Alison
Drucker
Zachary Fernebok
Erin Fulham
Hannah Hessel
Bill Huff
Eileen Keefe
David Kessler
Lisa Kokoszka
Traute & James Langmesser
James Murphy
Michael Nehmer
Caroline Nichols
Susan S Norwitch
Kristin Pilgrim
Kipp Rhoads
Korey Rothman
Irving & Juliet Sablosky
Lasa Saks
Julian Schmitz
Janice Smart
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Carol Spring
Joshua Steen
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David & Karen Van Wyck
Joshua Weiner
Laura Wood
Bridget Woodbury

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Terence Winch & Susan
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Margaret & Frank
Cervarich
Frank Cevarich
Annie Choudhury
Rose Ann Cleveland
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David & Katrina Grusell
Juanita Hardy
Carol & Tim Herder
Robert Horton & Elisabeth
Kaplan
James Keegan
Noah Langer
Terry & Joseph Mauceri
Laura Menyuk
Donna Ari & Ewing Miller
Andrea Moore
Rosa Moudene
Carl Nash
Patrice & Pasky Pascual
Gary & Anna Maria
Richmond
Claire Schwartz Menyuk
Katharine Smith
John & Brenda Sparacino
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serving the Washington D.C. metropolitan area, and a proud member of
theatreWashington & Puppeteers of America

WHO'S WHO

CLAIRE ANIELA (Understudy) Pointless Premiere! Other Credits: *Petrushka* (The Ballerina/HalfMad Theatre), *Girl in the Red Corner* (ASM/ The Welders), *Double X* (Vanilla/ S. Ann Johnson). She apologizes to her family, friends, and the entire cast and crew for being a morning person. We all know that's annoying.

REBECCA BALLINGER (Puppeteer) Previous Pointless Credits: *Gimme a Band*, *Gimme a Banana: The Carmen Miranda Story* (nightclub singer), *Mark Twain's Riverboat Extravaganza* (Becky Thatcher), *Imagination Meltdown Adventure* (Amy). Other Credits: *Normal/Magic* (Harper, Lily/ Atlas Intersections Festival), *Coping* (Sarah/ Capital Fringe), *Witches of Eastwick* (Sukie/ Limerick, Ireland). Rebecca is a teaching artist with Adventure Theatre MTC and development assistant at Young Playwrights' Theater. RebeccaBallinger.com

FRANK CEVARICH (Puppeteer) Select Pointless Credits: *Hugo Ball: a Dada Puppet Adventure* (Ensemble), *A Very Pointless Holiday Spectacular* (Director), *Doctor Caligari* (Francis), *Imagination Meltdown Adventure* (Writer), and *The Solar System Show* (Dr. Canterbury Osmand, co-creator). Frank is proud to

serve as the Deputy Director for Young Playwrights' Theater, the only professional theater in Washington, DC dedicated entirely to arts education. TAX THE ROBOTS.

MADELINE KEY (Puppeteer) Select Pointless Credits: *Hugo Ball* (Ensemble), *Doctor Caligari* (Ensemble), *Minnie the Moocher* (Minnie). Other Credits: *Heroes vs. Monsters*, *Oregon Trail* (Flying V); *Mother Earth and Me* (Discovery Theater). BA from the School of Theatre and Dance at University of Maryland College Park and proud alumni of Erasable Inc. Submit to the current.

SADIE LEIGH (Puppeteer) Select Pointless Credits: *Hugo Ball* (Ensemble), *Minnie the Moocher* (Dancer), *Doctor Caligari* (Movement Consultant). Other Dance/ Choreography Credits: *NOW* (Contradiction Dance); *Skirt the Wall* (Heart Stück Bernie), *Precious Moment* (Kitchen Sink Festival). Sadie can also be found leading yoga classes in studios, office buildings, schools, and parks throughout the district.

SYDNEY LO (Puppeteer) Pointless Credits: *King Ubu* (U/S All Women, perf. Bordure/ Ensemble). Other Credits: *By the Seashore* (Puppeteer/ Arts on the Horizon, July 2017); *Cymbeline*, *Romeo and Juliet*

(Virginia Shakespeare Festival). Rising MFA Acting candidate, Southern Methodist University 2020.

MATTHEW SPARACINO (Puppeteer) Select Pointless Credits: *Hugo Ball* (Ensemble), *A Very Pointless Holiday Spectacular* (Robin/ Dick), *Doctor Caligari* (Alan), *Canterbury* (The Knight), *Imagination Meltdown Adventure* (Astaroth). Outside of Pointless, Matt most recently appeared at the Kennedy Center in a series of staged readings as in collaboration between Theater Alliance and the Planet Earth Arts New Play Festival. Other Credits: *Six Degrees of Separation* (Keegan Theatre), *Lobby Hero* (1st Stage), Studio Theatre, Chesapeake Shakespeare, the Source Festival, and others.

MATT STROTE (Puppeteer) Pointless Credits: *Half Hangit Maggie* (Ensemble), *Famous Birds* (Scout). BA Theatre, BA English University of Maryland. Chances are often fairly high that Matt is off somewhere being sarcastic to the children that he is attempting to teach.

SCOTT WHALEN (Puppeteer) Pointless Credits: *King Ubu*, *Hugo Ball*, *Gimme a Band*, *Gimme a Banana: The Carmen Miranda Story*, *Doctor Caligari*, *Sleeping Beauty: A Puppet Ballet*, *Minnie the Moocher*, *Canterbury*, *Mark*

Twain's Riverboat Extravaganza, *Imagination Meltdown Adventure*, *The Solar System Show*, *Nom Noms* (workshop series). BA in Theatre, University of Maryland.

SARAH WILBY (Understudy) Select Pointless Credits: *King Ubu* (Wenceslas/ Lasky), *Hugo Ball* (Ensemble) *Gimme a Band*, *Gimme a Banana: The Carmen Miranda Story* (Voiceover), *Doctor Caligari* (ASM). Other SM Credits: *Five Little Monkeys* (ASM/ Adventure Theatre-MTC, National Tour); *Please Listen: A Musical Chaos* (PSM/ Open Drawer Theatre Company, World Premiere).

NICK WILBY (Musician) Pointless Credits: *A Very Pointless Holiday Spectacular* (Guitarist) *Minnie the Moocher* (Banjo/ Music Director) Other: Guitarist for D.C. Based psychedelic punk hop band Picnibus, guitarist for the secret monkey social club band. Music instructor at D.C.'s music on the hill.

NAVID AZEEZ (NAVI/ Music Director/ Lyrics/ Composition/ Story) Navid is a Sri Lankan-American nerDCore hip hop performer, producer, writer, graphic designer, and visual artist. Select Pointless Credits: *Doctor Caligari* (Lighting), *A Very Pointless Holiday Spectacular* (Music

Director, Writer), *Minnie the Moocher* (Lighting). Navid performs with the psychedelic punk hop band Picnibus, is all about Instagram (@YourLocalNavi), and really wants to be on Jeopardy one day.

AARON BLIDEN (Olive Text/ Story) Select Pointless Credits: *Hugo Ball* (Composer/ Music Director), *A Very Pointless Holiday Spectacular* (Composer/ Band Leader), *Minnie the Moocher* (Singer/ Bandleader), *Imagination Meltdown Adventure* (Writer/ Composer), *The Solar System Show* (Composer). Other Composition/ Music Credits: *Glassheart* (Rorschach Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (University of Maryland), *Please Listen: A Musical Chaos* (Capital Fringe), *Go to Hell, Eugene!* (Capital Fringe). Aaron is the bandleader for the sometimes-monthly cabaret series Secret Monkey Social Club. He is a founding member of Pointless Theatre and Flying V.

JOSIE FELT (Production Stage Manager) is thrilled to be embarking on another puppet spectacular! Select Pointless Credits: *King Ubu* (PSM), *Hugo Ball* (PSM), *Minnie the Moocher* (ASM). Other Select Credits: *Love and Information* (A.C.T.), *A Christmas Carol* (A.C.T.), *Satchmo at the Waldorf* (Mosaic Theatre). Josie is a proud

graduate of the stage management program at the University of Maryland.

LAUREN JOY (Projections Designer) Pointless Credits: *Imagination Meltdown Adventure* (ASM), *A Very Pointless Holiday Spectacular* (SM). Other Projection Design Credits: *Looking for Roberto Clemente* (Imagination Stage), *War With the Newts* (Georgetown University), and *Women Laughing Along With Salad* (Woolly Mammoth Theatre). She is so excited Pointless is finally letting her projectile video all over the place.

PATTI KALIL (Puppet Designer / Story) Select Pointless Credits: *King Ubu* (Puppets), *Gimme a Band*, *Gimme a Banana! The Carmen Miranda Story* (Co-Playwright, Set/ Puppets), *Hugo Ball* (Set/ Puppets), *Doctor Caligari* (Set/ Helen Hayes Nomination). Other Credits: *Where Words Once Were* (Props/ Kennedy Center-TYA), *Dante's Infero* (Props/ Synetic Theatre), *brownsville* song (Props/ Theatre Alliance). Patti holds an MFA in Studio Art from MICA, and a BA in Theatre from the University of Maryland, College Park.

FRANK LABOVITZ (Costume Designer) Pointless Credits: *King Ubu* (Director), *Gimme a Band*, *Gimme a Banana: The Carmen*

Miranda Story, *Doctor Caligari*, *Sleeping Beauty: A Puppet Ballet*, and *Mark Twain's Riverboat Extravaganza* (Costumes). Other Credits: Signature Theatre, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Roundhouse Theatre, The Studio Theatre, The Studio Theatre 2nd Stage, Forum Theatre, No Rules Theatre Company, Theater J, Metrostage, Imagination Stage, Adventure Theatre. He received the 2013 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Costume Design for his work on *Dreamgirls* (Signature Theatre), and received his MFA in design from The University of Maryland (which might explain how he got dragged into all this Pointlessness...)

ALEX LEIDY (Dramaturg) Select Pointless Credits: *Minnie the Moocher*, *Canterbury*, *Mark Twain's Riverboat Extravaganza* (Dramaturgy), *Imagination Meltdown Adventure* (Co Playwright).

RACHEL MENYUK (Voice of Olive) Select Pointless Credits: *King Ubu* (Puppet Design) *Hugo Ball* (Assistant Director), *A Very Pointless Holiday Spectacular* (Puppet Design), *Doctor Caligari* (Jane). Rachel has worked with Live Action Theatre, Wits End Puppets, and PARC (Performing Arts Repertory Company) among other DC area companies.

HAYDEN MORRISSETT (ASM) Pointless Credits: *King Ubu* (ASM). Other Credits: *Our Town* (SM/ Annapolis Shakespeare Company), *Side Show* (PA/ The Kennedy Center). She would like to thank her dog, Denver, for continuing to dazzle the world with his brilliance, thank you!

MATT RECKEWEG (Director/ Set Designer/ Story) Select Pointless Credits: *Hugo Ball* (Director), *Doctor Caligari* (Director), *A Very Pointless Holiday Spectacular* (Choreographer), *Sleeping Beauty: A Puppet Ballet* (Director), *Minnie the Moocher* (Director), *Canterbury* (Director), *Imagination Meltdown Adventure* (Art Director), and *The Solar System Show* (Sparko/ Puppet Designer). In addition to Pointless, Matt works in Community Engagement at Arena Stage as the Community Programs Coordinator. He studied Theatre at the University of Maryland, College Park where he was a proud member of Erasable Inc.

MICHAEL WINCH (Sound Design/ Composition/ Musician) Select Pointless Credits: *Doctor Caligari* (Musician/ Composer), *Hugo Ball* (Sound Design), *King Ubu* (Musician/ Composer). Other Composition/ Music Credits: *Wild Sky* (Solas Nua). Michael is assistant director of the children's' fiddle group, The Bog Band.



Pointless Theatre Co. is dedicated to creating bold, visceral, and affordable spectacles that gleefully smash the traditional boundaries between puppetry, theatre, dance, music, and the visual arts. Through our work we excite a passion for adventurous art in the nation's capital and nurture a diverse, active, and inspired audience.

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JOSIE FELT, Resident Stage Manager

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