Casting Notice

The MIT List Visual Arts Center and The MIT Community Players are seeking actors to participate in a new theater production that will be filmed and shown as part of a museum exhibition in early 2007. This will be both a play and a conceptual artwork by the artist Christian Jankowski. There are some unusual requirements that make this an ideal project for the adventurous performer.

For this new play, *Let’s Get Physical, (Digital)* Jankowski will be restaging one of his celebrated video art works as a stage play. We are seeking eight actors to perform a series of love dialogues. Each selected actor will then select someone they actually love in real life, but not necessarily a romantic partner.

The dialogue for *Let’s Get Physical (Digital)* is a transcript of the actual conversations the artist had with his then girlfriend in Internet chat-rooms in the early nineties. Chat-rooms were a new form of communication at that time and required some imagination on the part of the young lovers to make them into romantic meeting places. They fantasize together the idyllic places where they could be together and yet their language betrays that they are far apart, as he was in Sweden, she in Italy. When acted on stage by actors in love and in close physical proximity, their language reveals the lover’s anxiety about the intimacy of cyberspace.

As per the Internet motif in the work the casting process will be entirely via the Internet, and actors interested will be sent the script via E-mail, and will then be asked to provide a short video audition tape answering a list of questions from the artist. We will also help facilitate the process, providing a location on the MIT Campus where your audition can be filmed and uploaded during two after work sessions in early November. The artist will then select the actors via their audition tapes viewed by him on the web. He seeks a diverse group of actors to embody “Christian” and “Una” in terms of looks, age and gender, and he encourage all types to apply.

The script has a running time of about an hour. The artist intends to add a postscript in which he and Una meet again now ten years later in a chat room as a fascinating coda to a story of young love.

The piece will be staged by MIT Community Players and performed for three nights at MIT’s little Kresge Theater – December 14-16 2006, and then reprised in the MIT List center’s gallery space during the opening weekend of the exhibition, February 8th 2007. The artist hopes to later bring this production for performances in New York during 2007. We request that actors be willing to have their performances videotaped and that video will be on view at the List Center from February through April 8th.
will continue to be shown in galleries and museums as an artwork by Christian Jankowski, and as he is very successful your performance will likely be shown world wide.

**Background Information**

In the fall of 2005 The List Visual Arts Center hosted the first retrospective of Christian Jankowski’s work. He had become well-known in the US after his inclusion in the 2001 Whitney Biennial, for his collaboration with a Texas televangelical ministry, *The Holy Artwork*. His method of working always involves collaborating with others from diverse fields, a list that has included TV psychics, Italian and German film companies, merchants, professors, magicians and most recently Hollywood special effects and horror film studios. He uses the visual language, technology, and exhibition form and distribution method of the collaborator.

As part of the upcoming *Sensorium - Part II* exhibition, concerning how new technologies have rewritten the experience of the five human senses, Mr. Jankowski was asked to redo an earlier work called *Let's Get Physical (Digital)*. Instead of merely showing another video the artist reconsidered the importance of the actual corporeal presence of other humans that cyberspace lacks and turned his attention to live theater, an art form that is defined by the performer and audience member sharing a space. That experience altars the way we experience a drama in countless ways from the unintended noises live bodies-in-motion make to the unpredictable nature of the audience member’s undirected gaze. This is a direct corollary to how that true romantic intimacy is lacking cyberspace, as it doesn’t provide the complex multisensory experience of bodily presence. *Let Get Physical (Digital)* will make for a compelling evening of theater, as it is comprised of all love scenes with the nervous passion of new young love, and also make for a powerful conceptual artworks investigating how our new technologies have changed our most intimate relationships.