

FUTURE HOST: A Speech Opera
Knockdown Center
January 20-22, 2017



Knockdown Center is pleased to present *Future Host: A Speech Opera*, a site-specific sound and performance installation and collaboration of artists across disciplines from China and the United States, premiering January 20-22, 2017.

Absent of actors, *Future Host* features digitally mastered speech recordings and live performance of original music, spatialized to activate an ambulatory experience whereby the audience freely inhabits the space of the performance.

Channeling historical patterns of speaking and speech-making via an original text performed by actors in Chinese, *Future Host* consists of a multitude of voices in the form of chorus. Fragmented words and unorthodox verbal expressions are composed into a polyphonic soundscape, where the audience moves freely in the vast, emptied hall of Knockdown Center. Together with live performance of original music, they form a fully sensorial and aleatory experience beyond the limits of comprehension.

Future Host [未来主人] (noun.) is an epithet commonly bestowed to children in officially Socialist states, which posit the youth as the agent, product, and site whereby the future actualizes itself. "Always already be ready," so they're told—a command of absolute urgency and ecstatic optimism.

Has Future Host come to the future? Will the future find a host? How do we host a future as unlivable as the one fast approaching? No matter. On Inauguration Day, Future Host will be crowned with historical insignificance. Theater will be crowned with historical insignificance. But no matter. Future Host is always already ready: to endure the tyranny of political time, to refuse to be taken hostage of the present, to suspend narrative in favor of an average moment of presence.

We come together through Future Host as a moment of our own. We gain strength from a collective human endeavor in theater-making and protest the singularity of the event. We make a monument of fugitive voices that emerge between utmost intimacy and the void. We create space where the minor and the multiple are hosted, literally, by bodies that choose to gather for a period of time.

The where is nowhere else but here, the here is theater that takes place in the future. Come here and be with us. By now. For the future.

*An accompanying program, including translation of the script, will be distributed to accompany performance.

Performance Schedule

Friday, January 20, 2017 – 8:00pm
Saturday, January 21, 2017 – 3:00pm
Sunday, January 22, 2017 – 3:00pm

Performances start promptly at the times listed, and it is recommended you arrive thirty minutes in advance.

Future Host IRL / Bio

Tingying Ma (Playwright/Director) is a New York based bilingual playwright and interdisciplinary theater maker. Her site-specific choreographic piece *Studies* was performed at Nostrand LIRR station, Brooklyn in May 2016. In 2015, the first installment of the Shujin Trilogy: *S/K* was produced at Signature Theatre, NY featuring performance installation and sculptural composition. Other major plays include *Birds* (2011), *Nanny's Umbrella* (2012) and *Alphabetical* (2013). A graduate of Central Academy of Drama in Beijing, China, she is a candidate at Columbia University MFA theatre playwriting program.

Kang Kang (Dramaturg/Co-Producer) is a writer, critic, editor, and translator with an expanded artistic and curatorial practice. She has contributed to *The Brooklyn Rail*, *LEAP Magazine*, *Yishu: Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art*, *ArtReview Asia*, among other publications. As dramaturg, she formed the Future Host ensemble with Tingying Ma and collaborated on a number of projects, including *Studies* and *Future Host*. She holds a B.A. in Comparative Literature & Society from Columbia University.

Maya Yu Zhang (Producer) is a filmmaker whose works explore the web of human relations prompted by languages, histories, and clichés. A graduate of Bryn Mawr College, Maya is currently a collaborative studio fellow at UnionDocs. Her films have been shown at Black Maria Film Festival, Milwaukee Underground Film Festival, Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia and Anthology Film Archive.

Kamron Saniee (Spatial Sound Composition) is an electronic musician and producer based in New York. He graduated summa cum laude in mathematics from Princeton University in 2013, having previously trained as a classical violinist with master pedagogues Cyrus Forough and Shirley Givens, with additional studies in

composition and performance at Mannes Conservatory pre-college. He has presented his electronic compositions and techno live sets in clubs and on the radio, and performed his multichannel spatial sound works in galleries in New York and Berlin. Recent collaborations include those with András Böröcz, providing a spatial soundtrack to the artist's light-sculpture performance after László Moholy-Nagy, and with Lybes Dimem and Maxim Wolzyn at the Spatial Sound Institute in Budapest. He joined the organization of the CT::SWaM experimental concert series end of last year, contributing to the concert programming as well as to the collective's radio show on Clocktower Radio, "Broadband Echos". This fall he attended Red Bull Music Academy 2016 in Montréal as one of 40 young producers selected internationally for the yearly academy. <http://soundcloud.com/kamron-sanjee> <http://superstitial.is>.

C. Spencer Yeh (Composer) was born in 1975 in Taipei, Taiwan. In 2009, Yeh's first solo exhibition, *Standard Definition*, was presented at the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati. Yeh has toured and performed widely, and has recently presented work at the 2014 Liverpool Biennial; the Contemporary Art Museum, Houston; the Pérez Art Museum, Miami; the Kinomuzeum at the Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw; the Kunsthalle Stavanger, Norway; and in New York City at The Stone; The Kitchen; and ISSUE Project Room, among many other performances and presentations. He collaborated with Triple Canopy for the 2014 Whitney Biennial. In Fall 2014, Yeh was featured in a *Modern Mondays* at the Museum of Modern Art, NY. Recent recorded works include *Ambient*, with Robert Piotrowicz, 1975 (as C. Spencer Yeh), *Transitions* (as CS Yeh), and *Wake Up Awesome*, with Okkyung Lee and Lasse Marhaug. Yeh volunteers as a programmer and trailer editor for Spectacle Theater in Brooklyn, and co-organized Spectacle's participation in NYC Makers: The MAD Biennial (2014), at the Museum of Arts and Design. He is a contributing editor to BOMB magazine. Yeh is a 2015 Artist-in-Residence at ISSUE Project Room, Brooklyn. Yeh lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

About Knockdown Center

Featuring programming of diverse formats and media, Knockdown Center aims to create a radically cross-disciplinary environment. The particularity of our architectural environment and history leads us to gravitate toward projects that demonstrate a sensitive reactivity to site and environment. Visit our website, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

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