

The Public Theater/Under the Radar Festival at City Tech

Proposal for Fall 2015 collaboration between Royal Osiris Karaoke Ensemble and City Tech students

Genesis

Dr. Christopher Swift and the Public Theater's Andrew Kirscher are scholars and researchers in the area of performance technology. Chris and Andrew recently presented papers on a panel together at the American Society for Theatre Research conference and Andrew has provided tours of the Public Theater for Chris' City Tech students. Recently, the two expressed mutual interest in facilitating collaborations between emerging professional artists and students of performance technology. The Public's *Under the Radar Festival* – a theatre festival that pushes at the limits of technological experimentation, theatrical form, and multi-media artistry – offers an ideal platform for a proof-of-concept collaboration between City Tech and the Public Theater. Andrew presented the idea of an artists' residency at City Tech during the Fall semester of 2015 in preparation for the *Under the Radar Festival* in January 2016. The residency would allow one of the featured theater companies in the festival—Royal Osiris Karaoke Ensemble—an environment in which to collaborate with students.

Description

Royal Osiris Karaoke Ensemble (Sean McElroy and Tei Blow - ROKE) will be premiering *The Art of Luv, Part 1: Elliot* as a featured event of the *Under the Radar Festival* at the Public Theater in January 2016. While in residence at City Tech, ROKE will develop and build individual audio/video components that will be incorporated into the final theatrical piece. The collaboration during the Fall semester is designed to fulfill the artistic, pedagogical, and professional goals of both City Tech and Public Theater communities. ROKE is interested in developing material in a college community and with students of entertainment technology and theater in a laboratory-focused manner. The Humanities Department is interested in establishing a long-term relationship with one of the most important non-profit theaters in the United States in order to support the theater curriculum and future interdisciplinary and project-based programs at City Tech. Meetings and conversations between the Public Theatre and Entertainment Technology faculty have been positive, each side acknowledging the value of internship and professionalization opportunities for En Tech majors.

Goals

Fall residency of Royal Osiris at City Tech is conceived as a proof of concept project for future collaboration between the College and the Public Theater. The goal for the Fall of 2015 is to engage in a low-stakes project that will give approximately 5 City Tech students an opportunity to work closely with professional writers, composers and performers during the developmental phases of a new theatre piece and through the production phase at the Public Theater. Members of the both communities are excited to use the ROKE project as a prototype to explore the value of a long term relationship that may involve developmental, educational, collaborative, and residency programs. Andrew writes that "we share Entertainment

Technology's feeling that this could be an annual residency, one that brings our first class artists to your first-class training program, and which aligns the missions of two public organizations." Profs. Sue Brandt and John Huntington of Entertainment Technology have expressed strong interest in an educational/professional engagement with the Public Theater in the future, however En Tech's participation in the Fall project will be minimal since the Theatreworks season has already been scheduled. That said, they are willing to help identify students from MTEC (Emerging Media) and/or Video Production that might want to work with ROKE, as well as basic equipment for workshops. Also, if there is a surplus of students enrolled in the Tech Production course (still an unknown) some En Tech majors may be given the opportunity to participate in a focused, creative exploration of theatrical production with an innovative group of artists.

***Under the Radar* provides:**

1. A resident artist whose work will be premiered as a part of the *Under the Radar Festival*. City Tech will receive credit in playbills for their development support.
2. The Resident Artist fee.
3. Internships with the *Under the Radar Festival* for three students. These are highly competitive internships and *Under the Radar* agrees to offer three positions to City Tech students. These internships include professional experience, career meetings, and exposure to international theater, music, and performance.
4. Other engagement opportunities to be designed with the artists.

City Tech provides

1. 3-5 students from Entertainment Technology and New Media. While it would be helpful to have students who are primarily interested in video, audio, and lighting (and the cohort can be a mix of all three), what matters most is that they are hard-working, curious, and amiable. These students will dedicate a number of practicum hours as a service to the residency and that will fulfill credit hours.
2. Access to City Tech video, lighting, and sound editing and computer labs, subject to availability.
3. Faculty scheduling assistance from Dr. Swift.
4. Access to the AG38 studio around classes that are held in that room. Students will know what work is to be done each day (editing, building, recording, rehearsal) and will arrive one hour prior to help set up the video, audio, lighting, and properties. Resident artists require a locked space to store equipment.
5. Use of technical equipment from Entertainment Technology, subject to availability.

PROPOSED CALENDAR

2015

August

- Begin discussions with En Tech and Humanities professors about potential collaborative opportunities, inside classrooms and out
- Define scope of project
- Identify materials
- Secure work space on campus: AG038

September

- Planning meeting with stakeholders
- Devise calendar of principle workshops and events
- Identify student and faculty collaborators
- Set up work area for ROKE in AG038

October

- Educational workshops with students in En Tech and Humanities classes
- Independent laboratory work on the *Art of Luv*.

November

- Workshops and laboratory work continue

December

- Tech rehearsals
- Workshop performances for En Tech and Humanities students
- Load out of City Tech
- Load into Public Theater

2016

January

- Technical rehearsals with students at the Public Theater
- *Under the Radar* performances

PARTICIPANTS

City Tech

Christopher Swift, Assistant Professor, Humanities

David Smith, Dean of the School of Professional Studies

Public Theater

Andrew Kirscher, Associate Producer of Under the Radar Festival

Meiyin Wang, Co-Director of the Under the Radar Festival

Mark Russell, Co-Director of the Under the Radar Festival

Lily Lamb-Atkinson, Devised Theater Initiative Program Assistant

Royal Osiris Karaoke Ensemble

Tei Blow
Sean McElroy
(see attached précis)

Under the Radar Festival

Over the last 11 years, The Public Theater's *Under the Radar Festival* has presented over 181 companies from 39 countries. It has grown into a landmark of the New York City theater season and is a vital part of The Public's mission, providing a high-visibility platform to support artists from diverse backgrounds who are redefining the act of making theater. Widely recognized as a premier launching pad for new and cutting-edge performance from the U.S. and abroad, UTR has presented works by such respected artists as Elevator Repair Service, Nature Theater of Oklahoma, Gob Squad, Belarus Free Theatre, and Young Jean Lee. These artists provide a snapshot of theater today: richly distinct in terms of perspectives, aesthetics, and social practice, and pointing to the future of the art form.

What is *Under the Radar*?: <https://vimeo.com/52261155>

Under the Radar Homepage: <http://www.publictheater.org/en/programs--events/shows/?SiteTheme=UnderTheRadar>

Infographic: <https://prezi.com/fkyvfahr8nul/under-the-radar/>

2015 Festival Site: <https://vimeo.com/113315290>

Royal Osiris Website Gallery: <http://royalosisiris.com/gallery.html>