List of props

- 2 badges
- Ubik: 1 spray, 1 mini-spray, et 1 Elixire de Ubique
- botin de téléphone
- cigarettes
- ordi avec videos
- bottle: "We are alive, you are dead,..."

Script

- explosion video
- Pat: Oh no, it was a trap!
- Joe: Runciter is almost dead, what are we gonna do?
- spaceship_sound

Psy explanation

- put badges off
- Niels: So our main characters fell into a trap, which is going to greatly influence their future.
- Nina: This trap was almost certainly organized by Runciter's worst enemy, Hollis.
- Niels: In the world of Ubik, some people are gifted with some psychological talents such as telepathy (called thelepaths), the power to foresee the future (called precogs), the ability to resurect people from the dead (called resurrectors) and so on. These people are recruted by Hollis to spy on companies or individuals or to interfere with people in a way that is profitable to the person who has paid for the service that Hollis provides.
- Nina: On the other hand, some people have anti-psy abilities. For each psy ability, there is an anti-psy ability: for example, there are anti-telepaths, anti-precogs and so on. The people with these abilities can cancel the powers of the psis. They are recruited by Runciter Associates and companies who think they are spied upon can pay for protection.
- Niels: aspect of book interesting: it means thoughts can be intercepted
  - > no freedom of thought: 1984: thought police.
  - Nina: mass surveillance : in a sense the same idea: intimate parts of our lives observed on the internet as well as before by spies or for example the stasi.
  - Niels: So we see that what was fiction has become real in forms that are maybe a bit less direct than in Ubik.

Ultra capitalism

- insert coin to coninue the presentation : asssets/insert_coin.wav;
- Nina: But I don't have any coin!
- assets/coin_sued.wav
- In Ubik, we see how capitalism could look like at its extreme.

- For the quotes: Niels : Narrator; Nina: Voices
- quote chapter 3, p. 26: (appears in the whole book +-) > The door refused to open. It said, 'Five cents, please.'
- quote chapter 7, p. 62: At Zürich airport > 'One of these days,' Joe said wrathfully, 'people like me will rise up and overthrow you, and the end of tyranny by the homeostatic machine will have arrived. The day of human values and compassion and simple warmth will return, and when that happens someone like myself who has gone through an ordeal and who genuinely needs hot coffee to pick him up and keep him functioning when he has to function will get the hot coffee whether he happens to have a poscred readily available or not.'
  - Vocabulary used turns Joe into a machine : "functioning, function"
- chapter 8, p. 73: In Zürich hotel > Well, he could take an amphetamine instead; the hotel probably provided them free, as a courtesy.
  - strange: the only free thing in the world is a drug that cuts hunger/excites; Maybe response to stressful life (machine-like life)
- chapter 8, p. 77: > 'Isn't Walt Disney's head supposed to be on the fifty-cent piece?' Sammy said. 'Either Disney's,' Al said, 'or if it's an older one, then Fidel Castro's. Let's see it.'
  - Even money is owned by companies like Disney; Fidel Castro is a bit ironic because he was communist.
- chapter 9, p. 82: In Baltimore > The pack of cigarettes slid from the chute and onto the counter. 'Ninety-five cents,' the checker said.
  - Cigarettes are very cheap -> no taxes -> ultra-liberal economy
- chapter 10, p.94: in Joe's conapt > in one respect it had improved – it lacked the coin slot, operating obviously toll-free. This aspect was true of all the appliances"
  - Returns to state of nowadays; maybe a criticism of useless run for progress from the author
- SuvaRisk_coin.mkv => not that far from our reality x)

Time-related events

- put badges on
- Joe: hey, what happened with my cigarettes? They seem to have aged months since the last time I smoked one. Strange... But anyways, we have to call the moratorium in Zurich to announce that we are bringing Runciter.
- Pat: Ok, I'll fetch the telephone book. [searches trough the book] The number is 032 196 92 39.
- Joe: Strange..., the phone doesn't seem to recognize this number. The telephone book must have aged as well.
- put badges off
- many occurences of going back in the past like the cars, elevators, clotted milk, wrong phoone numbers...
- some objects regress
- the limit is 1939
- those events create a weird sensation, the reader is uncomfortable, like Joe.
- There are also unexplicable deaths linked with this decay. The deceased body is all dehydrated, like a very old mummy, so we can presume that it's not just the objects that go back in time.

- It creates a lot of tension. The only way to stop all those events is by using Ubik. Unfortunately, even Ubik goes back in time.
- afficher ubikad1.jpg
- Nina: at some point of book, I had few theories: 2 theories : 1) psy hallucination. never left past 2) 2 realities , bug of timeline because of pat.

Communication between life and half-life

- Hey Nina, I'm a bit bored by this presentation... Don't you want to watch TV instead?
- Yeah..
- pub "interactive" (video)
- Runciter: One invisible puff-puff whisk of economically priced Ubik banishes compulsive obsessive fears that the entire world is turning into clotted milk, worn-out tape recorders and obsolete iron-cage elevators, plus other, further, as-yet-unglimpsed manifestations of decay. You see, world deterioration of this regressive type is a normal experience of many half-lifers, especially in the early stages when ties to the real reality are still very strong.
- [Joe] : But how can that be possible???
- Runciter: Well you see Joe, by making use of the most advanced techniques of present-day science, the reversion of matter to earlier forms can be reversed, and at a price any conapt owner can afford. So look for it, Joe. Don't just sit there; go out and buy a can of Ubik and spray it all around you night and day.
- [Joe] : Does that mean you can hear and see me?
- Runciter: Of course, I can't hear you and see you. This commercial message is on videotape; I recorded it two weeks ago, specifically, twelve days before my death. Inew the bomb blast was coming; I made use of precog talents. Return to your conapt, Mr Chip, and you'll find a free sample has arrived by mail, a free introductory sample, Mr Chip, that will keep you going until you can buy a regular-size can.
- Joe(Nina) puts his badge off
- As we have seen, there seems to be some kind of communication between Runciter (who is thought to be dead) and his associates.
- the first experience where we see some kind of communication: beginning of book, Runciter communicates with Ella but we don't know what it looks like.
- Begin of chapter 8: Joe hears Runciter's voice on the phone.
- chapter 8, p.76: Ad on matchfolder talks about Runciter; Address of the ad is in Des Moines
- 8, p.78: Runciter money is acceptable (tested in Baltimore)
- 9, p.85: tape recorder with Runciter's name and adress of production: Des Moines
- 9, p.87: they're back in NY. JUMP IN THE URINAL AND STAND ON YOUR HEAD I'M THE ONE THAT'S ALIVE. YOU'RE ALL DEAD.
- Those occurences are hints that Joe and the others died and that they're in half-life. The situation seems to become clearer but there still are a lot of unanswered questions.
- When Joe almost died, Runciter helped him. This day, the communication was clear, as a result Joe could easily see and talk with Runciter.

Ubik theories and Jory

Ubik :

- Since the first lines, there is ad for Ubik.
- Ubik seems to be everything and it means everywhere
- in the book, Ubik is mostly present under the form of a spraycan. It also has regressive forms but they don't work anymore.
- Ubik can cease the effects of going back into time.

Sketch

- Nina is Joe; Niels is Runciter
- [Joe] : I... I can't anymore...
- [Runciter] : Don't thank me for this. * sprays Ubik on him*
- [R] : Feel better? It should work on you right away; you should already be getting a reaction.
- [J] : yeah... I'm better...
- [J] : But are we dead, the rest of us?
- [Long silence]
- [R] : Yes.
- [J] : And what is Ubik?
- [J] : You don't know that either.
- [R] : You're right Joe, absolutely right. But I wanted to save your life, that part's true. Hell, I'd like to save all your lives...
- put badges off
- At that state in the book, we still don't know what Ubik is or who makes it, but we'll give more precision on that a bit later.

Truth : Ella and Jory

- at the end, we can attribute all these events to various reasons like those mentioned before and new ones, as we learn that Pat worked for Hollis. However, Pat seems to have only been a trap to trick the reader into thinking that she was the "bad" character.
- We discover that everything was caused by Jory, whose mind tries to invade the others.
- This is a very smart scenaristic creation because we realize that we could've known from the beginning but we discover it at once and it makes for a very powerful plot twist.
- Jory can create the backgrounds in which the characters evolve and take the apparence of anyone.
- In order not to die he eats the soul of the other half-lifers, resulting in their mummy tranformation.
- He seems invincible.
- Fortunately, Joe meets Ella, the wife of Runciter. She's almost at the begining of her reincarnation process.
- She tells Joe he must continue the fight against Jory by using Ubik. He must also be present for Runciter.
- She's the creator of Ubik.

- We learn that there will always be "Jories" in moratorium so just moving away the body won't make a difference.

All the theories about Hollis, the time events etc... Were just a distraction. We didn't know what to trust anymore or how to figure things as everything is either a creation or another reality. Even what is supposed to be reality is distorted at the end, leaving the reader alone with a weird feeling.

Conclusion

- video:
  - Bottle: "We are alive, you are dead..."
  - Runciter: Goodbye Joe, I hope you'll be able to fight Jory and to survive in your half-life as long as you can. I'll miss you Joe, you were a good friend and an excellent employee. [drinks in bottle and reputs it on the table, very visible to the camera]