FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...

Prop Phone: Theater Specific iOS App Now Available.

Use an iPhone or iPod Touch as a stage prop by controlling it remotely.

9/16/11 – Independent software developer and experienced theatrical performer <u>Chris Lavender</u> has released an iOS app that enables remote triggering of phone calls and other sounds on any standard iPhone or iPod Touch.

<u>PropPhone</u> lets you use one device to control the play/pause of audio on another device. You can use the 'controller' device to send triggers to the 'prop' device causing the 'prop' device to change screen images replicating an incoming phone call. Not only can you use <u>PropPhone</u> for phone rings, but by attaching it to a small battery powered loudspeaker, you also have a very flexible, economical, and localized wireless special audio prop.

In the old days of wired phones, there were some great options. Tele-Q boxes worked well, as did special props, recordings and hiding bells in secret places. Mobile phones, on the other hand, are much trickier. Tele-Q is no longer an option as there is no base station for mobile devices. Hiding special props doesn't work very well either because people carry their phones with them, causing difficulties in sourcing. Plus, the sound quality of a phone ringing varies dramatically as you pull the phone out of your pocket, purse, etc. That's a complex change that is tough to replicate until now with the newly released PropPhone

The inspiration for <u>PropPhone</u> came while <u>Lavender</u> was finishing MFA work in UC Irvine's Integrated Composition, Improvisation, and Technology program, where his research was focused on using mobile devices as tools for audience inclusive collaborative performance. Professor of sound design, <u>Vincent Olivieri</u>, asked if <u>Lavender</u> was aware of any existing mobile apps that would provide <u>PropPhone</u>-like functionality. As a former theater performer himself (as a pit musician as well as blue man with the Blue Man Group) <u>Lavender</u> recognized the value of such a tool and immediately began work developing <u>PropPhone</u> to meet this specific need.

With iPhones and iPod Touches as ubiquitous as they are, <u>PropPhone</u> provides a simple and low cost solution for theatrical ventures of all shapes and sizes. From high schools, churches, and community theaters to regional theaters, and even large scale professional venues, <u>PropPhone</u> is the perfect solution for any production.

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