

RESEARCH REVIEW

SPECULATIVE PERFORMANCES

RELEVANT PAPERS

- ▶ Head, S. (2012). Futures Theatre: A Genre Informed by Future Studies. *NJ*, 36(1), 27–35. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14452294.2012.11649552>
- ▶ Kupper, Frank. (2017). The theatrical debate. In van de Poel, Ibo, Asveld, Lotte, & Mehos, Donna C. (Hrsg.), *New Perspectives on Technology in Society* (S. 80–102).
- ▶ Candy, S., & Dunagan, J. (2017). Designing an experiential scenario: The People Who Vanished. *Futures*, 86, 136–153. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2016.05.006>
- ▶ Kuzmanovic, M., & Gaffney, N. (2017). Enacting futures in postnormal times. *Futures*, 86, 107–117. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2016.05.007>
- ▶ Jenik, A. (2018). Speculative Performance Meets Immersive Learning: Lessons of Drylab2023. *PARtake: The Journal of Performance as Research*, 2(1). Abgerufen von <https://scholar.colorado.edu/partake/vol2/iss1/5>

CATEGORIES

- ▶ The examples are categorized by three Elements of Performances (Boyd et al., 2015, p. 178)
 1. roles and interaction between the cast and crew
 2. role of the audience
 3. the stage, including what happens front stage and back stage and the setting in which the performance takes place

FUTURES THEATRE

- ▶ The examples are categorized by three Elements of Performances (Boyd et al., 2015, p. 178)
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FUTURES THEATRE

Scripted drama using techniques from Future Studies (CLA) for writing theatre.

Cast & Crew

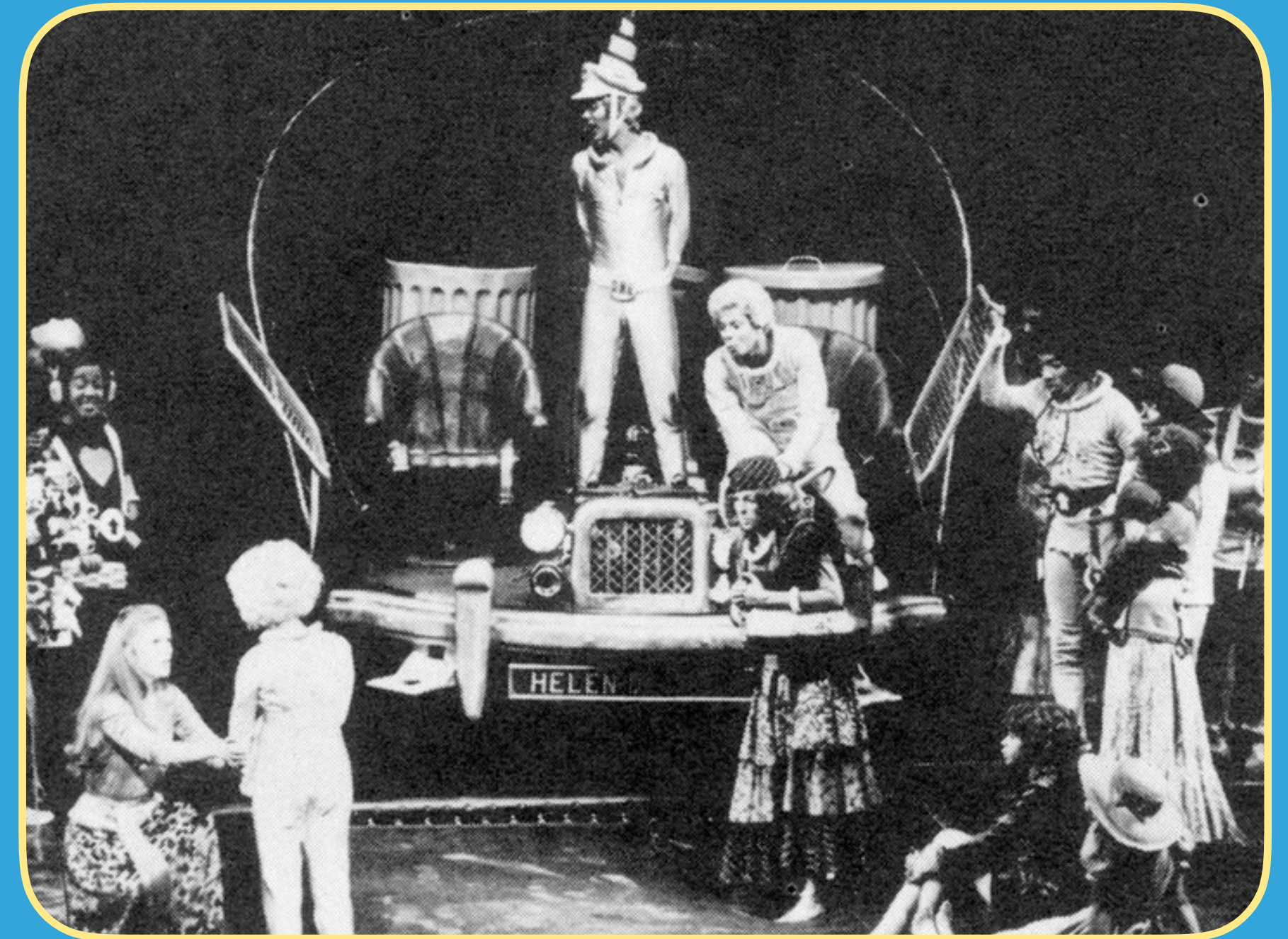
Director directs, Actors act

Audience

The Audience watches the depicted scenario without any interaction.

Stage

Classical separation between stage and audience.



„Futures Theatre brings scenes from alternative possible futures to life on stage, showing audiences new ways of living for ordinary people as they influence, or react to, one or more possible changes in the near decades.“ (Head, 2012, p. 29)

THEATRICAL DEBATE

Short acted scenes about sociotechnical implications of a new technology.

Based on „*Theatre of the Oppressed*“ (Boal, 1998)

Cast & Crew

Directors create scenarios. Actors improvise in the role of possible stakeholders

Audience

After each scene audience can redirect the scene and actors repeat it.

Stage

Classical separation between stage and audience, however audience can interact.



Cycle of play, reflection and discussion.

„Scenes are co-authored with others and with a precarious environment. The acting is improvisational, the performances open-ended. The drama is experimental, not scripted.“ (Kupper, 2017, p. 29)

EXPERIENTIAL SCENARIO

This approach is not about reflection but a productive approach to **create** futures in a co-creative and participatory manner.

Cast & Crew

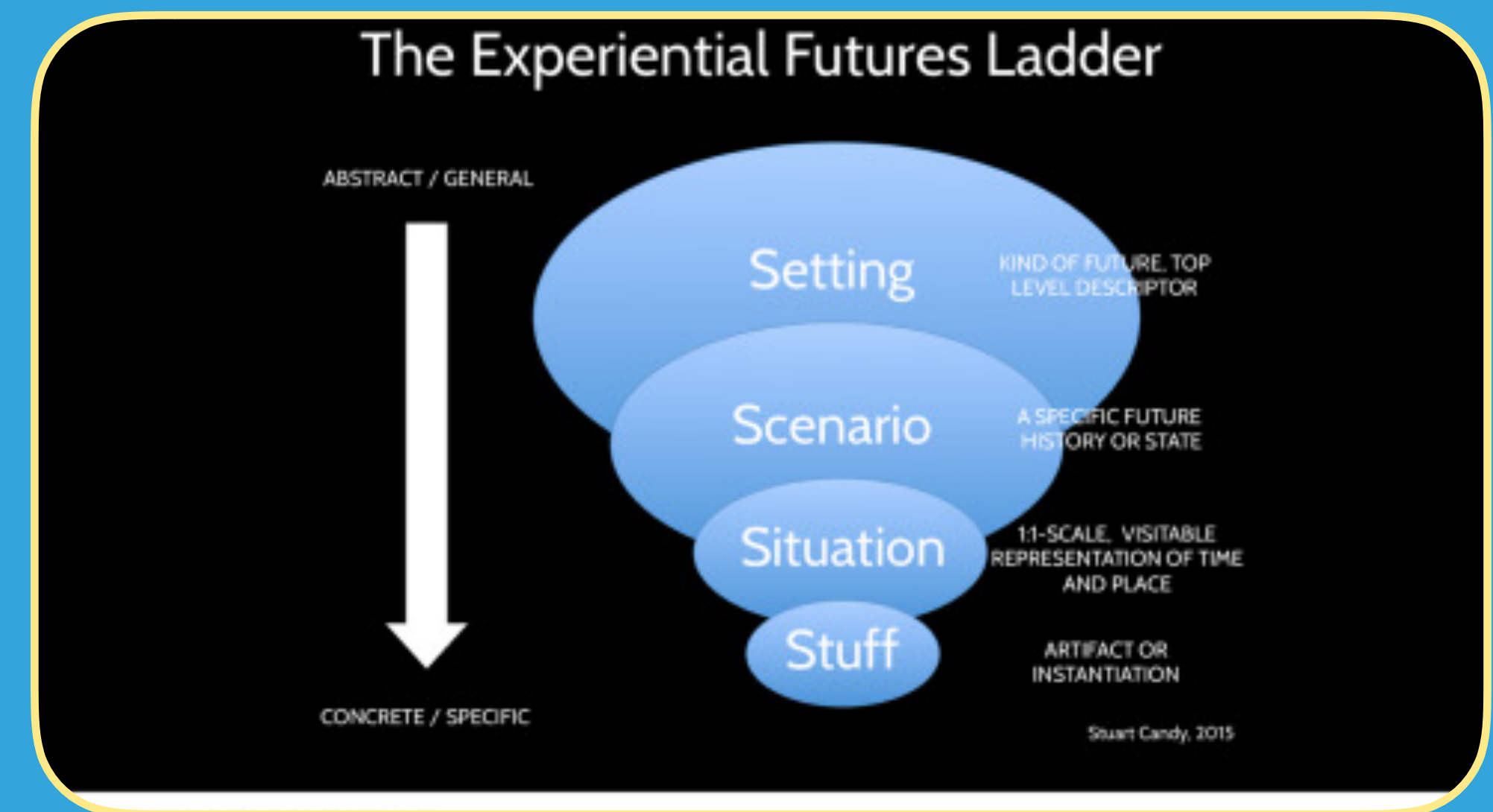
Directors are the facilitators of a workshop. The actors / participants co-direct piece.

Audience

Classic Audience

Stage

Depends on the created scenario



*„Designing circumstances or situations in which the collective intelligence and imagination of a community can come forth.“
(Candy & Dunagan, 2017, p. 33)*

INTERESTING
PARTNER

RECOMMENDED
READ

PRE-ENACTMENT

Pre-enactments invite the participants to explore their behaviours, assumptions and ideals in challenging and unpredictable conditions. (p. 2)

Cast & Crew

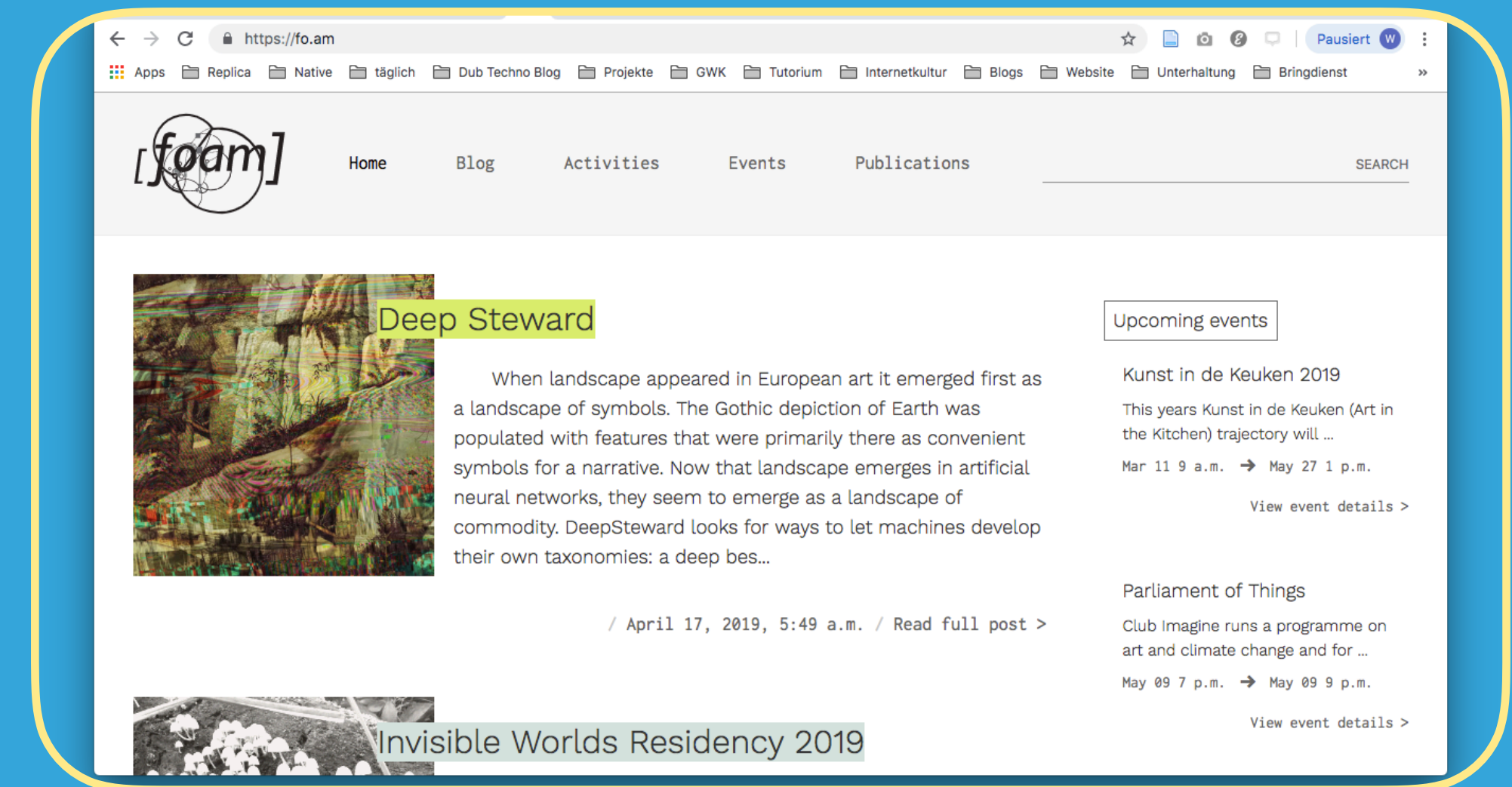
The directors create scenarios which participants engage through fictional immersive improvisation.

Audience

The Audience become the participants

Stage

Depends on the created scenario



<https://fo.am/>

„The goal is to gain a deeper understanding of how the participants' individual and collective experience might contribute to possible futures.“ (p. 2)

*„To truly know the [future] world we need to engage with it through situated interaction using our minds, as well as bodies with their intricate systems of embodied and enactive cognition“
(Kuzmanovic & Gaffney, 2017, p. 8)*

SPECULATIVE PERFORMANCE

This attempt could best be described as a social experiment or as a LARP scenario.

Cast & Crew

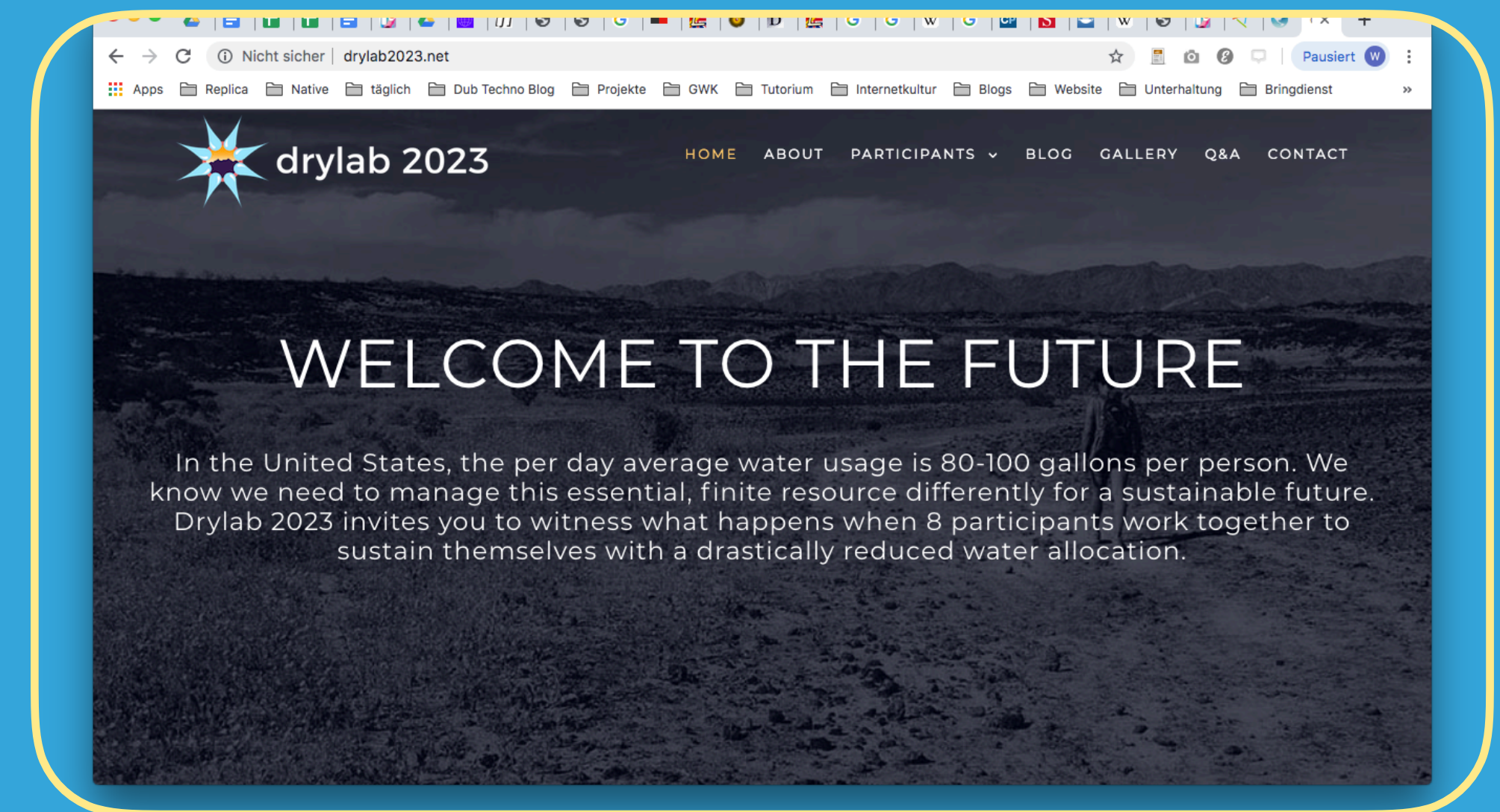
The directors define rules and personas which are followed by the performers / participants.

Audience

There is no audience in the classic sense. Rather the directors become ethnographers / observers.

Stage

An immersive space for the scenario
(a desert in the drylab2023 example)



<http://drylab2023.net/>

*„A learning experiment where participants would intentionally place their bodies on the line in a process of open-ended discovery on a shared, exposed environmental stage over a defined period of time.“
(Jenik, 2018, p. 4)*

WRAP UP

