Annie Dorsen

A Piece of Work

A digital Hamlet for a post-humanist age, A Piece of Work deploys a set of ingeniously designed computer algorithms to generate real-time adaptations of Shakespeare’s original play. New scenes, songs, scores and visuals emerge from an intricate web of technology. With an introduction by Dorsen, and screen-shots of the system as it runs, this book elaborates both the technological and the poetic procedures of algorithmic theater.

“As Hamlet is Western lit’s archetypal work about human consciousness, it’s a cunning move to ask a nonhuman one to interpret it.”

— ALEXIS SOLOSKI

“What happens to theatre in this algorithmically driven world, and what becomes possible when algorithms and the software they constitute are put to work to make theatre? A Piece of Work takes this question as a problem to be solved.”

— IOANA JUCAN, TDR

Annie Dorsen is a director and writer whose works explore the intersection of algorithms and live performance. Her previous algorithmic theatre projects, Yesterday Tomorrow (2015), A Piece of Work (2013) and Hello Hi There (2010), have toured extensively in the US and internationally. From 2017, she is a Visiting Artist Professor at University of Chicago. Her upcoming project, The Great Outdoors, will premiere in August 2017 at Noorderzon Festival in Groningen, NL.