

Live Remote Creation Theater - LRCT

Agency for Performing Artists in the Digital World with the Use of Telematic Presence Technologies.

How to Keep the Human Element Alive in Digital Arts

By Héctor Cruz



Hey everyone! I'm really glad to be here with you today.

You'll notice some QR codes around. Feel free to scan them if you want. They're just some extra tidbits of info I thought you might find interesting.

Alright, let's get started!

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Teatro de creación remota en vivo, TCRV ←

Live Remote Creation Theater - LRCT

① *Agency for Performing Artists in the Digital World with the Use of Telematic Presence Technologies.*

How to Keep the Human Element Alive in Digital Arts

② Visual arts have been an integral part of my life since my earliest memories. I come from a family of artists: my father is a Mexican painter and muralist, while my sisters enriched my environment with dance, sculpture, jewelry, and design.

— In my youth, I discovered photography as my first creative tool. However, I soon realized the need to transcend technique and delve into the meaning behind images.

③ My studies in visual communication broadened my understanding of art and design. Nevertheless, after years in the advertising industry, my health and motivation declined due to poor decisions and toxic environments. At that critical moment, my sister Vivian, a choreographer,

she invited me to collaborate on a project that fused dance with

multimedia for the stage, marking a turning point in my creative journey.

absolutely! ←

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Our research focused on effectively integrating multimedia arts into stage creations, guided by three key principles: freeing the body from limiting devices, ensuring efficiency in production design, and giving meaning to each digital technological element on stage.

Amidst various tools and technological ventures, we discovered Isadora at the *Multimedia Center of the National Center for the Arts in Mexico City*. Mark Coniglio's work was revelatory, allowing us to evolve from mechanical to creative production. This beautiful software has this great structure that lets you work in scene segments. For me, it was a real game changer.

Thanks Mark!

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In 2010, we founded our company: **Landscape_artes escénicas**, Which explores the intersections between dance, multimedia, and theater. Over a decade, we developed projects that linked stage, technology, and poetry in multiple formats, accumulating experience and adaptability.

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The 2020 pandemic suspended our live performances, challenging us to redefine the role of the performing artist in the digital world. so, Inspired by single-shot cinema, live television, and, of course, why not live sports, we developed something named: TCRV, Teatro de creación remota en vivo, In English: **Live Remote Creation Theater** (with the acronym *LRCT*). This concept integrates interdisciplinary pieces in real-time, connecting artists and audiences through existing ~~Solutions~~ like video conferencing platforms, using technologies such as *NDI, Skype, Zoom/so, Isadora, and TouchDesigner*.

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LRCT was not just a response to circumstances, but an innovative way to preserve the human element in digital arts. We created more than ten remote pieces, merging dance, visual arts, and music in a virtual space, allowing us to continue working and explore new creative possibilities at an international level.

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Our greatest achievement was winning the **World Summit Award for cultural technological innovation in 2020**. *LRCT* managed to bring together audiences and artists from different continents, demonstrating technology's power to connect people and generate emotional impact.

a)

relevance

We have identified three key areas for significant ~~impact~~ of this methodology:

- Educational: Incorporating this tool in early training of camera-oriented performing artists,
- Hybrid Creation: Developing pieces that integrate this technique across virtual and in-person environments,
- Community-Driven Innovation: Engaging communities that embrace technological tools as alternative artistic practices,

Our dream is to establish a global community sensitive to this form of creation, *perhaps* -with an international festival dedicated to remote live creation. We envision a space where physical boundaries are transcended, celebrating the diversity and creative possibilities that technology offers to the performing arts. **What do you think? Any advice to share?**

Meanwhile, we want to share some key **insights** we've developed throughout our experience to integrate technology harmoniously and effectively on stage, enhancing creativity and artistic impact:

How to keep the human element alive in digital arts? So we go...

10 1. **Play without judgment.** The creative process needs a safe space for free experimentation, constructive error, and unexpected discovery. Embrace uncertainty as part of the process.

2. **Be ductile.** Remember that video is essentially light, and its integration must be sensitive and respectful of the existing scenic dialogue.

I'm a projection designer so this is important to me, you know...

3. **Inhabit your devices.** Always design with the performer's body and real-time dynamics in mind, keeping technology responsive and adaptable to the unpredictable variables of the scenic moment.

4. **Integrate holistically for balance.**

Incorporate technology as part of a cohesive whole, aiming for an alchemical equilibrium. Ensure each element

contributes meaningfully to the artistic vision, avoiding excess and superfluous features.

5. **Rehearse exhaustively.** Constant rehearsal allows you to experiment, refine, and connect meaningfully with the real value of the technological device in the context of the work. **You know, I've always thought that if performing artists have a superpower, it's gotta be rehearsal.**

6. **Foster open communication and mutual respect.** A healthy and productive creative team is based on frank dialogue, active listening, and deep respect for each member's ideas and contributions. **Trust me, there's nothing obvious about any of this.**

7. **Build and nurture community.** From the cast and technical team to the audience, community is the beating heart of all meaningful stage practice. Cultivate these relationships with care.

8. **Recognize your unique identity and empower creative diversity.** Multidisciplinary experimentation and embracing different perspectives enrich our creations,

and finally -

9. **If you want to go far, go well accompanied.** Collective and collaborative work propels us beyond the limits of what we could achieve alone, opening new creative horizons.

So

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With these fundamental ideas in mind, I warmly invite each of you to continue exploring fearlessly, experimenting with passion, and keeping the human element alive and vibrant in every project you undertake. Because, at the end of the day, our true vocation is art in the present tense, an art that lives, breathes, and transforms in every shared moment, in every genuine connection we forge, and in every unique and unrepeatable experience we offer to our valuable audience.

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