



TOD MACHOVER'S

DEATH
AND THE

POWERS:

THE ROBOTS' OPERA

EXPERIENCE THE
a.r.t.

FAST
FESTIVAL OF ART + SCIENCE + TECHNOLOGY



AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER

with MIT's FAST ARTS FESTIVAL and CHICAGO OPERA THEATER

PRESENTS

Tod Machover's

DEATH AND THE POWERS: THE ROBOTS' OPERA

MUSIC BY
TOD MACHOVER

LIBRETTO BY
ROBERT PINSKY

STORY BY
ROBERT PINSKY and RANDY WEINER

DIRECTED BY
DIANE PAULUS

CONDUCTOR
GIL ROSE

PRODUCTION DESIGN BY
ALEX MCDOWELL

CHOREOGRAPHY
**KAROLE
ARMITAGE**

COSTUME
DESIGN
**DAVID C.
WOOLARD**

LIGHTING
DESIGN
**DONALD
HOLDER**

SOUND
DESIGN
**CHRIS
FULL**

VISUAL AND
SOFTWARE DESIGN
**PETER
TORPEY**

MEDIA
DESIGN
**MATT
CHECKOWSKI**

SOUND
TECHNOLOGY
**BEN
BLOOMBERG**

ASSOCIATE
DIRECTOR
**ANDREW
EGGERT**

PRODUCTION SPONSORS

Rebecca Gold Milikowsky and Nathan Milikowsky
Don and Susan Ware

SUPPORT TO THE MIT MEDIA LAB FROM
Dolly Lemelson, Ray and Maria Stata, the Powers Circle



is being made possible through a generous
grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Cover photo: Patricia Risley in *Death and the Powers* in Monte Carlo. Photo: Jill Steinberg.

Cast

Simon Powers	JAMES MADDALENA
Evvv	EMILY ALBRINK
Miranda	SARA HEATON
Nicholas	HAL CAZALET
The United Way	DOUGLAS DODSON
The United Nations	DAVID KRAVITZ
The Administration	TOM MCNICHOLS

THE MISERIES

Members of the Cambridge and Boston community

CHORUS OF OPERABOTS

FEATURING THE BOSTON MODERN ORCHESTRA PROJECT

<i>Flute/Piccolo</i> —SARAH BRADY	<i>Keyboard 1 (including live electronics)</i> —
<i>Oboe/English Horn</i> —JENNIFER SLOWIK	JOHN MCDONALD
<i>Clarinet/Bass Clarinet</i> —	<i>Keyboard 2 (including electronic triggers</i>
MICHAEL NORSWORTHY	<i>for sound and image)</i> —
<i>French Horn</i> —WHITACRE HILL	LINDA OSBORN-BLASCHKE
<i>Trumpet</i> —TERRY EVERSON	<i>Violin I</i> —CHARLES DIMMICK
<i>Trombone</i> —HANS BOHN	<i>Violin II</i> —ANNIE RABBAT
<i>Tuba</i> —KENNETH AMIS	<i>Viola</i> —JOAN ELLERSICK
<i>Percussion</i> —ROBERT SCHULZ	<i>Cello</i> —NICOLE CARIGLIA
	<i>Bass</i> —ANTHONY D'AMICO

Manager—SISSIE SIU COHEN

Robot Mechanical Design—BOB HSIUNG

Robotic Control Systems—MICHAEL MILLER

Interaction Design—ELENA JESSOP

Assistant Director—ALLEGRA LIBONATI

Assistant Lighting Designer—REBECCA MAKUS

Production Stage Manager—NANCY HARRINGTON

Stage Managers—JULIE BALDAUFF, CAROLYN BOYD, DANA STREMMING

Technology Development by the Opera of the Future Group, MIT Media Lab

*The A.R.T. wishes to thank its institutional partners,
whose support helps to make the theater's programs possible:*



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Scenes

Prologue

Scene 1Simon and the System

Scene 2System Soliloquy

Scene 3Getting To Know You

Scene 4Evy's Touch

Scene 5Nicholas and the Robots

Scene 6The World Reacts

Scene 7Into the System

Scene 8Miseries, Memory and Miranda

Epilogue

RUNNING TIME

Ninety minutes with no intermission

In English with English supertitles

A scene-by-scene synopsis of *Death and the Powers* is found on pages 17–19 of this program book.

The full libretto is available at <http://powers.media.mit.edu>.

Ongoing information and updates about *Death and the Powers* at <https://operaofthefuture.wordpress.com/>

Inquiries about *Death and the Powers* can be addressed to: powers@media.mit.edu.

U.S. Premiere on March 18, 2011 at the Cutler Majestic Theatre
World Premiere performances at the Opéra de Monte-Carlo in September 2010, under the High Patronage of H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, and with the development and production sponsorship of Association Futurum

This performance uses wireless network technology. All cell phones, pagers, laptop computers and other electronic devices must be turned off while inside the theater. For the safety and smooth running of the performance, under no circumstances should you attempt to connect an electronic device to a wireless network while inside the theater.

SPECIAL THANKS

Much gratitude to the many collaborators and friends who have helped with the progress and development of *Death and the Powers* over the past several years, including Diane Wondisford (Music-Theater Group); Frank Moss, Mauro Nunez, Melissa Sheehan, Marissa Wozniak, Taya Leary, Greg Tucker and Lisa Breede (MIT Media Lab); President Susan Hockfield, Philip Khoury, Leila Kinney, Kathryn Willmore, Jim Morgan, Tena Herlihy, David Chused, Regina Dugan, Michael McNamara and Beth Raffeld (MIT); Laird Nolan (Studio 125); Danny Haikin (Bowers and Wilkins); Patty Mack; Marc Scorca (Opera America); Brian Dickie, Roger Weitz, Jerry Tietz (Chicago Opera Theater); Maguy Meccario and Elle Berdy (Consulate General of Monaco, New York); Zizi Mueller and Steven Lankenau (Boosey & Hawkes); Association Futurum; Opera Boston. Harman International (Studer) and Duran Audio are proud to be supporting the MIT Media Lab on the World Premiere of *Death and the Powers*. Special thanks to Parsons Audio (Les Arnold), Scorpio Sound, Trantec, NXT and Bowers & Wilkins for supplementary audio equipment and loudspeaker technology; and to OLPC (One Laptop per Child) for the donation of numerous computers for Operabot control. Additional thanks to the Yamaha Corporation and the Yamaha Music & Wellness Institute for the donation of a Yamaha AvantGrand Piano used in *Death and the Powers* rehearsals.

Death and the Powers Production Team

Producer (MIT): Ariane Martins

Associate Producer (MIT): Simone Ovsey

Consulting Producer (MIT): Beth Morrison

Technical Development Manager: Bob Hsiung

Technical Director: Peter Colao (Wooden Kiwi)

Assistant Technical Director: Richard Wood (Wooden Kiwi)

Video & Display Technology: Justin Manor and Sosolimited

Versatube Tech: Wayne Romanowski

Media Content: The Department of the 4th Dimension

Lighting Programmer: Paul Turner

Robot Lead Electrical Engineer: Donald Eng

Automation Systems: Matt Berlin and Jesse Gray

Robot Engineers: Tom Bottiglieri, Kelsey Brigrance, Lauren Cahillane,
Alex Clayton, Karen Hart and Arin Rogers.

Robot and Walls Operators: José R. Pacheco, Martin Martinez Rivera, Val Healy,
Ruwen Liu, Bob Hsiung, Akito van Troyer and Eyal Shahar

Robotics Consultation: Cynthia Breazeal (creative) and Dan Stiehl (engineering)

Operabot Research: Mikey Siegel

Technology Assistants: Cole Houston, Elaina Present and Michelle Wang

Master Electrician: Matthew Burstein

Head Electrician: Victoria Sweetser

Ambisonic Audio Mixing: Charles Holbrow

Audio Assistants: Thom Howe, Luke Plummer

Rehearsal Keyboardists: John McDonald and Linda Osborn-Blaschke

Musical Chandelier, Audio Research: Mike Fabio and Andy Cavatorta

Musical Chandelier, Design Research: Steve Pliam

Ambulatory Robot Research: Wei Dong

Technology Consultation: Noah Feehan

Conceptual Design Realization: Christian Robert de Massy (paintings),
Vlad Bina (3D) and Arjuna Imel (3D)

Robot Animations: Fardad Faridi

Social Media (MIT): June Kinoshita, Jessica Kim, ArtsPromo and Hanoa Productions

Legal Consultation (MIT): Mark Fischer (Duane Morris LLP)

Music Consultation: Linda Golding (The Reservoir)

Video and Photo Documentation & Additional Video Footage:

Paula Aguilera and Jonathan Williams (MIT Media Lab)

Administrative Assistance: Taya Leary (MIT Media Lab)

Wall and Chandelier Fabrication: Mark Marengi (Mystic Scenic)

Production Intern: Samantha Shay

Worldwide Press and Media Representation (MIT):

Kirshbaum Demler & Associates (New York)

Death and the Powers is available through Hendon Music, Inc.,
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