THE INTERNET SCIENCE FICTION THEATRE DATABASE

(Including plays of Modern & Contemporary Science Fiction, Science Theatre, Horror Theatre & related genres)

By Christos Callow Jr

The Internet Science Fiction Theatre Database (ISFTDB) of Cyborphic primarily consists of contemporary plays, i.e. published and/or produced in the 21st Century. Some key texts of sci-fi theatre from the 20th Century are included in a separate section. For a more complete list of 20th Century science fiction plays, see Ralph Willingham’s appendix in his 1993 book Science Fiction and the Theatre.

Our Database is primarily focused on science fiction theatre, yet also features related genres; in short, everything that falls under the umbrella terms Speculative Fiction and Fantastika (such as Horror, Contemporary Fantasy and the Weird) and works of Science Theatre as well are also of interest. Finally, a bibliography of related studies and articles is included in its own section. For the reader’s convenience these are mostly non-academic sources readily available online, but some academic studies are included as well.

Abbreviations: SF (Science Fiction), H (Horror), F (Fantasy), W (Weird. Works considered “Lovecraftian” will be in this category), AF (Afrofuturism) and ST (Science Theatre)

The Database will be soon updated to include more titles and information. It is currently focused on UK productions either by UK or international playwrights, but it will be updated to include more international work. The Database cannot include every single production but features work that is considered to be of artistic merit, originality and/or impact. Entries may be revised or removed at any time at the discretion of the author. The Database may not be replicated or modified without permission from the author. The first version of the SFTDB was originally published on cyborphic.com on 15 June 2018 and included a list of 50* original 21st Century plays, alongside selected 20th Century plays, theatre festivals & secondary sources. (*Updated on 19 June 2018 to include a total of 80 original 21st Century plays and on 24 June 2018 to add an additional 20 - 100 in total. Has been updated frequently since. Last update 9 July 2019, adding an additional 17 plays, mostly of 2019.)

So, there you go. The ISFTDB!

Internet Database of Modern & Contemporary Science Fiction Theatre, Horror Theatre, Fantasy Theatre, Weird Theatre & Science Theatre

Section 1: 21st Century Science Fiction Plays & Shows
Section 1a: Original Plays

* A Number by Caryl Churchill. Royal Court Theatre. UK. 2002. SF

* The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow by Rolin Jones. South Coast Repertory. US. 2003. SF

* The Pillowman by Martin McDonagh. National Theatre of Great Britain. UK. 2003. SF (dystopian)


* A Disappearing Number, co-written by the Théâtre de Complicité and Simon McBurney. Theatre Royal, Plymouth. UK. 2007. ST

* Must: The Inside Story by Peggy Shaw. Battersea Arts Centre. UK. 2007. ST


* Samuel & Alasdair: A Personal History of the Robot War by Marc Bovino and Joe Curnutte. The Brick. NY. US. 2009. SF


* Baby Universe: A Puppet Odyssey by Waka Waka Productions. Baruch Performing Arts Center. NY. US. 2010. SF


* Ghost Stories by Jeremy Dyson and Andy Nyman. Liverpool Playhouse. UK. 2010. H

* Play Dead by Todd Robbins and Teller. The Players Theatre, NY. US. 2010. H

* 'u'. Opera in Klingon. Composed by Eef van Breen, libretto by Kees Ligtelijn & Marc Okrand. Zeebelt Theater, The Netherlands. 2010. SF


* Foxfinder by Dawn King. Finborough Theatre. UK. 2011. SF

* Nursing By Adam Rapp. Part of 'The Hallway Trilogy'. Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, NY. US. 2011 SF.

The Heretic by Richard Bean. Royal Court. UK. 2011. ST

Advance Man by Mac Rogers. First Part of The Honeycomb Trilogy. Secret Theater, NY. US. 2012. SF

Blast Radius by Mac Rogers. Second Part of The Honeycomb Trilogy. Secret Theater, NY. US. 2012. SF

Constellations by Nick Payne. Royal Court. 2012. ST

DEINDE by August Schulenburg. Secret Theatre, NY. US. 2012. SF

Insufficiency by Carl Djerassi. Riverside Studios. UK. 2012. ST

Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play by Anne Washburn. Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company. US. 2012. SF


Sovereign by Mac Rogers. Third Part of The Honeycomb Trilogy. Secret Theater, NY. US. 2012. SF


Ten Billion by Stephen Emmott. Royal Court. UK. 2012. ST

The Effect by Lucy Prebble. National Theatre of Great Britain. UK. 2012. ST.


Leaving Planet Earth by Catrin Evans and Lewis Hetherington. Edinburgh Fringe Festival. UK. 2013. SF

Sayonara Ver.2 and I, Worker by Oriza Hirata. Produced by Seinendan + Osaka University Robot Theatre Project. Columbus. US. 2013. SF

The Aurora Project by Bella Poynton. Science Fiction Theatre Company of Boston. US. 2013. SF

The Noise by Unlimited Theatre. Northern Stage, Newcastle. UK. 2013. SF


The Uncanny Valley by Superbolt Theatre Company. Edinburgh Fringe Festival. 2013. SF

2071 by Duncan MacMillan Royal Court. 2014. SF

A Map to Somewhere Else by Reina Hardy. The 133rd Street Arts Center Lab. NY. US. 2014. F

Pomona by Alistair McDowall. The Gate Theatre. UK. 2014. W

Machina by Richard Jordan. La Boîte’s The Loft. Brisbane. Australia. 2014. SF


SUM by Susan Gray. Bread & Roses Theatre. UK. 2014. SF

The Singularity by Crystal Jackson. Science Fiction Theatre Company, Boston, US. 2014. SF

Foreplay by Carl Djerassi. King’s Head Theatre. UK. 2014. ST


Girl in the Machine by Stef Smith. Traverse Theatre. UK. 2015. SF

Oppenheimer by Tom Morton-Smith. UK. The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon. 2015. ST

Photograph 51 by Anna Ziegler. Noel Coward Theatre. UK. 2015. ST

Province by Mathieu Gosselin. Théâtre Centaur de Montréal. Canada. 2015. SF

Queen Amarantha by Charles Busch. City Lit Theater. Illinois. US. 2015. F

Radiant Vermin by Philip Ridley. Soho Theatre. UK. 2015. SF (dystopian)

Speed of Light by Bella Poynton. Road Less Traveled Productions, US, 2015. SF


The Hard Problem by Tom Stoppard. National Theatre of Great Britain. UK. 2015. ST

Voice by Christos Callow Jr, Bread & Roses Theatre. UK. 2015. F

Elegy by Nick Payne. Donmar Warehouse. UK. 2016. SF (near-future)

Escaped Alone by Caryl Churchill. Royal Court. UK. 2016. SF, H.


Human Animals by Stef Smith. Royal Court. UK. 2016. SF (Dystopian)

North Country by Tajinder Singh Hayer. Freedom Studios. UK. 2016. SF
Oil by Ella Hickson. Almeida Theatre. UK. 2016. SF

The Children by Lucy Kirkwood. Royal Court, UK. 2016. SF

The Ruins of Civilization by Penelope Skinner. Manhattan Theater Club, New York. 2016. SF (Dystopian)

The Toad Knew by James Thierrée. Edinburgh Fringe Festival. UK. 2016. SF (Steampunk)

World Without Us by Ontroerend Goed. Vooruit, Belgium. 2016. SF

X by Alistair McDowall. Royal Court. UK. 2016. SF

After the Blast by Zoe Kazan. Lincoln Center Theater, NY. US. 2017. SF

Agent Andromeda: the Orion Crusade by Reina Hardy. Ground Floor Theatre. Texas. US. 2017. SF


Building the Wall by Robert Schenkkan. New World Stages, NY. US. 2017. SF (near-future)


In Event of Moone Disaster by Andrew Thompson. Theatre503, UK. 2017. SF

Man on the Moon by Keisha Thompson. Contact, Manchester. UK. 2017. AF


Police Cops in Space by The Pretend Men. Edinburgh Fringe Festival. UK. 2017. SF

Refrigerator by Lucas Baisch. First Floor Theater. Illinois. US. 2018. SF

The Divide by Alan Ayckbourn. Edinburgh Fringe Festival. UK. 2017. SF

The Earthworks by Tom Morton-Smith. The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon. UK. 2017. ST


TwentyEight by Tyler English-Beckwith. The Vortex, Texas. US. 2017. AF

Alien Land by Momin Swaitat. The Vaults, Vault Festival. UK. 2018. SF

Down the Rocky Road and All the Way to Bedlam by D. Matthew Beyer. Otherworld Theatre. Chicago, US. 2018. SF


Future Bodies by Unlimited Theatre. HOME, Manchester. UK. 2018. SF

Instructions for Correct Assembly by Thomas Eccleshare. Royal Court. UK. 2018. SF

Lights Over Tesco Car Park by Jack Bradfield. National Student Drama Festival. Leicester. UK. 2018. SF

Nightclubbing by Rachael Young. Camden People’s Theatre. UK. 2018. AF

Nine Foot Nine by Alex Wood. The Bunker. UK. 2018. SF


Passionate Machine by Rosy Carrick. Brighton Fringe. UK. 2018. SF


Sex with Robots and Other Devices by Nessah Muthy. Kings Head Theatre. UK. 2018. SF


The Gauntlet by Reina Hardy. Karamel Club. UK. 2018. SF

The Phlebotomist by Ella Road. Hamstead Theatre. UK. 2018. SF

Thirteen Cycles by Project2. Rosemary Branch Theatre. UK. 2018


Auto-Nation by Queen Mary Theatre Company. Edinburgh Fringe Festival. UK. 2019. SF

Conscious by Eve Ruck. King’s Head Theatre. UK. 2019. SF


If I Die on Mars by the Queen Mary Theatre Company. Edinburgh Fringe Festival. UK. 2019. SF


Planet 9 by Rose McGowan. Edinburgh Fringe Festival. UK. 2019. SF

Quintessence By Emily Carding. Brighton Fringe. UK. 2019. SF


The Grape That Rolled Under the Fridge by Matilda Ibini. Summerhall, Edinburgh Fringe Festival. UK. 2019. SF, AF


To Move in Time by Tim Etchells. Summerhall, Edinburgh Fringe Festival. UK. 2019. SF

TRÖLL by Trick of the Light Theatre. Summerhall, Edinburgh Fringe Festival. UK. 2019. F


Section 1b: Science Fiction Theatre Festivals

Sci-Fest LA: The Los Angeles Science Fiction One-Act Play Festival. LA, California. Founded by David Dean Bottrell, Michael Blaha and Lee Costello in May 2014

Paragon: A Sci-Fi and Fantasy Play Festival. Chicago, Illinois. Founded by Tiffany Keane and Otherworld Theatre in August 2015 (ongoing)

Talos: The Science Fiction Theatre Festival of London. London, UK. Founded by Christos Callow Jr in October 2015, produced (as of 2018) by Cyborphic (ongoing)

(Note: In this category, I have included the original science fiction theatre festivals per country; or, in the case of US festivals, state. The festivals featured here are dedicated to short sci-fi plays, with the exception of Talos which, in 2018, started staging full-length
science fiction plays as well. Details of plays produced to follow in future versions of the database.)

Section 1c: Science Fiction Theatre Adaptations

(Due to the infinite adaptations of relevant texts, only few notable adaptations will be included in this list. The Database was updated on 26 June 2018 to include 20 21st Century adaptations of science fiction plays.)


One-Man Star Wars by Charles Ross. Based on Star Wars (Film series by George Lucas, the original Star Wars trilogy, 1977-1983.) Pavilion Theatre. Canada. 2001. SF


Cosmic Trigger by Daisy Campbell. Adaptation of the Cosmic Trigger (Novel by Robert Anton Wilson, 1977.) Camp and Furnace, Liverpool. UK. 2017. SF

The Twilight Zone by Anne Washburn. Adaptation of The Twilight Zone (TV series by Rod Serling, 1959-1964.) Almeida Theatre. UK. 2017. SF

Section 2: 20th Century Science Fiction Plays

(Note: As previously stated, this is a tiny sample of 20th Century Science Fiction [and some Science Theatre] plays; original stories and adaptations. This section will also be occasionally updated, though the priority of the Database is 21st Century Sci-Fi Theatre. Originally included 10 important plays, as of 27 June 2018 this section includes 30.)

R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots) by Karel Čapek. Publication Date: 1920, Production: 1921. Prague, Czech Republic (then Czechoslovakia). SF

Back to Methuselah by George Bernard Shaw. Publication Date: 1922, UK-US. Production Date: 1923, Garrick Theatre, NY. US. SF

The Bedbug by Vladimir Mayakovsky. Meyerhold Theatre, Russia. 1929.
It Can’t Happen Here by Sinclair Lewis and John C. Moffitt. Adaptation of It Can’t Happen Here (Novel by Sinclair Lewis, 1935). Nationwide Premiere. US. 1936. SF (Dystopian)


Endgame by Samuel Beckett. Royal Court. UK. 1957. SF (post-apocalyptic)

Visit to a Small Planet by Gore Vidal. Adaptation of Visit to a Small Planet (TV Script by Gore Vidal, 1955.) Booth Theatre, NY. US. 1957. SF

The Unseen Hand by Sam Shepard. La Mama ETC, New York. US. 1969


Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street by Christopher Bond. Britannia Theatre. UK. 1973. H


Section 3: Bibliography of Sci-Fi Theatre-Related Texts


“Is that a sci-fi play I spy?” Mark Fisher. The Herald. 1998
http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/12259814.Is_that_a_sci-fi_play_I_spy/


“Past and Future of Science Fiction Theatre” by Christos Callow Jr and Susan Gray. Foundation: The International Journal of Science Fiction. 2014. (Vol. 43 Issue 117)

“Robot Performances” by Louise LePage: https://www.robottheatre.co.uk/robot-performances


*Staging the Impossible: The Fantastic Mode in Drama,* edited by Patrick Murphy. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press. 1992

