

Brooklyn Academy of Music

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User Not Found

By Dante or Die

Created by Daphna Attias & Terry O'Donovan

Written by Chris Goode

Greene Grape Annex, 753 Fulton St

Nov 6 & 7, 12—14 at 8pm;

Nov 8, 9, 15 & 16 at 6pm & 8:30pm

Running time: approx. 90 minutes, no intermission

Directed by **Daphna Attias**

Performed by **Terry O'Donovan**

Creative technology design by **Marmelo**

Lighting & set design by **Zia Bergin-Holly**

Composition & sound design by **Yaniv Fridel**

Video design by **Preference Studio**

Costume design & design assistant **Alessia Mallardo**

Access development & captioning **Sophie Gunn**

Season Sponsor:

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USER NOT FOUND

By Dante or Die
@danteordie
danteordie.com

Three years ago we read Caroline Twigg's article in *The Guardian*, questioning what should happen to her husband's digital legacy after his sudden death. Her writing is a moving depiction of grief magnified through the screen-life of the man she had lost in reality. We could immediately picture a performance inspired by this contemporary evolution of grieving.

Our audience would see into the online world of someone faced with the questions that go hand in hand with any legacy: what should or shouldn't you read and how privacy has changed as smartphones have become so entwined with our lives.

Our process has been enlightening. We met with John Troyer at University of Bath's Centre for Death & Society, questioned Aleks Krotoski who has written on digital afterlife in *Untangling the Web* and her BBC4 podcast *The Digital Human*. We've also collaborated with University of Reading on a research project exploring social media within contemporary performance.

We knew we needed a collaborator to build our imagined digital world. After many meetings trying to explain the project with a variety of what we were told were "creative technologists," we met Luke and Abhinav from Marmelo. Their creative and detailed approach to both the subject matter and developing the technical language, platform and content has been a continued source of inspiration.

We had three adjectives in mind for a writer to collaborate with: provocative, warm, and human. Chris Goode was top of the list. Creating *User Not Found* with him has been a dream. Generous and insightful in his united approach, he contested our perceptions and crafted a script that has been a new challenge for us to direct and perform. Composer Yaniv Fridel has collaborated with us since day

one and developed a world-within-a-world to immerse our audience in, alongside the rest of our inspirational creative team including designer Zia Bergin-Holly, videographers Preference Studio, and a brilliant team of technical stage managers.

One of our initial instincts was to stage the performance in a café—the contemporary office/anonymous communal zone. People connecting to the world through screens, yet insulated from it by headphones. What if the person sitting next to us was watching the pop music video that reminded them of their lost lover, or getting a Facebook message with the worst news possible? We wanted to create an insular world of an individual within a communal space.

We love sharing our story with small groups of people in cafés around the world and these performances as part of BAM's Next Wave Festival mark our US debut. We hope the production will spark a conversation with the person sitting next to you and will amuse, move you and trigger a debate with your loved ones. We hope to hear from you and stay connected in this weird digital world that we're all navigating, by tapping and swiping with our "real" digits.

Please do let us know @danteordie #UserNotFound or admin@danteordie.com – would you push the button?

—Terry O'Donovan & Daphna Attias,
co-artistic directors of *Dante or Die*

Photo: Justin Jones



ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION CREDITS

Producer **Sophie Ignatieff**

Production management **Philippa Mannion**

Technical stage management **Oran O'Neill**

Movement direction **Sarah Lamb**

Assistant composer, additional production & music **Oscar Moos**

Additional composition **Ofer (OJ) Shabi**

Laurent Mercier vocals **JJ**

PR representative **Cliona Roberts**

Production photography **Justin Jones**

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DANTE OR DIE makes bold and ambitious site-based performances that tour across the world. We transform ordinary spaces to create unique and intimate experiences. Led by co-founders Daphna Attias and Terry O'Donovan, Dante or Die choreographs audiences to explore and celebrate contemporary human stories in real places, such as hotel rooms, leisure centers, self-storage buildings, and ski lifts. We are SITES LINES Associate Artists at South Street, a UK arts center which champions performance in unusual locations.

CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Daphna Attias, Terry O'Donovan

Executive Producer **Lucy Atkinson**

Producer **Sophie Ignatieff**

Associate Artist **Anna Richmond**

Access Associate **Sophie Gunn**

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DAPHNA ATTIAS (creator, director) is co-artistic director of Dante or Die Theatre. She has directed all of the company's work to date, including *La Fille a La Mode*, *I Do*, *Handle With Care*, and *Take On Me*. She is also artistic director of Peut-Être Theatre, with whom she creates dance theater performances for young audiences. Her directorial work with Peut-Être includes *Tidy Up*, *Shh...Bang!*, *The Tin Soldier*, *Dare to Sea*, and *Draw Me a Bird*. In 2017 she received an Action for Children's Arts Members Award for her prolific theater productions which now tour the world. Her work has been presented and performed nationally and internationally at venues such as Almeida Theatre, Roundhouse, Royal Albert Hall, Brighton Festival, Southbank Centre, Lincoln Center, and in Malta, Israel, Singapore, France, and China. With Dante or Die, Attias has worked in partnership with University of Reading for over 10 years, collaborated with academics and experts from a wide range of special areas, and guest lectured at a variety of universities such as Royal Central School of Speech & Drama and University of Salford.

Instagram: @DaphnaAttias

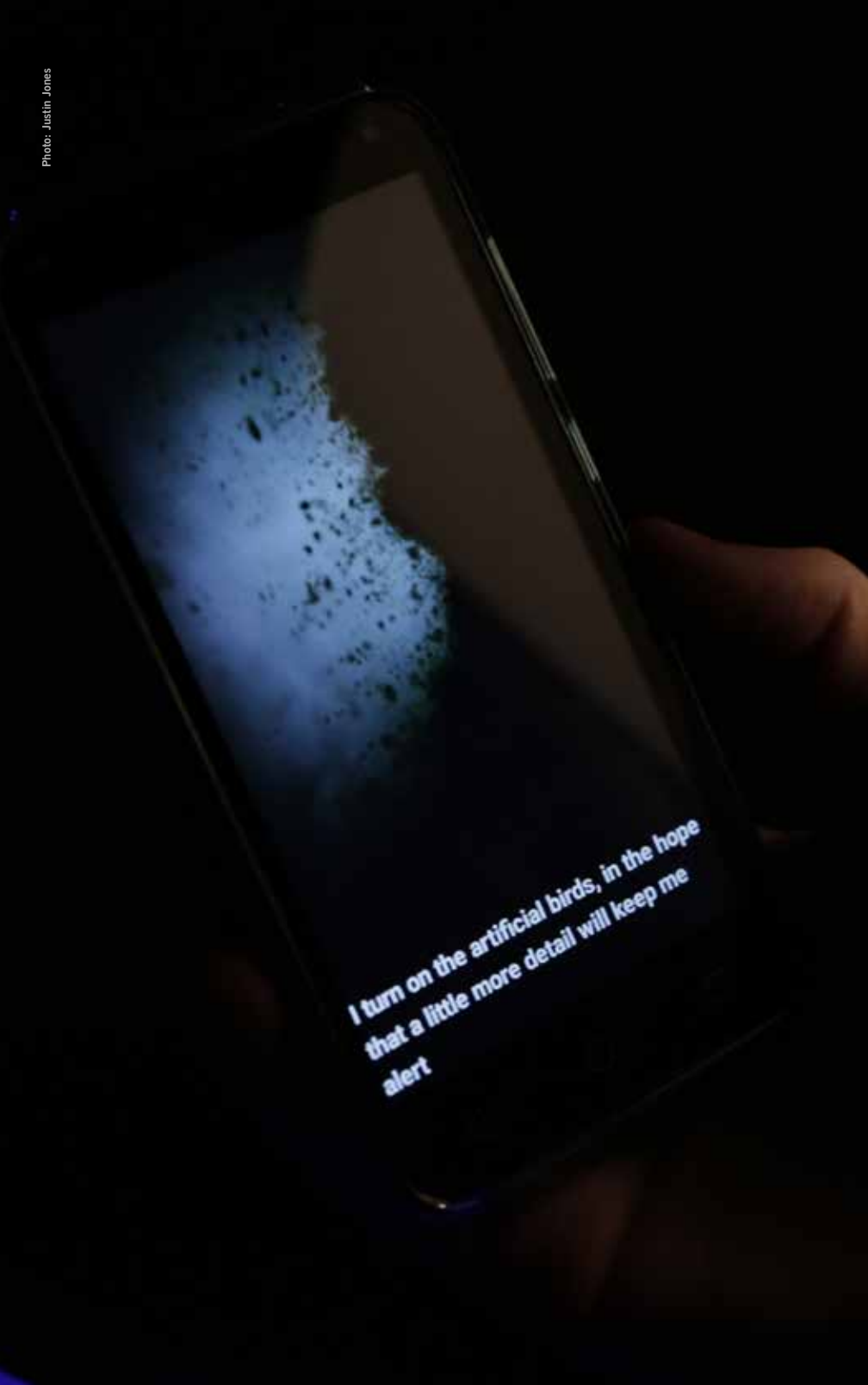
CHRIS GOODE (writer) is a writer and maker working in theater and live performance. He has amassed a significant body of unpredictable work in diverse formats: from large-scale theater-based projects such as *Men in the Cities* (Royal Court; Traverse), *Monkey Bars* (Traverse/Unicorn), *The Consolations* (1999), and *Speed Death*

of the Radiant Child (2007), to intimate solo storytelling pieces like *Kiss of Life* (2002) and *We Must Perform A Quirkafleeg!* (2006), one of a series of performances made specifically for audiences' own homes; and from script-based pieces like *King Pelican* (2009, nominated for a TMA Award for Best New Play) to more obviously experimental works such as *Hey Mathew* (2008) and *Glass House* (2009), a performance installation for Deloitte Ignite at the Royal Opera House. In 2009 he published *The History of Airports: Selected texts for performance 1995—2009*, which was launched during a retrospective season hosted jointly by Artsadmin and Camden People's Theatre. He is increasingly noted for his reading/performances of experimental work by earlier poets and artists, including Kurt Schwitters, Christopher Knowles, Samuel Beckett, and Michael Basinski. He is an associate researcher at Rose Bruford College and a member of the advisory panel to the Archive of the Now.

Twitter: @chrisgoodeandco

TERRY O'DONOVAN (creator, performer) has worked as an actor, director, and producer since 2005. As co-artistic director of Dante or Die, he has co-created all productions and performed in most. He specializes in creating intimate and immersive performances. He recently directed the acclaimed new site-specific production *Bread Not Profits*, which the *Irish Times* described as "truly exceptional in both scale and content." *On The Wire*, O'Donovan's 2015 production for Irish company Wildebeest Theatre, was nominated for Best Production in the *Irish Times* Theatre Awards. Other directing credits include *The Secret Princess of Severndroog* (Look Left Look Right commission for Greenwich and Docklands International Festival). In 2012 he co-founded TOOT to make *Ten Out of Ten*, an Ovalhouse commission that toured throughout 2013—14. Since then he has co-created *Be Here Now* and *Focus Group* which have both toured the UK. The company has collaborated with a variety of organizations to make accessible and challenging interactive work. With Dante or Die, he has worked in partnership with University of Reading for over 10 years, collaborated with academics and experts from a wide range of special areas, and guest lectured at a variety of universities such as Royal Central School of Speech & Drama and University of Salford.

Twitter: @terryodonovan



I turn on the artificial birds, in the hope
that a little more detail will keep me
alert

MARMELO (creative technology design) is a team of technologists and designers who specialize in helping creatives bring stories to life with technology. Over the past three years they have worked with numerous theater companies and cultural organizations, for example building a motion capture experience allowing guests of the Royal Shakespeare Company's Stratford-Upon-Avon theater to take the role of Prospero and create a virtual tempest that engulfed the foyer. They also partnered with site-specific theater company Dante or Die to devise and develop bespoke technology for *User Not Found*. Other projects have included installations with the Old Vic London and the Rheged Gallery in Cumbria. With all of these, their goal has been to develop and use technology in a way that enhances audiences' ability to engage with art, without it becoming a distraction and hopefully adding a light sprinkling of magic to work that they feel passionately about.

Twitter: @marmelodigital

ZIA BERGIN-HOLLY (lighting and set design) designs lighting and sets for international theater, dance, opera, and live music events. She won the 2017 *Irish Times* Theatre Award for Best Lighting Design for her design of Pan Pan Theatre Company's 2016 production of *The Importance of Nothing*, which was revived for touring in 2018. Her stage set and lighting designs include *The Misfits for Corn Exchange*; *Bullet Tongue for Big House* (sets); *User Not Found* for Dante or Die; *They Called Her Vivaldi* for Theatre Lovett at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin/Irish and North American tours; *The Shitstorm* for The Abbey Theatre and Dublin Fringe Festival; designing the Olympia Theatre, Dublin performances of Grace Jones concerts for Bloodlight, and Bami by Blinder Films (sets). Recent stage lighting designs include *Cleft and Melt* for Rough Magic, *Bread Not Profits* for Gúna Nua, *Apologia*, *The Lion in Winter*, and *Hand to God* for the English Theatre Frankfurt, *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair De Lune* for Northern Stage, *The Nest* for Lyric Theatre Belfast and Young Vic Theatre London, and *Fabric* for Robin Rayner Productions, a Scotsman Fringe First Award Winner. Upcoming work includes projects with Unicorn Theatre, Hull Truck Theatre, and Silver Blue Entertainment.

Twitter: @ziaaislinn

YANIV FRIDEL (composition and sound design), with his partner OJ, has 15 years of experience

writing, producing, and engineering music internationally for both established and emerging artists and to accompany film, TV, and theater productions, amassing an impressive client list between them of Idris Elba, Louis Theroux, Diplo, Usher, Lethal Bizzle, Arrow Benjamin, Lisa Stansfield, the BBC, and the National Theatre UK. Together they formed a production team of young talented producers working from their creative hub at Soho Sonic studios in London. Instagram: @ojandfridel

PREFERENCE STUDIO (video design) is a small but punchy film production company specializing in producing bespoke creative video and audio content. Stephen and Benjamin studied at the Surrey Institute of Art and Design (now UCCA) and between them specialize in cinematography and video arts, film editing, experimental video, motion graphics, and sound design/music production. Instagram: @preferencestudio

ALESSIA MALLARDO (costume design and design assistance) graduated with a First Class BA HONS degree in theater, performance, and event design at Birmingham City University in the summer of 2017. She had an avid interest in and determination to work with immersive and intimate shows, and so contacted Dante Or Die, becoming the costume designer on *User Not Found*. Over the past year, Mallardo has transitioned into television as an art department assistant for shows including the fantasy-comedy remake of *Worzel Gummidge*, airing on BBC One, Season two of the BBC comedy-sketch show *Famalam*, and the second season of British comedy-drama *Sick Of It*, released on Sky One. As well as television, Mallardo has dabbled in the music industry assisting on the Chemical Brothers' *We've Got To Try* music video. Currently she works as an art department assistant on *There She Goes*, a comedy-drama returning for a second season on the BBC. Instagram: @alessia.mallardo.designs

SOPHIE GUNN (access development and captioning) has been collaborating with Dante or Die as a D/deaf Access Associate since 2017. Passionate about making all theater and arts accessible to D/deaf audiences, Gunn aims to have accessibility integrated as a key part of the creative process. She led on embedded captioning for *User Not Found* and performed in *Take On Me* during which she communicated through BSL at all performances, to ensure every



Photo: Warming

Who's Who

performance was accessible to D/deaf audiences. She is a CODA (Child of a Deaf Adult) who has been brought up around D/deaf people. She met Dante or Die through the Hunt Academy for Young Actors and was part of the guest cast when *Take On Me* first toured in 2016. Gunn runs deaf awareness courses at Legoland with the aim of improving the experience of d/Deaf guests. She is working towards being a fully qualified interpreter. Twitter: @sophieaccess

PHILIPPA MANNION (production management) is a stage manager from Edinburgh, Scotland. She has an MA (Hons) in theater studies from the University of Glasgow and MA in writing for performance and dramaturgy from Goldsmiths College, London. She specializes in working in outdoor arts and site-specific theater and has worked with Nutkhut, Actors Touring Company, and Welsh National Opera, to name a few. For Dante or Die, Mannion has worked as a technical stage manager on *User Not Found* since April 2018, realizing the show's technical elements through the rehearsal period, previews, opening at Edinburgh Fringe, and then on all subsequent UK and international tours. She continues to work on the show as a TSM on the latest UK tour and London run. Mannion worked as the co-production manager for a second Dante or Die show, *Take On Me*, which toured venues around the UK in 2018–19. She is also an Apple Certified Mac Technician, having worked for Apple Retail as a Genius from 2016–18. Twitter: @mannionaise

ORAN O'NEILL (technical stage management) trained on the BA production technology and management course at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and worked in Glasgow for six years before relocating to London. O'Neill's first involvement with Dante or Die was the 2019 spring/summer tour of *User Not Found* as one of the technical stage managers. Selected theater credits include: *The Fishermen* (New Perspectives, Edinburgh Fringe/Trafalgar Studios,

London–West End); *Anna Bolena*, *Don Giovanni*, *La Calisto* (all Longborough Festival Opera, 2019 Season); *User Not Found* (Dante or Die, UK Tour); *good dog* (tiata fahodzi, UK tour), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (National Theatre, Schools Tour); *The Fishermen* (New Perspectives, HOME Manchester/Assembly Studio 2, Edinburgh); *A Fortunate Man* (New Perspectives, HOME Manchester/Assembly Studio 2, Edinburgh); *La traviata* (Longborough Festival Opera, 2018); *Here I Belong* (Pentabus, UK tour); *Wolves Are Coming For You* (Pentabus, UK tour); *As the Crow Flies* (Pentabus, UK tour); *Scottish Ballet Up Close* (Scottish Ballet, Scotland Tour). Twitter: @orancheeks

SOPHIE IGNATIEFF (producer) is an experienced creative producer who has produced in a wide range of contexts from festivals to major venues to independent touring companies, for a diversity of audiences and scales. She began her career producing projects for young people and adults at the National Theatre. Her experience of producing in house for venues continued at Leeds Playhouse where she programmed several seasons and produced productions across all spaces. Prior to joining Dante or Die, she had also worked with independent touring companies at Look Left Look Right and tiata fahodzi, as well as developing and touring a new cabaret with emerging theatermaker Miriam Sherwood. Her international festival experience includes working at Manchester International Festival, where she was assistant producer on the large-scale international touring production, *Tree of Codes*, including the New York transfer. Ignatieff joined the Dante or Die team in April 2018 and collaborates across all live and upcoming projects including producing the company's large-scale community touring production *Take On Me* and the upcoming *Kiss Marry Kill*, involving an ensemble of ex-prisoners. Twitter: @sophieignatieff

VIDEO & PHOTOGRAPHY

Joseph Black (Luka), Angela Ekaette Michaels (Maria), James Short (Laurent Mercier), Freya Storch (Laurent Mercier's Nouveau Monde), Simon Rice (Tim), Stuart Barter (voiceover), Fiona Watson (voiceover), Zoe Allum, Robert Beck, Shelby Bond, Anastasia Booth, Edward Dingley, Patrick James French, Stephanie Fuller, Benjamin Grant, Sophie Gunn, Charlie Hendren, Ben Howarth, Sophia Kakembo, Bridget Lappin, Makis Mezopoulos, Ken Mulligan, Madeleine Oslejsek, Pedro Pablo Rodriguez, Faith Rowley, Maria-Eleni Sitaropoulou.

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