

The Breathing Wall

www.thebreathingwall.com

Breathe your way into the story.

The Breathing Wall is a digital fiction that responds to the reader's rate of breathing. The innovative software enables the computer to register the physiological effect of the story on the reader and to alter the experience accordingly. The more relaxed the reader becomes, the deeper they enter into the piece.

The Breathing Wall tells the story of a girl, Lana, communicating with her boyfriend, Michael, through the wall of his prison cell. She is dead; he's been falsely convicted of her murder.

The story is told in parts, alternating between day-dreams and night-dreams. The day-dreams use image, text and sound to uncover the tale through a linear multimedia narrative. The night-dreams use video and sound loops; to experience the night-dreams the reader needs a headset that includes earphones and a microphone. By positioning the microphone under your nose, the night-dreams respond to your breathing. The goal of these sections is to induce a hypnotic or meditative state in the reader, allowing he or she to enter the dream.

The web trailer is available at www.thebreathingwall.com.

The full story is available on CD (PCs only) bundled with a microphone headset.



Project History

During a year-long research project with trAce, *Mapping the Transition from Page to Screen*, Kate Pullinger collaborated with the American web artist Talan Memmott and created 'Branded', an introductory fragment of a longer piece.

During that year she also met and worked with Stefan Schemat, a Berlin-based software artist. One of Stefan's innovations is HTF, or Hyper Trance Fiction, a story-telling software that can respond to human breathing. Kate Pullinger was fascinated by the potential of this software and, subsequently, received funding from Arts Council England to collaborate with Stefan Schemat to create 'The Breathing Wall', a full-length piece based on 'Branded'. Multimedia artist and designer babel is the third partner in this collaboration.

Technical/Viewing Information

The Breathing Wall is designed for individual viewing in a relatively quiet and relaxed environment. However in public it has been successfully shown using a large plasma screen and a demonstrating 'breather'.

For more information please write to enquiries@thebreathingwall.com, or contact The Breathing Wall, Kate Pullinger c/o The Sayle Literary Agency, 1 Petersfield, Cambridge, CB1 1BB, UK.

Exhibitions and Screenings

- *Respiratory Narrative: Multimodality and Cybernetic Corporeality* by Astrid Ensslin, in Page, Ruth (ed), *Physio-Cybertext* (Routledge, 2008)
- *From (W)reader to Breather: Cybertextual Retro-intentionalisation in Kate Pullinger et al's The Breathing Wall* by Astrid Ensslin, in Page, R and Thomas, B. (eds), *New Narratives: Theory and Practice* (University of Nebraska Press, 2008)
- *Breathalyzing Physio-cybertext'* by Astrid Ensslin, ACM Hypertext '07 Conference Proceedings (October 2007)
- *Narrative & Multimodality: Language, Theory, Contexts*, UCE Birmingham, UK (April 2007)
- *Electronic Language International Festival (FILE-RIO)*, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (March 2006)
- *19th Stuttgart Filmwinter*, Stuttgart, Germany (January 2006)
- *Generative Arts Practice*, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia (December 2005)
- *Third Iteration*, Third International Conference on Generative Systems in the Electronic Arts, Melbourne, Australia (November – December 2005)
- *Electronic Language International Festival (FILE)*, São Paulo, Brazil (November 2005)
- *E-Poetry 2005*, Birkbeck College, London (October 2005)
- *New Media Writing*, Napier University, Edinburgh, UK (October 2004 – May 2005)
- *Incubation 3*, Nottingham, UK (July 2004)
- *SIGGRAPH 2005*, Los Angeles, USA (July 2005)

Authors

Kate Pullinger - www.katepullinger.com

Kate Pullinger's books include the novels **The Last Time I Saw Jane**, **Where Does Kissing End?**, and **Weird Sister**, as well as the short story collections, **My Life as a Girl in a Men's Prison** and **Tiny Lies**. She co-wrote the novel of the film 'The Piano' with director Jane Campion. Her novel **A Little Stranger** was published in October 2004. Her first play for radio, 'The Egyptian Collection' was critically acclaimed, following recent UK national broadcast. She is currently involved in devising an new MA in Creative Writing and Technology at De Montfort University, Leicester. She lives in London.



Stefan Schemat - www.schemat.de

Stefan Schemat is a media art pioneer, writer and programmer who looks for new ways to experience literature. An innovative success of this search is the invention of the 'breathing book'. This electronic book reacts to the breathing rhythms of the reader - a spellbinding, almost hypnotic experience. The Hyper Trance Fiction Matrix technology developed by Stefan makes *The Breathing Wall* a unique experience. See www.enterreality.com for more information.



babel - www.babel.ca

babel is a digital writer and artist, editor of the post-dada magazine and artist network 391.org. He has exhibited work on and offline since 2002. Past projects include **Inanimate Alice** (www.inanimatealice.com), a series of multimedia stories produced with Kate Pullinger, and **Animalamina** (www.animalamina.com), a collection of multimedia children's poetry.

