THE FIFTH DOMAIN

BY VICTOR LESNIEWSKI

A WORLD PREMIERE

UNMUTED COMPANION
for *The Fifth Domain* by Victor Lesniewski
CREATED BY SHAUN M. MCCRACKEN, DRAMATURG

THE UNMUTED COMPANION is a dramaturgical component designed to enhance your **CATFUNMUTED** experience. We've designed the UC Volumes to act as counterparts to the six BOLD, NEW PLAYS, in this year's digital experience. You can sample, survey, or study these online offerings—with no fear of spoilers!

Each companion will give you—

- A sneak peek into the 2021 Season
- An introduction to the creative teams
- An exploration of the world of the plays
- A deep-dive into the new play process

Come and join us as we **think**theater and **talk**theater.
We promise not to ''give you all the 2021 goodies'' –
just enough to make you eager for more.

A LETTER FROM ED HERENDEEN

Can you imagine a world without LIVE theater? The theater is an art form performed by living artists witnessed by a live audience in the very specific HERE and NOW. The artists and the spectators come together in communion and perfect harmony with each other in the same moment. Somewhere during this sacred moment, the spectator's consciousness is awakened and enlightened. Together this community of audience members becomes one with the artists on stage. Live theater is an awesome experience. Live theater is urgent and simply indispensable. The energy created in a live performance can change lives. The power emanating from a live work of art is SPELLBINDING!

So I ask you: Can you imagine a world without live theater?

It is impossible for me to imagine a world without live theater. I miss casting and callbacks. I miss face to face, in-person collaborations with designers. I miss the back and forth, lively discussions of production meetings. I miss finding creative solutions to the budget challenges. Most of all, I miss the rehearsal room and the rehearsal process: that first Company Read Thru, those inspirational "break-thru" and "AHA" moments, sitting next to the living playwright...listening to their every breath as they respond in the moment.

Yes, I miss rehearsal. And I miss the audience — our ultimate collaborator and partner in producing and developing new work.

I cannot imagine a world without live theater.

I would miss the risks, the challenges, the emotions, the thrill and excitement of transporting a living audience to those special places...sacred places that only exist in the imagination.

Live theater, live storytelling provokes philosophical and political ideas. Ever since the Greeks invented drama on stage, the theater has shaped, stimulated, provoked, and entertained humans.

Yes, I miss live theater. BUT – we want to connect with you NOW! We cannot wait. We want to share our creative process with you NOW! **We are CATFUNMUTED!**

This digital – **UNMUTED EXPERIENCE** is an exciting prelude of what is to come in our 2021 Theater Festival. Our next season begins here! An innovative online experience that begins the process of creating the future of LIVE contemporary theater next summer in our beloved SHEPHERDSTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA.

I am honored to introduce you to six contemporary playwrights. Artists that have the extraordinary ability to converse with the voices of the past. Terence Anthony confronts oppression, incarceration, and human rights in his historical play *The House of the Negro Insane*. Jacqueline Goldfinger and Victor Lesniewski imagine the voices of the future in their plays *Babel* and *The Fifth Domain*. Their plays warn us about government control, abuse of power, and cybersecurity. Kevin Artigue, Chisa Hutchinson, and Caridad Svich imagine the pain and the horror of our fragile present in their plays: *Sheepdog*, *Whitelisted*, and *Ushuaia Blue*. Plays truly set in the present...in the here and now... that hold us accountable for racism, gentrification, greed, and climate grief.

Yes, this is a prelude of a new repertory of six new plays that listens to the past, examines the present, and imagines an uncertain future.

Yes, I can imagine sharing our **UNMUTED EXPERIENCE** with you. This digital repertory invites you to escape and engage by surrounding yourself with new works that deserve your attention...new work that is **alive** and **dynamic**...the **heart** and **soul** of what makes the **Contemporary American Theater Festival** compelling and necessary – right now and forever.

Ed Herendeen

Ed Herendeen
Founder & Producing Director

INTRODUCTION TO THE VOLUME

Have you ever considered the vulnerability of your personal information?

Imagine a world where your information (and the information of everyone around you) was placed in jeopardy...all because of our reliance on computers. How far would you go to protect your information? If you knew there was a danger to yourself and others, would you speak up? These questions are the heart of **VICTOR LESNIEWSKI'S** *The Fifth Domain*.

The Fifth Domain was written as a cyber espionage thriller (what CATF refers to as "cyber noir"). Playwright Victor Lesniewski is very comfortable with and knowledgeable about the cyber security world. A graduate of Carnegie Mellon's Electrical and Computer Engineering program, his current day job is in cyber security. Lesniewski became interested in this digital world when he was researching espionage in the United States for another project. (The Pinkertons in pre-Civil War America and the influence of women and enslaved people who served as spies during the Civil War particularly caught his interest.)

The scene in **CATFUNMUTED's** *The Making of The Fifth Domain* is the introduction to the play. Lesniewski has centered the action of the story around a network security presentation. All events flow from the framework of this device. All of the action in the play begins with the presentation. Using projections allows the audience members to be active participants in the presentation and provides a window into the characters' communication.
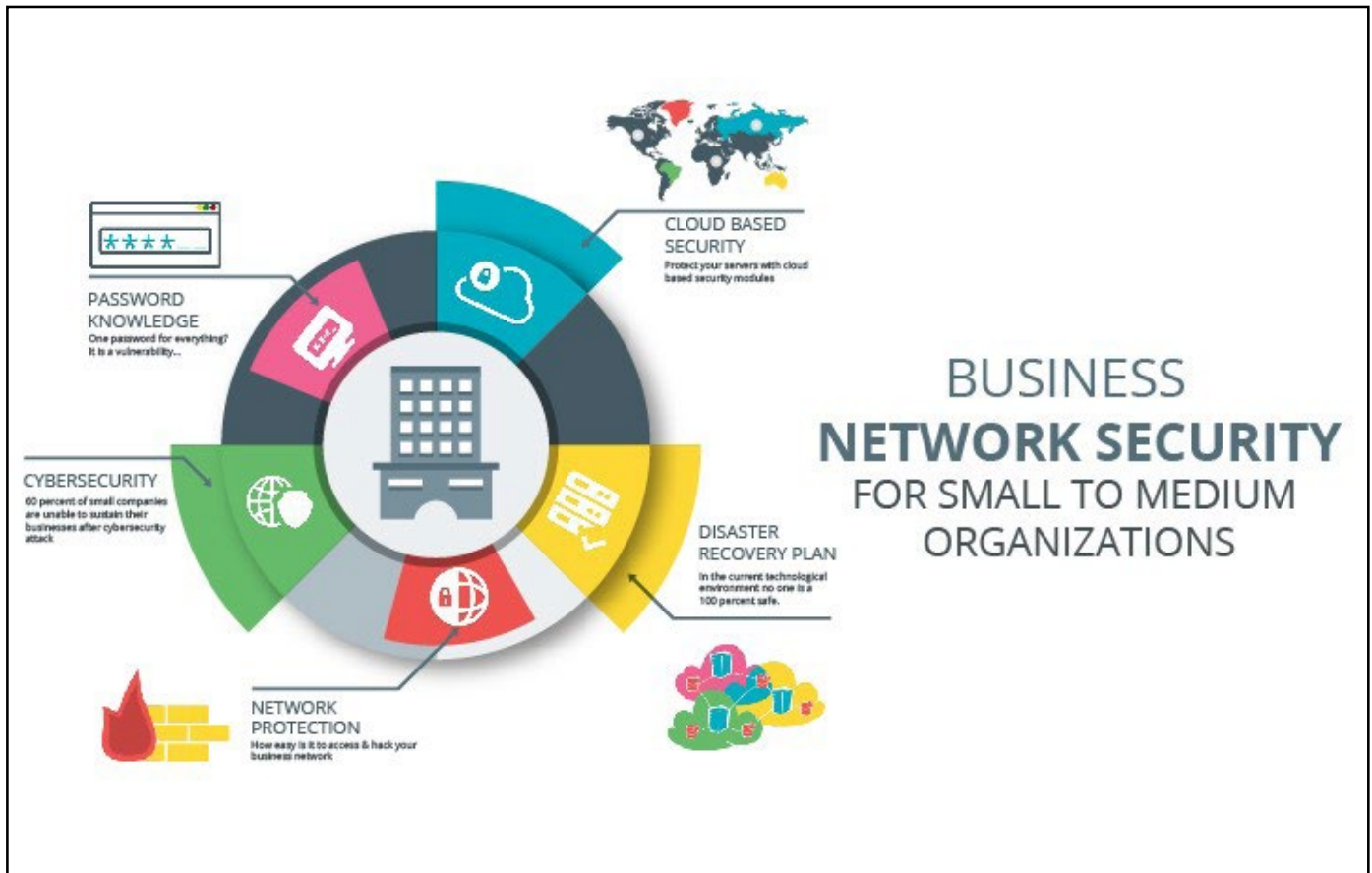
AN EXPLORATION TO THE SCENE

SCENE 2

A hallway outside the
auditorium. Several hours later.

TROY
late 30s, a hacker, formerly
for the NSA

TROY

VOICEOVER
This first function is all about asset management. We need to learn and
practice a variety of techniques for identifying threats to our assets. Security
specialists are really just wolves in sheep's clothing. When approaching
security we can start by thinking about the best ways to breach the
system we're trying to secure. This gets us moving beyond obvious threats.
Unfortunately, the most serious threats are always the hardest to identify in
advance.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CREATIVES

*We spoke with Lesniewski about how imperative the beginning presentation
is to the story and how the language and tone of the show evolve from the
presentation.*

SHAUN M. MCCRACKEN (SMM): You obviously have a strong background
in network security, but it's a very technically oriented topic on which to base
a play. How do you balance the technical aspects, while still allowing the
audience to understand what's going on?

VICTOR LESNIEWSKI (VL): I wanted to tell a story about the bigger issues of
national and international security. I think that using projections allows us to
simplify the process. We don't have to stop and explain everything because the
audience is seeing what the characters see.

SMM: Where did the idea come from to start the play with what is essentially a
PowerPoint presentation?

VL: (laughs) It honestly came from the fact that I've done so many of those
presentations in my professional life.

DIRECTOR ED HERENDEEN was intrigued by the idea of cybersecurity,
especially in light of recent events. "The play gives us insight into someone
like (Edward) Snowden – what might provoke someone to take such action
and how that action might impact the world." Herendeen also loved the
"whodunit" aspect of the play.

The Creative Team

DIRECTOR
ED HERENDEEN

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
SHAUN M. MCCRACKEN

SCENIC DESIGN
DAVID M. BARBER

LIGHTING DESIGN
D.M. WOOD

SOUND DESIGN
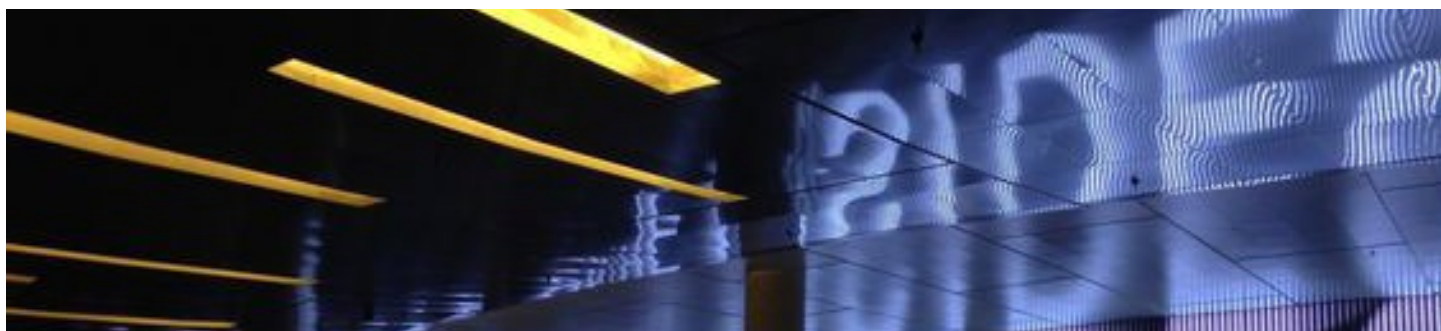**VICTORIA DEIORIO**

COSTUME DESIGN
PEGGY MCKOWEN

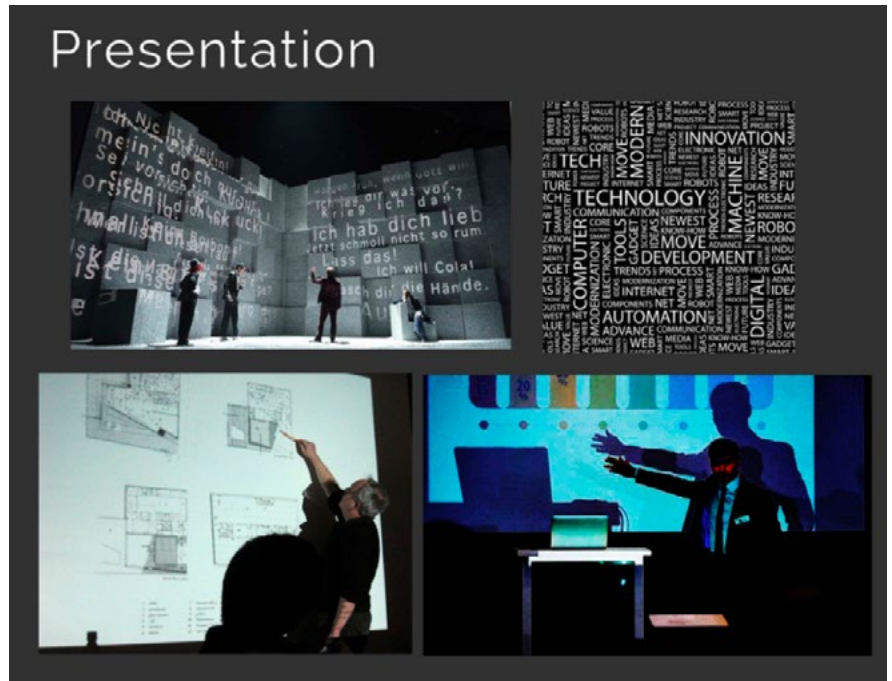PROJECTIONS DESIGN
MAX WALLACE

CASTING DIRECTOR
PAT MCCORKLE, CSA

FEATURED TECHNICAL ELEMENT: PROJECTION DESIGN

Because projection is such an important part of this play, the designers have been hard at work creating a "look" and "feel" for the projections. Check out the concept board on the right for the opening presentation projections.

Designers had to determine the best way to create the projections while taking into account the physical space of the Frank Center and the best way to project images clearly without being disruptive to the audience members. Projections can either be from the front or from the back of the theater. Read on to learn more about projection!

Projection Designer: The projection designer is responsible for producing all moving and still images that are displayed during a live performance. The designer uses images to enhance theatrical storytelling. The projection designer will work closely with other members of the creative team during the design process, including the scenic and lighting designers, to ensure the projections become a holistic part of the production.

Front Projection: The projector is placed *in front of* the viewing screen. This means that the projector has to be hung somewhere out in the house, meaning you have to find an unobtrusive location to hang the equipment. This can also create issues with ambient light washing out the image on screen.

Rear Projection: The projector is placed *behind* the viewing screen in order to control the amount of ambient light hitting the screen. Rear projection reflects a lot of light back toward the projector meaning that you have to increase the brightness of the image in order to reach the same effect. Rear projection also requires that there is significant space behind the screen in order to isolate the projector and control the light.

The scenic design for *The Fifth Domain* is closely linked to the projection design. The design has to incorporate where the projector will be housed.

FRONT PROJECTION

REAR PROJECTION

LEARN MORE ABOUT IT

- *Microsoft and the NSA*
- *NPR on 5G*
- *America Pushes Allies to Fight Huawei in New Arms Race with China*
- *BBC News: 'Long Term Security Risks' from Huawei*
- *BBC News: Cyber-attacks 'Damage' National Infrastructure*
- *BBC News: US 'Launched Cyber-Attack on Iran Weapons System'*
- *The Washington Post: Inside Story Behind Edward Snowden's NSA Leak*

KEEP THE CONVO GOING

■ **Penetration testers are also called "ethical hackers." Are there other situations you can think of where doing something that is technically "wrong" can help others?**

■ **Do you think it's right for the government to have access to your data? If so, why? If not, what limits do you think the government should abide by?**

■ **Edward Snowden said "my sole motive is to inform the public as to that which is done in their name and that which is done against them." Was Snowden justified in his actions? Did his actions hurt the US or help it?**

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

NSA (National Security Agency): also referred to as NSACSS (National Security Agency Central Security Service). The NSA works to understand threats to national security, secures network systems, supports the US Military, and does research on data/security information.

NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology): NIST was founded in 1901 to help address a critical challenge for US industrial competitiveness. The measurement infrastructure of US industries at the time fell far behind competitors like the United Kingdom and Germany. This measurement system now supports technology at all levels. Here's a helpful video to show you everything you need to know about NIST.

Penetration Tester: Also referred to as pen tester, or ethical hacker. Pen testers are cyber network security consultants who try to break into systems and software looking for vulnerabilities. Pen testers run a number of tests usually around the ability to penetrate a network and to report on what they discover. Once the pen tester finds the vulnerability, the company can address and fix it.

FireEye: A well-known cyber security company based in California. FireEye provides hardware, software, and investigative services for cybersecurity attacks. FireEye also protects against malicious software and analyzes security risks.