



Arena Theatre Company presents

## **SLIDE NIGHT: THEATRE AND PHYSICS OF THE FUTURE**

**Reflections from Artistic Director, Christian Leavesley**

Our two terrific speakers, **John Ford** and **Adam Ford** covered a lot of ground in their respective talks. I'm going to share a couple of ideas that resonated with me.

John spoke about the relative abundance of light in the world today, underlined by a NASA image of the man-made light that can be seen from space.

He spoke about light as pollution, and the measurable effects of too much exposure to light on the human organism, including links to cancers and reduced life expectancy. I couldn't help but think about those old TDK ads with 'evolved' humans with huge eyes and ears.

I wondered what we're not 'sensing' by being so attuned to the visual sense, and whether I need to re-calibrate the balance of my senses in trying to understand more of the world around me.

He also introduced some of the future of LEDs- and when it comes to lighting technology, it seems that LEDs are the only technology with any serious investment.

I was interested in the efficacy of certain light types to influence brain function- light waves that significantly enhance the ability to study and analyse, for example. Theatre lighting designers have been setting 'moods' and directing focus from the very beginning. But I wonder if the possibilities of how designers can influence audience experience are going to get more concrete?

Adam covered a lot of ideas under the umbrella of 'transhumanism.' Google *Spidergoat* for an animal that produces silk milk that can be used to replace tendons and ligaments.

He also talked about some examples of artificial intelligence that generates brand new ideas and tests them. I couldn't help but wonder about the possibilities of art being made by artificial intelligence.

Will I be plugging concepts for a show into my laptop, and waiting for the AI to write me some dialogue, plotlines and appropriately poetic metaphors? And once a computer can do it, would I be interested in those kind of scripts after that?

**The *Slide Night* program will continue in 2014. Sign up to our mailing list or our facebook for more information.**

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