

All Aboard “The Aluminum Cat”

Escape Character’s First Live Action Digital Adventure

Toronto and Online, Feb 9, 2019 (PRN) - Escape Character is thrilled to announce *The Aluminum Cat*, our first Live Action Digital Adventure. It's part video game and part immersive theatre. Both player and audience member, you go on an adventure with several other players — all from the comfort of your laptop! Your experience is curated by a live actor who plays the many characters you meet. The actor isn't pre-recorded, or an artificial intelligence – they're a real actor that cleverly responds to your antics in real time.

Since the show hinges on live interaction, it's sold as a ticketed event, just like an escape room, or a piece of theatre. Tickets go on sale February 11, with shows from February 12 - 26 initially. You can buy tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-aluminum-cat-hosted-by-escape-character-tickets-56200656677>

Press passes are available for the media, email contact@escape-character.com for more info.

The Story:

The Aluminum Cat is a 45-minute adventure played from your browser: you and 3-6 other audience members are new recruits for the Interplanetary Forces, ready to start a difficult and inglorious career as bottom-tier grunts on the most famous ship in the galaxy. Prior to coming aboard the Aluminum Cat, you admired the intrepid Captain Slab Beefsteak from afar, and dreamed of one day joining them on their adventures. Now you are confronted by the possibility that Beefsteak's legend is not all that it seems, as mutiny brews on the Aluminum Cat...

Testimonials from Audience Members:

“It's like internet dinner theatre”

“One actor playing every character become funnier and funnier the more we went.”

“only a few ways to interact with your fellow players fostered a weird kind of camaraderie”

About the Show:

The Aluminum Cat is written by Natalie Zina Walschots with original cast Stephanie Malek, with art by Suzie Komza. Produced by Dustin Freeman and hosted by Escape Character.

Videos and Photos:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/rqugxxeq6f7e4wy/AACCLwLPEW_kkAgtuYuPUZI6a?dl=0

Show highlight reel:

<https://escape-character.com/secret/TheAluminumCatHighlights.mp4>

Creator Bios:

Original Cast: Stephanie Malek is a producer, actor, singer, and all around nerd from Toronto, ON. Stephanie is the creator and producer of Songbuster - An Improvised Musical which she also performs with monthly at Bad Dog Theatre. Most recently, Stephanie co-produced four sold out shows of Buffy the Vampire Slayer's Once More With Feeling and Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog with her theatre company Cardboard Sword Collective. Stephanie can be seen regularly improvising at the Bad Dog Comedy Theatre and Comedy Bar as part of shows like D&D Live and Catch 23. Twitter: @stephanie_malek

Writer: Natalie Zina Walschots cultivates fandoms, builds new communities, develops character voices, leads interactive fiction workshops, designs alternate reality games, constructs branching narratives. As a writer and journalist, you can find her work in the National Post, The Walrus, Quill & Quire, The Globe & Mail, and beyond. She's the author of two books: DOOM: Love Poems for Supervillains, and Thumbscrews. She's currently finishing up Hench, a novel dedicated to the plight of hench-people, the downtrodden and often expendable employees of supervillains. Natalie has presented at Console-ing Passions, CGSA, Digital Odyssey, TCAF/CSSC, and more. She is an active member of Dames Making Games, and has previously worked with Pixelles, Concordia's Technoculture, Art and Games Lab, and The Hand Eye Society. <http://nataliewalschots.com/>

Background Artist: Suzanna Komza is a Freelance Illustrator living and working in Toronto, where she spends most of her time reading and painting. From an early age, she dreamt of publishing one of her own stories, which she simultaneously illustrates to create a deeper vision of her inner world.

She studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Wroclaw, Poland, from 2009 to 2015, graduating with a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Illustration. From 2011 to 2012 she spent a year abroad as an Erasmus student at the Ecole Supérieure d'Art et Design a Orleans, France.

Her strongest artistic inspirations are Albrecht Durer and the Polish School of Posters, and she will always have a soft spot for Pre-Raphaelite art. <https://suzannakomza.ca/>

Producer & Programmer: Dustin Freeman is the founder of Escape Character, a new platform for performers to produce telepresence entertainment. After a PhD in Computer Science and Theatre from the University of Toronto, including stints working on the Kinect at Microsoft Research, he went to work in Silicon Valley at a series of Augmented and Virtual Reality companies (Occipital, Moatboat, Fantasma, Limbix). As co-founder CTO of Raktor, he built one of the first live Mixed Reality streaming shows with remote audience participation. He's collaborated on many immersive theatre projects, analog and digital. <https://dustinfreeman.org>

Escape Character's site: <https://escape-character.com/>

Escape Character's Mailing List: <https://tinyletter.com/escapecharacter>

Main Contact: Dustin Freeman, contact@escapecharacter.com, 416-918-7567

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