

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Live Actors & Holographic Metaverse Reading: Architectural "Facade" Breaks The Fourth Wall

Live Human Actors, Holographic Scenes, & Metaverse Maelstrom Collide in a Storytelling Spectacle Like Never Before

Chicago, February 1, 2024 - Brace yourself for a seismic collision of titans, pixelated panache, and architectural convictions gone metaverse! "Façade," a visionary play by Oren Safdie, is set to reshape the staged reading landscape by melding live human actors, Tupac-inspired holographic images, and Macross Plus anime vibes into an enthralling blend of storytelling and digital spectacle.

Event Highlights:

In this groundbreaking metaverse reading experiment, "Façade" thrusts museum drama into a mind-bending mix of high-stakes architecture, ambition gone rogue, and a scene that's part stage, part digital playground – all without the need for a VR headset. The limited-seating event invites attendees to bring an open mind and a thirst for the future of storytelling, intersecting with architecture, technology, and performance.

Q & A Session with Playwright Oren Safdie, EVL, and Lira Luis FRIBA FRSA NCARB RA LEED AP:

The intrigue doesn't end with the performance; a captivating Q & A session follows, featuring insights from playwright Oren Safdie, the Electronic Visualization Laboratory (EVL) leaders, and Lira Luis FRIBA FRSA NCARB RA LEED AP.

Presented in Partnership with Chicago Architecture Biennial

This avant-garde program is presented in partnership with the Chicago Architecture Biennial, showcasing a commitment to innovation and artistic exploration.

About the Program:

Safdie's provocative script explores contemporary architecture's high-stakes world, tackling themes of ambition, ego, and the clash between architectural vision and

commercial reality. Visualized by architect Lira Luis, FRIBA, FRSA, NCARB, RA, LEED AP, the staged reading pushes the boundaries of storytelling with a unique blend of live actors, cutting-edge immersive technology, and a metaverse-inspired setting.

Experience:

Live Actors: Talented performers bring Safdie's characters to life on a metaverse stage, creating a dynamic and immersive experience.

Holographic Scenes: Holographic imagery transports the audience into the heart of the story with scenes inspired by Lira Luis's architectural projects, iconic architecture, urban landscapes, and anime aesthetics.

Metaverse-Inspired Setting at EVL: The reading takes place in a unique space that blurs the lines between physical and virtual worlds, offering a glimpse into the future of storytelling accessible to all.

Who Should Attend:

This program caters to individuals interested in cutting-edge theater, the intersection of technology and storytelling, contemporary architecture's societal impact, and the future of immersive experiences.

Limited Seating:

Due to the experimental nature of this program, seating is limited. [RSVP early](#) to secure a front-row seat to this unforgettable convergence of art, architecture, and the metaverse.

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About Chicago Architecture Biennial:

The Chicago Architecture Biennial is an international exhibition of architectural ideas, projects and displays. It seeks "to provide a platform for groundbreaking architectural projects and spatial experiments that demonstrate how creativity and innovation can radically transform our lived experience." Founded in 2014, the biennial is managed by

a charitable corporation under the auspices of the city's Cultural Affairs department, and sponsored by public and private organizations and individuals.

About Lira Luis, FRIBA, FRSA, NCARB, RA, LEED AP:

Architect Lira Luis is a visionary in architecture, lending her expertise to visualize the metaverse reading through holographic scenes derived from her projects, recognizable urban landscapes, and iconic architecture. She is a Filipino-American architect, the first AAPI architect to be elected to the Royal Society of Arts (RSA) Council, and the first Filipino-American architect to be elected as a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and Fellow of The RSA. She is also the first Filipino-American Taliesin Fellow of the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture (FLWSA).

About Oren Safdie:

Oren Safdie is an acclaimed playwright known for his provocative exploration of contemporary architecture's high-stakes world. One of his latest plays, *Façade*, is a testament to his ability to blend humor, drama, and architecture in a captivating narrative. He is a Canadian-American-Israeli playwright and screenwriter, and the son of architect Moshe Safdie.

About The Electronic Visualization Laboratory (EVL) at UIC:

The Electronic Visualization Laboratory (EVL) at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) is an internationally renowned research lab and graduate studies program. The EVL has been at the forefront of Virtual Reality research since 1992. It has developed CAVE2, a next-generation virtual-reality and visualization system and the OptIPortal scalable-resolution display wall (2004-present).