

# OPERA CALLING

## ARIAS FOR ALL!

## PROJECT FAQ (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

### WHAT IS "OPERA CALLING" ?

"Opera Calling" is an exhibition and a performance. It's main aim is to explore the usefulness of <hacking> as an artistic strategy of production. By detaching <Hacking> from its original context in digital culture the project aims at proving its more general viability as a means of redirection and criticism.

"Opera Calling" was the first of three parts of a six-month-long exhibition at the Cabaret Voltaire in Zurich called "appropriate - manipulate - feed back!". It stands for the "appropriate" - part so to speak.

### WHAT DOES "OPERA CALLING" DO?

"Opera Calling" is an intervention into the cultural system of the Zurich Opera. By means of a bug placed within the auditorium of the local opera house, the outside public is given access to the performances on stage. The performances are re-distributed not through broadcasting, but by telephoning each person individually.

As soon as the Opera starts performing a machine calls every phone number listed in Zurich. Zurich residents then enjoy the pleasure of listening in on a live performance at the opera from the comfort of their home. With the use of the telephone for the dissemination of the opera transmissions a virtual auditory space is opened not as blanket coverage (as with broadcasting media) but as a home-delivery service: Every person is individually connected and can eaves-drop at their leisure from the comfort of their living room.

### WHAT HAPPENS IN THE INSTALLATION?

The installation represents and displays the different operations of the performance: 100 telephones are directly connected to the computer calling the people at home and thus connecting them with the opera performance. The machine constantly monitors to see if the bug is still emitting its signal. As soon as the bug detects <opera activity> the machine switches into LIVE mode and starts to automatically call the phone numbers listed in the Zurich telephone book. In the installation the telephones start ringing in time with the phone of the person called. As soon as someone at the other end of the line picks up the phone, the telephones in the exhibition, like the telephone at the persons house are connected to the opera. The monitors show the number being called, the opera played and other such output information.

### WHY CAN I HEAR THE OPERA IN THE INSTALLATION EVEN IF THERE IS NO PERFORMANCE AT THE OPERA?

During the day, while there is no opera performance going on, the exhibition machine switches into LOG mode: It replays random calls it has made during previous opera nights.

### CAN I JOIN IN?

Yes. Stay at home during opera performances and wait for the opera to call you!

FOR AN EXTENDED VERSION  
OF THIS FAQ VISIT:

<http://www.opera-calling.com>

