

Presented by Digital Arts and New Media at the University of
California, Santa Cruz

**SMOKED
OUT**

*WATCHING
THEM
SCRAPE
OUR HOME
AWAY*



by Carl Erez

Co-Directed by
Princess Kannah and Carl Erez

Dark Lab
Digital Arts Research Center
University of California, Santa Cruz

Directors' Note

I first heard about the CZU Lightning Complex when some of my extended family was forced to evacuate. I distinctly remember standing on my driveway, looking around and seeing how the entire sky was sepia, just a few hours before I got a call saying that I had gotten a job as a census taker, for which over the following weeks I would be responsible for going into areas that had just ended evacuation, and saw so much devastation firsthand. So, it was rather surprising when, around a year ago, I read a news article about how the rebuilding process had been repeatedly stalled and next to no rebuilding had been done. I was at the point of my MFA where I was trying to decide what my thesis project would be, and realized that this was an issue that needed to be directly confronted. Systemic issues can be difficult to confront, especially via art, but as the systems around us continue to fail to support those who they are meant to support, we nevertheless must stand against them. I hope, by bringing together this incredible team to create this work, we can lend at least a little support to this struggle.

- Carl Erez

When I first came to UCSC, I wanted to work on thought-provoking, heartfelt, and soul-feeding work. This show is just that. When Carl told me about his idea for the show, I was on board in a heartbeat. It is my great wish that, for one heartbeat, you can see yourself in the characters, that you can lend an ear and hear our message. I thank you for being here and hope you enjoy the show.

- Princess Kannah

Smoked Out:

Watching Them Scrape Our House Away

By Carl Erez

CAST

A/Morgan..... Giovanni Lomeli
B/Zeus/Joker..... Rylind Richmond
C/Insurance Adjuster/Citizen/Friend..... Ruby Kastner
D/Power Representative..... Destiny Oliva
E/Zeus/Bureaucrat..... Hannah Goodwin

Production Personnel

Co-Director Princess Kannah
Co-Director Carl Erez
Stage Manager Sabrina Fogel
Media Designer..... Justin Hammer
Lighting Designer Marshall
Sound Designer Daria Amit
Dramaturg Sara Sotelo
Costume Designer Daria Amit
Game Designer Carl Erez
Digital Arts Technical Coordinator..... Colleen Jennings
Light Board Operator..... Kiyo Leong
Poster Design..... Saul Villegas of Moderno
Faculty Advisor..... Marianne Weems
Program Advisor..... Bennett Williamson

Content Warnings

Flashing Lights; Depictions of Fire; Loud noises;
Mature Themes or Content; Strong language; Mentions
of Death; Potentially Vertigo Inducing Imagery

Special Thanks

Marianne Weems, Susana Ruiz, Elizabeth Swenson, Dr.
Juko, Karen Anderson, Rory Willits and the DANIM 2023
Cohort, Ari Frankl, Asta Baker, Eric Mack, Doc Chemers,
Antonia Bradford, All of our playfesters, Joel Moore

Dramaturgy

You can learn more about the show at:

<https://smokedout.sites.ucsc.edu/>



About the Show

Smoked Out is a bit structurally unusual, so here is a brief breakdown of the show.

Act I: Last winter, Carl interviewed 5 individuals about their experience with the CZU Lightning Complex and the following two and a half year fight to rebuild. Verbatim text from these interviews, along with some official statements from the Santa Cruz County, were composed together to create the script for the first portion of the show, which focuses on a wide variety of issues, from under-insurance to governmental inconsistency all while dealing with the great loss of a home.

Act II: This is followed by a small portion of mobile phone gameplay, so that audience members can experience some of the hurdles discussed via direct play. This game can be accessed at the below link/QR Code. Feel free to go on *now* to design your home!



tinyurl.com/SmokedOutMobile

Act III: For the final portion of the show, you are invited to come on stage and be a part of the action! We will be putting on what is known as “forum theater,” where the impact of proposed courses of action can be explored through acting them out, to discuss what changes might be made to help those struggling with rebuilding now and how to change the system before the next large disaster hits.

Charities

Both of the following charities have provided a lot of support to rebuilders over the past few years, and also deserve some recognition and support:

Mountain Community Resources
Catholic Charities of the Monterey Diocese