

# Preface

In September 2001, we organized the 1st International Conference on Virtual Storytelling in Avignon, France. This was the first international scientific event entirely devoted to the new discipline that links the ancient human art of storytelling to the latest high technologies of the Virtual Reality era.

Since this date, technology has not slowed its course. We all know that personal computers are even more powerful, but there have been huge advances in graphics boards. These are now programmable and can render in real time huge quantities of data as well as special effects that until recently required a dedicated graphics superworkstation. Applications that were in the research lab have now come to market. 3D Virtual Humans, the heroes of today's video games, are taking their first steps on e-business Web sites. These will be the stars of tomorrow. New topics are being intensively researched, especially, mixed and enhanced realities – the art of combining synthesized with real worlds.

This evolution raises many technical, applicational, artistic and even ethical questions. The occasion of the 2nd International Conference on Virtual Storytelling provided an excellent opportunity to once again gather researchers from the scientific, artistic and industrial communities to demonstrate new methods and techniques. This was the venue to show the latest results, and exchange concepts and ideas about the use of Virtual Reality technologies for creating, populating, rendering and interacting with stories, whatever their form, be it theatre, movie, cartoon, advertisement, puppet show, multimedia work, video games, etc.

We believe that participants in Virtual Storytelling 2003 found exciting guidelines for future scientific and artistic research as well as ideas for new applications and developments. Because Virtual Storytelling is a rapidly expanding discipline, new conferences are expected to be organized very soon to update the state of the art!

Toulouse, November 2003

Olivier Balet  
Jean-Pierre Jessel  
G rard Subsol  
Patrice Torguet

## Acknowledgement

Organizing a conference on Virtual Storytelling was a joint initiative of the Virtual Reality Department of the Communications et Systèmes Group and the French Working Group on Virtual Reality (GT-RV).

However, Virtual Storytelling 2003 only came about thanks to the financial support of the IST Programme of the European Commission, of Grand Toulouse, the Paul Sabatier University of Toulouse, and the University of Glasgow. We really want to thank them all for offering the opportunity to organize a conference on so innovative a topic.

We would also like to thank the Eurographics Organization for supporting the conference as well as the members of the Scientific and Application Board who helped the organizers to define the conference topics, and proposed names of experts for the Program Committee. The members of the Program Committee deserve special acknowledgments for their amazing reviews of the large number of papers that were submitted (three times what we had initially expected!).

Last, but not least, we had the pleasure to welcome two companies, Immersion SA and NVIDIA Corporation, that offered prizes for Best Paper and Best Demonstration.

Finally, our thanks to the organization people from Sophie et Associés for their help during the conference preparation.

# Organization

## Chair

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Olivier Balet      | Communications & Systèmes Group, France          |
| Jean-Pierre Jessel | IRIT, Paul Sabatier University, Toulouse, France |
| G rard Subsol      | LTS, University of Perpignan, France             |
| Patrice Torguet    | IRIT, Paul Sabatier University, Toulouse, France |

## Scientific and Application Board

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Norman I. Badler      | University of Pennsylvania, USA                 |
| Ronen Barzel          | Pixar, USA                                      |
| Maurice Benayoun      | Z-A Production, Paris, France                   |
| Kevin Bj rke          | NVIDIA Corporation, Santa Clara, USA            |
| Bruce Blumberg        | MIT MediaLab, USA                               |
| Ronan Boulic          | EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland                     |
| Marc Cavazza          | University of Teesside, UK                      |
| Yves Duthen           | IRIT, University of Toulouse 1, France          |
| Franz Fischnaller     | University of Illinois at Chicago, USA          |
|                       | F.A.B.R.I.CATORS, Milan, Italy                  |
| Catherine Garbay      | IMAG, Grenoble, France                          |
| Andrew Glassner       | Consultant, Seattle, USA                        |
| Stefan G bel          | ZGDV, Darmstadt, Germany                        |
| Jonathan Gratch       | University of South California, USA             |
| Alain Grumbach        | ENST, Paris, France                             |
| Barbara Hayes-Roth    | Extempo Systems, Inc., USA                      |
| Paul Kafno            | HD Thames, UK                                   |
| Wim Lamotte           | Limburgs Universitair Centrum, Belgium          |
| Didier Libert         | ENSAM, Paris, France                            |
| Sina Mostafawy        | [rmh], Germany                                  |
| Ryohei Nakatsu        | Kwansei Gakuin University, Sanda, Japan         |
|                       | Nirvana Technology, Inc., Japan                 |
| Jean-Christophe Nebel | University of Glasgow, UK                       |
| Sally Jane Norman     |  cole Sup rieure de l'Image, France             |
| Catherine P lachaud   | University of Paris 8, France                   |
| Ken Perlin            | New York University Media Research Lab, USA     |
| Simon Richir          | ISTIA Innovation, Angers, France                |
| Leonie Schaefer       | Fraunhofer FIT, Sankt Augustin, Germany         |
| Barry Silverman       | University of Pennsylvania, USA                 |
| Ulrike Spierling      | University of Applied Sciences, Erfurt, Germany |
| Marie-Luce Viaud      | INA, Bry-sur-Marne, France                      |
| John Wilson           | University of Nottingham, UK                    |
| R. Michael Young      | North Carolina State University, Raleigh, USA   |

## Program Committee

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Jan Allbeck           | University of Pennsylvania, USA              |
| Victor Bayon          | University of Nottingham, UK                 |
| Stéphane Donikian     | IRISA, Rennes, France                        |
| Patrick Doyle         | Stanford University, USA                     |
| Knut Hartmann         | University of Magdeburg, Germany             |
| Junichi Hoshino       | Tsukuba University/PRESTO JST, Japan         |
| Ido Iurgel            | ZGDV, Darmstadt, Germany                     |
| Michael Johns         | University of Pennsylvania, USA              |
| Pieter Jorissen       | Limburgs Universitair Centrum, Belgium       |
| Alexander Lechner     | Vertigo Systems, Germany                     |
| Manuel Viñas Limonchi | University of Granada, Spain                 |
| Heidy Maldonado       | Stanford University, USA                     |
| Maic Masuch           | University of Magdeburg, Germany             |
| Michael Mateas        | Georgia Institute of Technology, USA         |
| Chris Raymaekers      | Limburgs Universitair Centrum, Belgium       |
| Jean-Hugues Réty      | University of Paris 8, France                |
| Nadine Richard        | ENST, Paris, France                          |
| Paul Richard          | ISTIA Innovation, Angers, France             |
| Oliver Schneider      | ZGDV, Darmstadt, Germany                     |
| Magy Seif El-Nasr     | Pennsylvania State University, USA           |
| Alexander Sibiryakov  | University of Glasgow, UK                    |
| Danaë Stanton         | University of Nottingham, UK                 |
| Andrew Stern          | InteractiveStory.net, grandtextauto.org, USA |
| Nicolas Szilas        | IDtension, France                            |
| Bill Tomlinson        | University of California, Irvine, USA        |
| Daria Tsoupikova      | University of Illinois at Chicago, USA       |