

WHAT IS PLUTOPIA?

COMPANY

Plutopia Productions is a highly creative events and media company that emerged from a consideration of the future of digital convergence in 2005-2006. We create experiences and media that are steeped in the evolving post-technological culture where mobile connected technologies are deeply embedded and inherent as running water.

Plutopia is a cultural arts and entertainment company that produces its own signature events, as well as a broad spectrum of events for third parties. We formed from a set of conversations and installations exploring of the future of entertainment and media experiences in a world transformed by digital convergence.

What makes us different is that we use culture, the arts, convergent media and entertainment to provide the general public with exposure to, and experience of, the amazing emerging innovations and cultural developments on the horizon. We manifest a vision of the future that is positive, focused on productive technical innovation and positive cultural innovation.

The Purpose: To leverage a combination of art, media, and entertainment as a persuasive mechanism in order to demonstrate emerging trends and positive future scenarios.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Plutopia Productions specializes in creating and producing inspirational, participative experiences, which we call 'sense events' aimed at providing multi-sensory stimulation and the thrill of discovery.

This is achieved through unique content and high-end production values and an unparalleled network of partners and collaborators.

All our events are future-focused, innovative and interactive by design and incorporate the latest in green and sustainable technologies and approaches.

A new culture is evolving: digital literacy will be pervasive and connection and coordination will be via subtle, granular applications and technologies. In this culture, environments are highly configurable to individual preference and group experiences are mediated by technologies embedded in our daily experience: smart phones, augmented reality and location-aware applications, and persistent deep connection to all friends and acquaintances and the entire world's information and knowledge. In this context we are evolving a new kind of event, the sense event, which we define as **"a produced entertainment or educational affair that engages participants in an amplified multi-sensory experience and results in enhanced associated memory formation."** The character of the event enhances the experience of the event.

WHO WE ARE

MAGGIE DUVAL, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Maggie is a gifted visionary who offers rare insight into current, evolving and emerging technologies. She is an expert in creating and producing engaging and immersive marketing events, workshops, and conferences in which business, technology and cultural experts convene in innovative ways to dialogue and collaborate. Her current work in this area includes the Plutopia Productions events, Austin Non-Profit Bar Camp “One Web Day,” The 20th Anniversary of the Raid on Steve Jackson Games, sustainable community building workshops and “emerging paradigm” salons. She lives in Austin, Texas where she is active in numerous cultural, sustainability and economic development initiatives, serves a consultant for the strategic planning, business development and capital sourcing firm Invision Group, and is a partner in Plutopia Productions, Inc. Duval also serves on the board of EFF-Austin, a nonprofit organization supporting digital freedom in Texas since 1990.

DEREK WOODGATE, CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Derek co-founded Plutopia as an extension of his earlier successful venture, Fringecore (The International Forum for Progressive Culture), in order to provide a platform for the convergence of technology, entertainment and the arts in Austin.

In doing this, he has built a bridge between his work as a futurist, author and cultural maven. Derek’s projects for Fringecore and Plutopia have embraced artist management, development and representation, performance and event production, and publishing. Beyond working with a number of progressive and avant-garde musicians and artists, Woodgate has also consulted on future program development for MTV, Showtime, WorldSpace, Blastro, Clear Channel and the BBC, and has been a keynote speaker at entertainment-related conferences. These include The California Arts Council, CMJ Music Conference, Cutting Edge Business Music Conference, New Orleans, and the International Live Music Festival in London. He has been a regular panelist at SXSW since 1995 and is on the board of the Association of Professional Futurists while serving as President of the Central Texas Chapter of the World Futures Society.

JON LEBKOWSKY, DIGITAL MEDIA DIRECTOR

Jon Lebkowsky is an expert on Internet culture and practice, author, strategist, and cultural commentator focused on collaborative technologies, web strategy, media, advocacy, and future studies. An early online community moderator on The Well and a co-founder of Fringeware Inc., Lebkowsky has been a direct participant in the conversations that generated the contemporary global digital society. He became one of the web’s first bloggers, writing regularly about digital culture, technology, media, and global sustainability while contributing to several cyberculture projects during the web’ first decade. He was a key player in developing e-commerce and online community initiatives for Whole Foods Market in the late 1990s. In 2001, he formed Polycot Consulting and was involved in the emergence of social technology throughout the early 2000s. He has since been a leader in the use of social technology for political activism and civic engagement, currently serves as President of EFF-Austin, and has also served as Vice President of Austin Wireless, Co-founder of the Austin Wireless City Project, Advisor for the annual SXSW Interactive Conference, Member of the Executive Board of Directors for the Digital Convergence Initiative of the Texas Technology Corridor, Core Collaborator for Bootstrap Austin, Co-founder (with Clay Shirky) of “You’re It!,” a group blog about tagging, Manager of Wireless Future, and Cofounder of the Social Software Alliance.

BON DAVIS, TECHNICAL PRODUCER

Bon Davis offers a diverse skill set spanning the academic, theatrical and cultural realms, which gives him unprecedented production expertise. This experience supports his vision of presenting unique events that are thought-provoking as well as entertaining. Davis is fluent in all aspects of theatrical and technical production, from the conceptual to the practical. While he enjoys all facets of the theatre and entertainment, his specialty is large-scale production. He currently works for Ballet Austin and the University of Texas Performing Arts Center in addition to Plutopia Productions. Davis also enjoys an active academic career with research focused on the Iconography and Performance of Ritual and Political Leaders in Mesoamerica. He has held several field archeology positions with universities, private firms and state agencies and has served as technical coordinator for the Maya Meetings at the University of Texas, Austin. Davis currently serves as a Journeyman and Executive Board member of The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts (IASTE) Local 205.

JO RAE DI MENNO, PR CONSULTANT

Jo Rae formerly served as Director of Publicity for SXSW for 10 years and since has opened her own PR company, *Hard Pressed Publicity*. She has placed stories in most major media and countless regional publications, radio and TV shows, while also being represented the Canadian and French SXSW music contingents and the Dutch Rock & Pop Institute. Di Menno started her music-biz career as a freelance writer in Houston, which led to a position as editor of the *Fitzgerald*, the house paper published by *Fitzgerald's Nightclub*. She later served as publicist and the first female DJ at *Cardi's*. After serving as Ronnie Lane's publicist, she began a 6-year stint as manager, booking agent and publicist for various Alejandro Escovedo projects. She also started Di Menno Public Relations, where she handled booking and management for several area acts, while also working with various record labels. She took on the SXSW publicity job two years after its inception, and guided it through some of its biggest years of growth.

CHARLES "SCOOP" SWEENEY, EVENT PRODUCTION SERVICES

Scoop Sweeney began his career in radio broadcasting, which landed him at KPFT-Pacific Radio in Houston, first as reporter and later as News Director. He later joined San Francisco's Zodiac News Service, a nationally syndicated radio feature service, where he began to focus in music as the station's Music Editor. Sweeney later transitioned from writing about music to making music, and has since managed the hard rock band Vital Signs. As Personal Manager, he was involved in all areas of management, touring, production, publicity and label relations. Over the following decades, Scoop worked as a booking agent, artist manager, tour manager, lighting designer, record producer, event publicist, promoter and event production manager for many of the top event producers on the West Coast. Sweeney simultaneously pursued a parallel career track in information technology, which enabled him to bring the business of running a band into the modern world by mastering programming, data analysis and other business applications. Sweeney is now active in Austin's music and technology communities, where he serves as Director of Event Production Services for Plutopia Productions.