

UN ANGE PASSE

~~over an audience of individuals.~~
for performer and audience

Prepare at least eight sound sources that would not sound "unnatural" if heard in the chosen performance space at the level of ambient noise. These sources might include tapes and records of the sounds of animal and human activity, of machinery, of meteorological phenomena, etc., and/or electronic circuitry synthesizing approximations of these sounds. Connect each source to its own amplifier and speaker and place the speakers where they cannot be seen by the audience: behind curtains, under platforms, in catwalks and scaffolding, in rooms and corridors adjacent to the performance space. Determine a way to turn off each source individually and noiselessly, such as by switching the input selector of the amplifier to an unused input.

Prior to the arrival of the audience, set the volume of each channel to an ambient level. When the audience enters, the sources should be audible but likely to go unnoticed. Perform this work first on any program or else keep the sources sounding throughout the pieces that precede it.

Begin the performance by making a gesture signifying a beginning, such as lowering the house lights or seating yourself behind the equipment. Carefully watch one or more persons in the audience for any sign of possible loss of attention: looking away or down at the program, fidgetting, nodding off towards sleep, etc. In response to any such sign immediately switch off one of the sources. Continue to do so until none of the sources are sounding.

You may choose to respond to one person for the entire performance or to a different person for each source. Switch off the sources with as little movement as possible so that you provide the audience with no visual clue as to what is happening.

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