

## THE KUIVILA UNCERTAINTY PRINCIPLE

for two performers and tape recorder

### Cast

The Speaker should be an individual known for great eloquence, lucidity, or verbosity, a keen and unshakable sense of logic, strong scientific or mathematical methodology, or some similar virtue.

The Spoker should be very familiar with the Speaker and his qualifying attributes.

The performers may be of either sex, but for the sake of clarity in the use of personal pronouns in this score, the Speaker will be assumed male and the Spoker, female.

### Set

A cassette or reel-to-reel tape recorder rests on a small table to one side of a podium. A chair is placed behind the table. A microphone is mounted on top of the podium and connected to the tape recorder. If external speakers are used they should be located on either side of the stage or performance area in the manner of a P.A. system, or else immediately in front of the podium. If the tape recorder's internal speaker is used the machine should be positioned so that the speaker projects to the audience as efficiently as possible. The connections in the microphone-tape recorder-amplifier system should be set up in such a way that the microphone signal is heard through the speakers unless the tape is being played back.

A sheet of paper lies on top of the podium. Prior to the performance the Spoker has written one sentence on this sheet: it begins: "The Kuivila Uncertainty Principle states that. . ." and concludes with a declaration, of her invention, designed to provoke the Speaker in some way. The Speaker should not be allowed to see the paper before the performance begins.

An optional pitcher of liquid and a glass may be placed on the podium.

### Performance

The two performers enter the space together. The Spoker sits in the chair. The Speaker stands at the podium and reads the paper to himself as though reviewing lecture notes. He begins speaking by explaining, elaborating, and providing proof for the Kuivila Uncertainty Principle as he found it stated. The Spoker records him on the machine in front of her. She can, at any time, stop the recording, rewind the tape a few yards, and play back a statement or series of statements by the Speaker.

While the tape is being played the Speaker listens; when it ends the Spoker resumes recording, and the Speaker must argue against what was just heard, contradict what he said earlier (he may allude to the methodology of "reductio ad absurdum"), and offer an alternative explanation, proof, or approach to the material in question. Again, at her discretion, the Spoker can stop, rewind,

Kuivila (3)

play back, and force the Speaker to argue with himself while she resumes recording; if she plays back the response to her previous interruption, he must find a new approach rather than returning to the reasoning that he was following prior to that interruption.

This process continues until the Speaker has nothing left to say, at which point he attempts to exit gracefully. The Spoker rewinds and plays back the last section of the tape and exits during the playback.

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