

Wireless to Heaven

DieOrdnungDerDinge

Theater im Delphi
January 2025

**Texts of the performance in
English**

Introduction

AUDIO - Radio recording from 22. December 1920

“Hello, hello, this is Königs Wusterhausen on wave 2700... Ladies and gentlemen, to show that our station has now come of age and will no longer serve as a guinea pig, we would like to send you a small, modest Christmas concert. The cast? I myself play the violin, the staff of the station, headed by my brother-in-law Felix Blum, sing the Christmas carols...”

MUSIC - *Silent Night, Holy Night*, traditional carol

TEXT - Introduction text (Cathrin)

Well, Christmas is over and suddenly it's already 2025. Good evening, dear audience, how nice to see you here. Today, we would like to talk to you about something very human, older than the wheel or younger than the metaverse, depending on how you look at it. Something that repeats itself identically or at least very similarly as long as there are people.

We all know it, the first phase of infatuation and excitement, then the disappointment, which, after some time, stabilizes in the best case after some back and forth into a serene, pragmatic goodwill. You probably already know: we want to talk to you about technology.

You know how it is: one day something seems impossible, and a year later it seems

impossible to live without it. Almost everyone has experienced such a change, because since the beginning of time, we have been trying to push the boundaries of what is possible. And in this pursuit, we repeatedly experience difficult moments because we do not cope well with confrontation with the new or the unknown. And in this pursuit, we repeatedly experience difficult moments because we do not cope well with confrontation with the new or the unknown. And that has always been the case.

Every technological novelty that is so innovative that it 'cannot be distinguished from magic,' as Arthur C. Clarke says, experiences the same curve of social enthusiasm, expectation, and then acceptance, is the same curve that was experienced 3000 years ago, 1000 years ago, 100 years ago, and that we are experiencing today as well. This evening,

we will attempt to trace this curve using the example of radio. But first: *Place à la musique!*

MUSIC - The march from opera *The Love for Three Oranges* by **Sergei Prokofiev** (1924)

TEXT - Welcome to the Show (Íñigo)

Thank you, dear audience. Well we promised love, and we will deliver love, but you know how these things are, one can't just simply jump into things, first there must be some getting to know each other and maybe trying things out. So we'd like to give you a little context first. As many of you know, radio started in Berlin in 1923, although back then it was only a couple hundred listeners. 1924 is when things really took off, but, like we heard before, some

people in Königs Wusterhausen were already playing around with the technology, that was 1919. But it was the 20's that would really see Radio take off in Berlin, in Germany and in the world.

SCENE 1 - Berlin yesterday and today

MUSIC - *L'invitation au château* by
F. Poulenc (1947)

TEXT - Berlin in numbers (Cathrin)

On October 1, 1920, the so-called Greater Berlin was formed from 8 cities, 59 rural communities and 27 estates. The population doubled to 3.8 million. Berlin thus became the city with the third largest population, behind only London and New York. Today, Berlin is home to around 150,000 fewer people than in 1920, and the city has fallen back to 133rd place in the ranking of the most populous cities.

And apart from the people, there were in Berlin. Pigs, cows, sheep, dogs. In 1920,

there were 28,500 pigs, while today there are only 44. At that time, 700 sheep were counted, today there are 540. In addition, in 1920 there were around 189,000 dogs, while today the number is 111,000.

In 1920, 1,400,000 people visited Berlin, but in 2019 this number increased tenfold to 14 million. While in the 1920s most of the people came from neighbour countries such as Austria or Poland , today they mainly come from America and England.

The everyday life of the people of Berlin has changed drastically over the last century. In 1920, an average of 3.4 people per apartment lived in 1,151,800 apartments. Today, there are 1,970,000 apartments in Berlin, but only 1.8 people per apartment.

Today, we take it for granted that pressing a switch turns on the light, but in 1920, only 21.5% of homes had electricity. Today,

electricity is available everywhere in Berlin, but only 89% of Berlin homes have internet.

Despite or because of the darkness, Berlin's cultural and nightlife was vibrant in the 1920s. In 1920, the population was kept entertained in 42 theatres, 309 cinemas and 155 vaudevilles. Today, for example, there are only 99 cinemas left in the city, so maybe we should blame Netflix.

But what use are so many options if you can't afford the tickets? The 1920s were very hard years, especially the recession of 1922 devalued the currency so much that it was only worth the paper it was printed on. And during the hyperinflation of 1924, a litre of milk cost €1.57 in January and €7.84 in December.

TEXT - Looking for an Apartment in Berlin (Jone)

Now that we're all here: I'm looking for a flat in Berlin. 2 rooms, preferably in Mitte or Kreuzberg, with a main renting contract and a balcony. Maximum price 44.70€. What? Don't laugh! That's how much a 2-room flat in Berlin cost in January 1924. But if you know someone who is looking for a tenant for that price, I'll be in the foyer after the performance. I'm vaccinated, reputable and I don't practice at home.

SCENE 2 - Potpourri

AUDIO - Radio Recording from 1925

London And Daventry calling, we now bring... here is Radio Barcelona, ladies and gentlemen, and now we will retransmit... Attention, attention! This is the Berlin and German shortwave station. We are broadcasting dance music.

MUSIC - *Hello Hello hier Radio Berlin* by **Luigi Bernauer** (1930)

TEXT - Quotes from sources from the 1920s (Alba, Mathilde, Martin, Jone, Vera)

With the radio, we can reach many more people than a concert hall could ever hold! /

The age-old human struggle against the barriers of space and time has entered a new stage!

Radio in Germany doesn't want to be sensational, but wants to awaken the good and noble in people!

The farmer, who doesn't have time to go to a concert, suddenly realises that there is much more beautiful music out there than just the usual fairground music!

In a city like Berlin, at least half a dozen musical performances take place every evening that are suitable for transmission to radio listeners. It is exhilarating to imagine that in the future you will be able to listen to the Philharmonic, the State Opera or a cabaret by adjusting the tuning capacitor as you like.

LYRICS (Íñigo)

Hello, hello, this is Radio Berlin, on wave length, / so and so I send to you coast, / but if I am at your home / and kiss your mouth, / I switch off the antenna / and it goes on without radio.

MUSIK - Die schöne Adrienne hat eine Hochantenne by **Hermann Leopoldi** (1925)

LYRICS (Vera)

Wherever you go / wherever you sit or stand / today, the radio is the only thing that's discussed / from the cellar to the attic / everyone is crazy about

Adrienne / tschintarata-ta-ta-ta-ta-ta-radio / has an aerial / tschintarata-ta-ta-ta-ta-ta-ra-radio

MUSIK - *Ich sitze den ganzen Tag
an meinem Radio* by Willy Rosen
(1927)

LYRICS (Íñigo)

*Every day in the morning, at noon, in the
evening, / that's when I hear sweet magical
melodies. / In the morning I wake up, do
gymnastics and laugh / and almost forget
to get dressed. / Yes, even when I've
pressed the little button, / I suddenly feel
transported out of this world.*

*I sit all day at my radio / and I hear
'Doodle, doodle, doodle, du'. / It sounds all
day from my radio / this sweet 'Doodle,
doodle, doodle, du'.*

TEXT - The nightingale, from a Newspaper from 1924 (Cathrin)

The BBC introduced a new artist to the radio: the nightingale. The British Broadcasting Company offered its audience a nightingale concert that is said to have caused a sensation everywhere. A highly sensitive microphone and an amplifier were installed in the garden for the recording. From there, the lovely melodies were transmitted to the radio station via a telephone line and relayed throughout the country.

MUSIK - *List'ning on Some Radio* by **Gene Buck, Louis A. Hirsch, Dave Stamper** (1922)

LYRICS (Íñigo)

*A favour would you please bestow / say
can I use your radio? / If you would be so
kind / I want to try to find her / with radio I
can reach her / would you let me beseech
her?*

*Please, wireless wave, just behave / While
I rave, for I crave just a moment or so /
O'er the Radio I want the world to know /
How I love you, Dearie, Hello / It's not
private, I know / But I miss you and I love
you so / Of the millions that hear / I may
find you, dear / List'ning on some Radio*

TEXT - Ranking of the most frequently performed works, from a Newspaper from 1924 (Íñigo)

As for the question of which musical works are preferred, we refer to the very instructive judgement of the well-known American composer and conductor Sousa, who, after long experience, put together the following programme from the most popular concert numbers worldwide

- L.v Beethoven, *Coriolan*
- R. Schumann, *Traumerei*
- J.S Bach, *Aria*
- W. A. Mozart, Don Giovanni
- Felix Mendelssohn, Violin Concerto
- C. M. von Weber, *Invitation to the dance*

SCENE 3 - Music of the Spheres

TEXT - Music of the Spheres, from a Newspaper from 1924 (Vera)

Light waves, as you may know, are essentially no different from electrical vibrations: they propagate in the same substance that we call ether at the same speed, with the only difference being that the waves of light are infinitely shorter than those of electricity.

Wireless telephony: we 'commission' electrical oscillations with sound, use them as messengers, take the sound waves from this messenger by reconvertng the electrical oscillations in the receiver, making the transmitted sound audible through the telephone.

Fantastic thought:

to transform light into sound, to coax sounds from the light of infinitely distant stars using the recipe we have just invented, to make outer space audible, to bring down to earth the miracle that ancient Greece dreamt of: the music of the spheres!

They have tried it in France: the head of the French army radio service, General Ferrié, has undertaken experiments with two experts to convert the light from distant stars falling on the earth into electrical oscillations. To do this, he used, so it is reported, photoelectric cells that emit weak electrical currents when exposed to light. These currents were amplified by four-electrode tubes, which (for higher voltages) are more receptive than the conventional three-electrode tubes. In this way, currents were said to have been generated by the light of the star Capella, billions of kilometres away.

A small capacitor from the photocell was charged for ten seconds and then discharged through the four-electrode tubes mentioned above, resulting in an amplification that could be heard in the headphones.

‘General Ferrié wants to continue the experiments to achieve even better results,’ the report concludes. And one day we will no longer need radio stations: today Sirius will ‘give a concert’, tomorrow Libra, and one day we will hear the spherical orchestra of Orion or Andromeda...

MUSIC - *Adagio* for violin and piano by **Germaine Tailleferre** (1924)

SCENE 4 - Bertolt Brecht and the radio

TEXT - Fragments from radio theory (1932-1929) by Bertolt Brecht (Cathrin)

I remember hearing about the radio for the first time. It was ironic newspaper notes about a formal radio hurricane that was at work devastating America. But it still gave the impression of being not just a fashionable, but truly modern thing.

This impression vanished very quickly when we were also able to listen to the radio. At first, of course, one was amazed at the source of these tonal performances, but then this amazement was replaced by another: one was fascinated at the performances that came from the spheres. It was a colossal

triumph of technology to finally be able to make a Viennese waltz or a recipe accessible to the whole world.

In my opinion, you should try to make the radio a truly democratic institution. In this respect, you would, for example, achieve a great deal if you gave up always just producing for the wonderful distribution devices that you have at your disposal, instead of making current events productive through their mere installation and, in special cases, through skilful, time-saving management. I think you have to use the equipment to get closer to real events. You have to get close to important Parliament sessions and especially to major lawsuits. In addition, you can conduct real interviews at the microphone instead of dead presentations, where the interviewees have less opportunity to think up elaborate lies as they can for the newspapers.

And as for the purpose of broadcasting, in my opinion it cannot be to merely embellish public life. But quite apart from its dubious function, broadcasting has one side where it should have two. It is a pure distribution apparatus.

And now, to turn positive, in other words, to seek out the good in radio, a proposal for a change of function for radio: radio should be transformed from a distribution apparatus into a communication apparatus. Radio would be the greatest conceivable communication apparatus for public life, an enormous canal system, which means it would be if it knew how not only to transmit but also to receive, in other words, not only to make the listener hear but also to make him speak, and not to isolate him but to put him in touch with others.

That is why all efforts of broadcasting to truly give public affairs the character of the public realm are absolutely positive.

SCENE 5 - Failed Inventions

MUSIC - *Tea for two* by **Vincent Youmans** (1924)

TEXT - The end of the romance
(Vera)

And so we come to the end of the first phase of romance. But what happens next?

Nobody can say. Some relationships survive this phase, others don't. Often only time can tell. Predictions are very difficult. (Different unsuccessful inventions and unfortunate quotes)

“Fooling around with alternating current is just a waste of time. Nobody will use it, ever.”

Thomas Edison, 1889

“When the Paris Universal Exhibition is over, electric light will go out and we will never hear of it again.

Erasmus Wilson, 1878

“Oil is a useless secretion of the earth – a sticky liquid that stinks and has no use whatsoever.”

Russian Academy of Sciences in St.
Petersburg, 1806

SCENE 6 - Radio's round-the-clock discomfort

MUSIC - Three pieces untitled *Anecdotes for the radio* by **Paul Hindemith** (1925)

TEXT - Reader's letter to a newspaper from 1924 (Íñigo)

Doctors and scientists agree that the radio has caused many illnesses, especially those related to nervous disorders. The human organism needs rest and cannot be kept in continuous jazz rhythm forever. At least there are very many humans on earth who cannot sustain this pace and need rest to recover for their daily work.

Radios run late into the night and because they are so easy to use, they start playing early in the morning. With the radio, a person

just has to turn a switch to create a continuous stream of the worst sounds that fill the air. Some people have nothing better to do than enjoy their music, and they assume that if they enjoy it, those around them must enjoy it as well. This starts in the morning and continues well into the night. Rarely does one find peace before 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning.

I have brought the nerve-wracking sounds of radios to the attention of various official and unofficial authorities, but have had very little positive response. I have communicated my concerns about these sounds to the New York City Department of Health, but the city takes the position that there is nothing they can do.

If you contact the police, they will claim that they have no jurisdiction over what people do in their own homes. It also makes no difference whether you politely ask these people to turn down the volume so that the

radio cannot be heard outside their apartment or to stop playing after a reasonable time – say around 10 or 11 pm. These people often reply that their flat belongs to them, the radio belongs to them and they can do whatever they want with both.

A good thing is very good when used in moderation, but when abused it becomes a bad thing.

SCENE 7 - The evolution of the Radio

AUDIO - Recording of different Speeches of various public figures over the years

With radio, it has become possible to spread news across the entire earth in a fraction of a second. This development has led to our being able to assume the world as a common speaking arena today, regardless of whether we are neighbours or antipodes. And the ethical tasks of radio are crowned by the guiding principle of the noble goal: Create new paths for the human spirit!

Hans Bredow, Imperial commissioner of broadcasting, 1924

MUSIK - Louis Armstrong 1920's

Consider also that it is the technicians who make true democracy possible. For they not only make the daily work of man easier, but also make accessible to the masses the achievements of the finest thinkers and artists, the enjoyment which until recently was a privilege of the favoured classes, and thus awaken the peoples from sleepy torpor.

Albert Einstein, 1930

MUSIK - *Kann den liebe sünden sein?* by Zarah Leander (1938)

There is no art without bias. It is childish to believe that in a time of revolutionary transformations on the scale we are experiencing now, something can remain neutral. I am not in favour of that and I am

not going to go back on it. And the radio has the task of being above it all.

The radio has to submit to and subordinate to the objectives that the government has set for the national revolution. The government will give the instructions for this. You need not fear that we will do this carelessly, because the people who took power on 30 January are not philistines, but men who have as much of a heart for art as they do for culture, for radio, for theatre, as they do for politics.

Joseph Goebbels, Propaganda Minister,
1933

MUSIK - *An der kleinen
Radioapparat* by H. Eisler (1942)

LYRICS - (Cathrin)

You little box that I carried as I fled, /
Concerned to save its works from getting

broken, / Carefully from house to ship, from
ship to train, / So that my enemies could
continue to talk to me

At my bedside and to my pain, / The last at
night, the first in the morning, / [Could
continue] to talk about their victories and my
efforts: / Promise me, not suddenly to go
silent!

SCENE 8 - The Singularity

MUSIK - *The Singularity* by Íñigo Giner Miranda

Good evening everyone. I'm glad to be here with you today. I'm sure you've all heard a lot about AI lately. We all have. And that's why I'm here tonight, to explain to you what's really going on. Can I have some drama please?

Every once in a while, something happens that captures the imagination of the entire world, and this seems to be one of those defining moments. Sometimes these things get a little overstated, so it's appropriate to ask whether they are actually that significant. I just happen to think this is a defining moment in human history, and I'm here to make two points: First, to explain why I think this is so important, but especially, second,

to help you understand what role you play in this new era that is just beginning.

In fact, AI will create something comparable to out-of-body experiences. I always prefer to say 'superhuman' rather than 'artificial' intelligence because 'artificial' makes it sound as if this intelligence is not real, and because AI is our greatest opportunity to expand our abilities and perceptions in previously unthinkable ways.

In many ways, our entire human history has brought us to this point. Evolution has given us intelligence, and we have developed technologies and devices to help us expand our intelligence, adapt and grow.

And now the time has come: every day, the percentage of artificial intelligence on the planet is growing. This process was slow at first, but things are accelerating, and it will continue to grow. At some point, biological

intelligence on the planet will account for less than 1% of total intelligence.

AI will become more intelligent and nanotechnology and biotechnology will ensure that we interact more closely with it. If a simple calculator makes us superhumans in mathematics, imagine what direct communication with an AI will do to our brains.

Some people refer to this as 'the singularity': a future point in time when technological growth will become uncontrollable and irreversible. A new era of human civilisation, driven by the fusion of human intelligence with artificial intelligence.

And so we come to you / you are the generation that will experience the singularity. Artificial intelligence will surpass human intelligence, and you will experience this change.

You have to prepare yourselves. I have three tips to help you prepare. Are you ready? Be aware! This is an important moment, and things are going to happen that will be of fundamental importance for us as human beings. You have to keep up with developments and know where we stand at all times.

Number two: Change! Things will change, and so you have to change with them. / Change yourselves / Evolve yourselves / You have to adapt, you have to evolve. It will no longer be possible to avoid constantly adapting. Why? Because: change, change, change, change / And this change, and this is number 3, will come FAST. Everything is getting exponentially faster.

Now you might think that you have got this... because you are modern.... and you have TikTok, discord... or GitHub... or any other super fantastic app. But this is a whole new kind of speed, don't underestimate it.

I need an example, Please. Thank you,
that's enough

You get the idea. I think I could summarise these three ideas into one: 'Don't underestimate the moment and keep up with technology'. In this rapidly evolving world, keeping up with developments in AI is more than just a trend – it's your gateway to countless opportunities and a brighter future. Not only will it open up career opportunities in various fields such as healthcare, finance, entertainment and more. By educating yourself and developing skills in AI, you can be part of groundbreaking innovations that change the world, from creating smarter health solutions that save lives to developing cutting-edge entertainment experiences that inspire the world.

AI will increasingly impact our lives, and those who understand how it works will be the true shapers of the future. They are at the forefront, ready to tackle the biggest

ethical challenges of our time and unleash the power of this technology for the benefit of all humanity. Seize the opportunity to engage with AI; you will not only drive change but create revolutionary innovations and impact the world in a way that few have ever done before.