Breaking that awkward silence
Michael Boyd

- Solo performer in an elevator for any length of time.
- A "technological" object that can make different types of sounds is chosen for a performance. Object examples include: "musical" instrument, boom box, power tool, bicycle pump, etc.
- A performance begins when the performer enters elevator and ends when he or she leaves.
- The performer responds to external stimuli encountered in the elevator using the table (right).
- When a particular stimulus is encountered the performer responds employing the action (imitate, oppose, disturb, or integrate) associated with the stimulus's row and the performance mode (object/sonic, object/visual, body, or voice) associated with the stimulus's column.
- Example: If someone in the elevator hums, the performer should disturb the humming by using his/her object to make sound.
- Example: If someone in the elevator moves away from the performer, that action should be imitated with his/her body.
- The sonic and visual responses that a performer creates should be subtle and not obviously directed at the stimulus to which they respond. Thus the performer's actions, despite the fact that they are created in reaction to events occurring in the elevator, should on the surface appear to be his or her own private activities.
- All sonic gestures should be of moderate to low volume; the performer should not intentionally touch other elevator occupants.
- It is probable that events found on the performance table may occur in quick sequence or simultaneously. In either of these cases the performer's responses should be performed in a continuous sequence or integrated into a single multifaceted gesture.

	Object, sonic	Object, visual	Body	Voice
Imitate	The elevator creates unusual noise	Someone stares at you	Someone moves away from you	The elevator chimes
Oppose	Someone speaks to you	The elevator door opens	Someone looks around	People are present but completely silent
Disturb	Someone hums	Someone reads	Someone moves to accommodate another passenger	Someone speaks to another passenger
Integrate	Someone speaks on the phone	Someone moves toward you	The elevator is empty	Someone presses an elevator button