@lantis

a science fiction radio play series

EPISODE 2 – Data Protection

Newly-appointed Captain Dorothy Goddard's adventures in Ponderlust Laboratories continue as she meets IRIS, a sassy teenaged Artificial Intelligence created by Professor Quine to help them in the lab. IRIS might be a super computer able to complete thousands of tasks at once, but her skills inevitably suffer when she becomes distracted by a boy...

CAST

Dorothy – Nicola Brescianini

Jules – Murray Jackson

Mary – Tegan Mulvany

Harry – Max Rankin

Lug – Nic Doig

IRIS – Xarna Rappold

Jacob Wehr-Murphy – Percy

Susanna Gray – Izzy

Chris Buckle – Bart

Kate Willoughby – Chief Costain, Elizabeth, Receptionist

Ellin Sears – Zoe

And Featuring Vee McGuire as the *@lantis* PA and Elevator

CREW

Writer/Director – Stephen B Platt

Set – John King (assisted by Harrison Mitchell, James Jury & Ella Ewart)

Lighting – Zenna Newman-Santos

Sound/AV – Ella Ewart

Foley – Andrew David

Foley Assistant – Cassie Power

Extra Sound – Stephen B. Platt

Sound Recordist – Bradley Clarke

Sound Levels – Evie MacPherson

Stage Manager – Sarah Courtis

Asst. Stage Manager – Mia Winter

Costumes – Róisín Keiley

Concept Artist – Ally Snell

Original Theme Tune – Rob Woods

SO WHAT IS @LANTIS?

Set in the future, *@lantis* is an underwater city populated by scientists who are experts in their field. It's also the title of this series! Written as part of the PhD research of Stephen B. Platt. Want to help out his research? Make sure you fill out an anonymous audience survey after the show. You can find them in the Nexus Foyer or at the link here.

SPOTLIGHT ON…CAST

Name: IRIS
Played by: Xarna Rappold
Occupation: Internal Research Intelligence System for Ponderlust Laboratories
Strengths: She's a super computer who can think her way through pretty much anything.
Weaknesses: She has the temperament of a bratty 14-year-old girl.

SPOTLIGHT ON…CREW

Name: Ally Snell
Role: We're thrilled to have Ally on board as one of our incredibly talented concept artists. Her amazing designs will be featured in the live audio-visual elements in Episodes 1, 2 and 6 including the terrifying Hybrid, the Boozi's, as well as the design for everyone's favourite A.I. – IRIS. You can see her work projected during the live episodes or check it out on the *@lantis* website!

FUN FACTS FROM THE WRITERS ROOM…

- IRIS is actually SIRI backwards! Just a little nod to one of the better known Virtual Personal Assistants out there 😉
- When she isn't onstage, ensemble member Ellin Sears is also our Production Manager! Keep an eye out for future sneaky cameos…
- Research has shown that if Artificial Intelligence systems continue to develop at their current rate, A.I. programs will likely be as powerful as the average human brain by the 2060's. Within the next ten years, A.I. programs will likely be out performing humans at folding laundry, translating languages, and writing high school essays…

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Greetings all!

Welcome to *'Data Protection'*, the second episode of '*@lantis: a Science Fiction Radio Play Series'*. Set in a futuristic underwater city populated by scientists and academics, '*@lantis*' is a key part of my PhD research into Science-Fiction and Live Performance being undertaken here at Murdoch University. You can provide feedback on your experience with *@lantis* by completing an audience survey available in the Nexus Foyer or via our website www.atlantisradioplay.com

In *'Data Protection'*, the recently-promoted Security Captain Dorothy Goddard is introduced to the unofficial fifth member of the Ponderlust Labs research team – IRIS, an Artificial Intelligence with attitude. IRIS and her father/creator Prof. Jules Quine have a strained relationship which is put to the test when the Ponderlust team are confronted by threats such as wormholes, aggravated crustaceans, and the scariest foe of all: teenagers.

After the debut of the series last week with '*Fish Out of Water*', I'm thrilled to be able to bring you the second episode in the series and a formal introduction to the character of IRIS. She was the last member of the Ponderlust team I wrote into the scripts for *@lantis*, which is why she is making her first appearance in this episode. A.I. characters have a rich history in Science-Fiction, with some my own favourites being Holly from *Red Dwarf*, EDI from the *Mass Effect* series and the villainous HAL 9000 from *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Given the advancements in real-world A.I. development, the subject of "Computers that Think" is one that has proven to be popular in recent Sci-Fi films (including films such as *Her* and *Ex Machina)*, and as such was selected early on in the writing process as an area of Sci-Fi I wanted to explore during the run of *@lantis*.

As with all of the other episodes in this series, '*Data Protection*' features artwork from our incredibly talented team of artists. This week – as with Episode One – our feature artist is Ally Snell, who has brought characters such as Lug, IRIS, and the Hybrid to life with her skills. Given that radio plays can sometimes be a little on the visually unstimulating side, we made the decision early in the design process to incorporate projected artwork on stage to accompany the performances and give an additional optical flavour to the content of the show. Keep an eye out for more of Ally's work later in the series, as well as the upcoming contributions from our other talented artists Allison Bell and Lorraine De Cruz.

With my thanks,
Stephen B. Platt, Writer/Director of *@lantis*