

For my performance this December, I want to play with the conspiracy theory that the bird noises by the central plaza are recordings that are played from the palm trees. I like that this is relevant to students and I can add in things that fellow students will understand.

I got this idea because I was sitting outside at the amphitheater working and there were birds around me while I was thinking about the project. And then the song I was listening to also was singing about birds. Throughout all of this, I was thinking about how anything, an object, or whatever, can be a performance. I just decided to run with the idea of “birds” and see what I could make out of it.

#### Setup:

On stage is just an opaque, white screen. Little lighting necessary. Behind the screen is an actor. When the tree is projected, it is a white tree on a black background. The actor will be some color, maybe changing based on emotion, maybe just a single color based on aesthetic preference. I'm not sure yet.

#### Plot:

1. Person reading against palm tree
2. Bird noises start (low volume)
3. They stand, look up at the tree, and decide to investigate.
4. They start climbing the tree.



5. As they climb the tree, the volume of the bird noises gets higher (they are getting closer)
6. They stop once and see a cat in the tree



7. They keep going and eventually get to the top, where they do find the speaker? Maybe. (the volume is the highest at this point)
8. They have a cool reaction to being able to find the speaker and prove the conspiracy theory true and then start to climb down (volume decreasing as they do)
9. They pass by the cat again
10. When they reach the bottom, they take one last look at the tree, and walk away.
11. Then, a bird flies out of the tree.



What I imagine the technology will be:

1. A camera of some sort detecting the actor (depth? IR?)
2. Projection Mapping the Palm Tree animations
3. Projection of the Actor

Things I am still working out:

1. What happens at the climax? Is there a speaker? How is that revealed?
2. How is it established in the beginning the confusion of there being bird noises but no birds?
3. How long will the current plot take? Do I need more? Where would I expand?
4. Who will be the actor?
  - a. Once this idea is confirmed, I'll ask around and get an actor.
5. If I am projecting a white tree, would it be better just to have a black surface to project onto, rather than the white screen I was imagining? Is this feasible?

