Project: Ether

Project Type: Non-union, nonprofit, university student capstone project, SFW
Project Genre: 3D third-person action stealth
TW: Minor swearing, villain misgendering protagonist on purpose *(See "General Bryant" for more details)*
Project Length: Main Character: 1-2 hours recording time; Supporting/extra: 30 minutes
Compensation: Flat fee ($100/$75/$50)- see below for note about compensation
Production Type: Remote, asynchronously directed w/ potential table recording
Recording Period: January 19, 2024 - March 1, 2024
Email for Contact/Questions: *projectetherva@gmail.com*
Submit Auditions at: *projectetherva@gmail.com*
NO voice will be fed to AI under any circumstances.
Audition Deadline: December 22nd, 2023, 11:59 PM PST
Auditions will not close early. Casting will be finalized by or before January 19th
Submissions will not be accepted after the deadline.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Magic is just an urban myth, witchcraft all but a fairy tale… or so they think. In a world where magic exists and flows through the world in the form of Ether, two groups fight for this mysterious energy: the Unnatural Artifacts Division (UAD), a top-secret wing of the US Military aiming to weaponize magic, and COVEN, an all trans, all witch terrorist organization aiming to stop UAD and repatriate magic for the good of humanity.

In this 20-30 minute vertical slice, play as ZHAY, Codename Spirit, the secret field agent and super-spy of COVEN. Their fated encounter with THE KID, a mysterious ethereal spirit living inside of an artifact that fused with Zhay's prosthesis, changes both of their lives.

FEATURES:

- Zhay banters and clears missions with their COVEN teammates:
    - SELENA, codename Bari, expert hacker and Zhay's troublemaker sister
    - CASSIE, codename Haumea, wise leader of COVEN with a mysterious past
- Zhay fights against GENERAL BRYANT, a genocidal maniac who aims to cleanse the world of sin using magic
    - Zhay takes down UAD GUARDBOTS, the General's lackeys—clumsy but deadly military drones.

AUDITION GUIDELINES

- You must be 18 years or older to audition.
- **If you do not share the identity listed for the character, please do not audition for the role.** I.e. if you are not black and trans/nonbinary, please do not audition for Zhay.
- Please record with the equipment you will use if cast, and ensure your audio quality is representative of what you will submit moving forward!
- XLR is heavily preferred, but an equivalent broadcast-quality USB can suffice.
- Record all lines listed for the character you are auditioning for.
- Slating is preferred, but not required.
- Please do not edit, process, or compress your audio files. Clipping is allowed.
- **Record 2-3 takes (3 takes maximum) in AA BB CC format:**
    - **LINE 1: TAKE 1, TAKE 2, TAKE 3**
    - **LINE 2: TAKE 1, TAKE 2, TAKE 3**

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Submit auditions via projectetherva@gmail.com
- Submit one email only, titled “Project Ether Audition - Stage Name”
    - Ex) Project Ether Audition - Estey Boling
- Each character you audition for should be submitted as a separate audio file, titled “CharacterName_StageName”
    - Ex) Cassie_JoanSmith
    - If auditioning for multiple roles, please submit one audio file per role.
- Please record in 48kHz and submit your audition(s) as a 16-bit .wav.
- Any submissions that do not follow all guidelines will not be considered.

NOTE ABOUT COMPENSATION

This is a non-union, student passion/undergraduate capstone project. As such, we can only offer up to $100 per role depending on the number of lines:

- Zhay: $80-100
- General Bryant & The Kid: $55-75
- Cassie, Selena, Guard Bot: $30-50
- Compensation can be either through PayPal or Zelle, and will pay halfway upfront and halfway upon the delivery of all lines.
- You will be credited in the game & and any promotional social media posts.

We are painfully aware that this is nowhere near the industry standard, but all compensation comes out of the team lead’s pocket. We are working on a student budget, but we would like to pay voice actors for their time and talent. If you feel like our offering is not acceptable, please let us know via the audition email/Twitter.

ROLES

All roles are preferred (but not required) to have a standard American accent.

ZHAY/Codename: Spirit



Pronouns: They/Them
Age: Early 20's
Role: Main Protagonist
Voice Description:
Medium-medium low pitch: relaxed, carefree, a bit childish, but with moments of sincerity.
This role is only open for Black, LGBTQ+ VAs. Additional preference given to disabled and trans/nonbinaryVAs.

Character Bio
Zhay is one of COVEN's best operatives, so they carry themselves as such. When in the field, they try to keep themselves level-headed, the vibes light, and their flaws and accidents to a minimum (they're a bit of a perfectionist). Zhay can act out of passion at times, but at the end of the day, they have everyone's back and would do everything in their power to keep their friends out of harm's way.
Additional Notes
Overall vibes are "shonen protagonist"—not dumb or simple, but more relaxed and chilled. They're confident that what they're doing is good.
There is some minor swearing involved for this character.
Lines:

- (Determined, Pushing Forward) I'm over this. I'm getting my answers, my way. Let's move.
- (Confident, Chill) If we get out as fast as we got in, we'll be coolin' at HQ before breakfast.
- (Ironic, Quippy) What's this thing? Some weird art piece or something?
- (Sigh of relief) Whew! These tin cans don't know when to quit!

CASSIE/Codename: Haumea



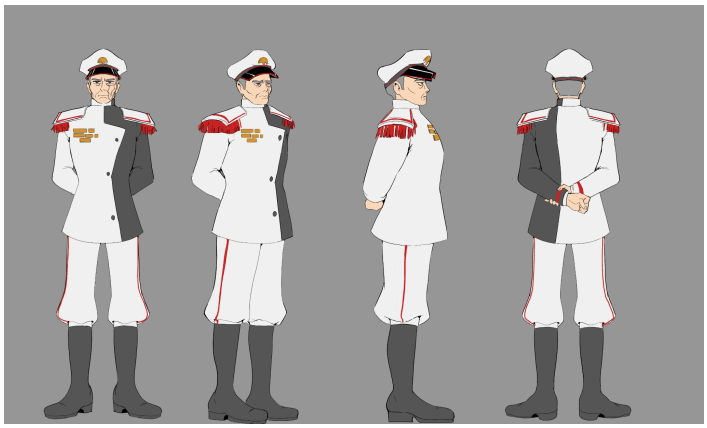
Pronouns: She/Her
Age: Mid-late 30's/early 40's
Role: Supporting Role
Voice Description: Medium-high pitch: Gentle, soft-spoken, calming. Can sometimes be intense when emotional.
This Role is only open for Pacific Islander, LGBTQ+ VAs. Trans/nonbinary VAs are heavily preferred.

Character Bio
Cassie is the head witch of COVEN, an organization she created to fight the injustice and corruption of the UAD. Though she rarely enters the field herself, she works just as hard to protect her family of misfits, and will always prioritize the safety of her team over the mission at hand. Cassie believes in kindness, using her immense spiritual power for healing—but should anyone lay a hand on her family, she has no qualms about protecting them by any means necessary.
Additional Notes:
Very different temperature levels- between loving & bubbly, and stern & calculated. Any Hawaiian consultation language-wise for the script is appreciated, but not required, for the role.

Lines:

- (Sincere, Emotional, Shutting down any further argument) Zhay, this is all so much bigger than you. Please, stand down.
- (Motherly, Gentle) You are our guest. But even if you weren't, it wouldn't change anything. It's not hard to be kind.
- (Panicked, Fearing for Zhay's Life) Drop it, Agent Spirit. Get out, both of you- that's an order.

GENERAL BRYANT



Pronouns: He/Him
Age: Late 60s
Role: Main Antagonist
Voice Description: Low-pitched, deep. Intense, full of contempt, slightly classy
Open casting, preference given to LGBTQ+/older VAs.

Character Bio
General Ezekiel J. Bryant is the head and sole remaining human member of the UAD, seeking justice and salvation through his acts of greatness. After losing himself in ambition and work, he found himself amid an explosion that ruined much of his work, and he holds Cassie to blame for ruining his future. From the ashes, the general raised the UAD trusts no living soul… except those that he created. His new dream is no longer to fix the country's problems, but to erase those he believes are the root of the problem- he *will* rewrite history and be remembered as the divine savior.
Additional Notes
Religious zealot & fanatical villain with no chance for sympathy or understanding. Cold, calculating, ruthless.
TRIGGER WARNING: There may be some lines that will misgender the protagonist as a woman, as a part of his villainous character. If you are uncomfortable with that, please let the team know.

Lines:

- (In Contempt, almost spitting out) Oh, it’s you. I recognize you, Cassandra’s little lap dog. You’ve been a real thorn in my side. But look at you now, pathetic.
- (Slowly rising in intensity, filled with hatred) I’ve been using its eyes and ears all this time. Collecting information about you. Learning your weaknesses, how to break you.
- (Awaitedly, slightly excitedly) Ah, right on schedule! Now, my holy crusade shall reach its conclusion.

THE KID



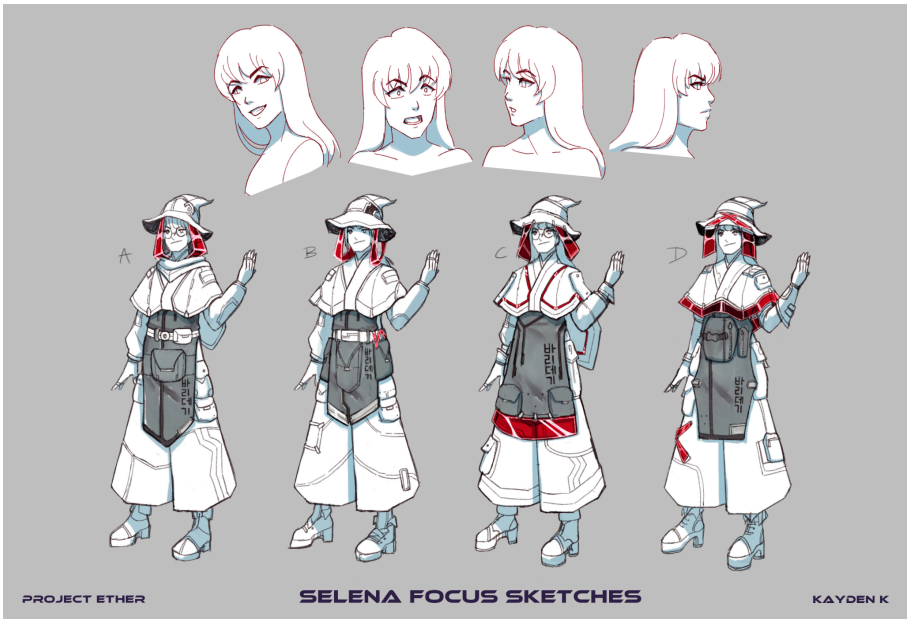
Pronouns: They/Them
Age: Young, pre-teen; ambiguous
Role: Deuteragonist
Voice Description: Medium-high, medium pitch: innocent, curious, cheerful, occasionally monotone
This role is only open for LGBTQ+ and POC VAs.

Character Bio
The Kid remembers little of their past other than the fragmented memories of the experiments performed on them during their time at the UAD. The Kid is curious and easily excitable, seeking to learn all that they can from their new best friend Zhay about the world and about their complicated and foggy past.

Additional Notes
The Kid has moments in gameplay where they lose control of themselves, during which they speak in a monotone, almost robotic voice with no emotion. The Kid slowly picks up Zhay's lingo and habits as the game progresses.
Lines:

- (Confused) I don't know. I feel like I know her but I am unsure.
- (Innocent, then Curious) A bit ironic that my first opportunity of freedom is being spent right back where you found me… That's how you use the word "ironic" right?
- (Withdrawn, sensitive) This… I can't tell why but I feel… pain.

SELENA/Codename: Bari



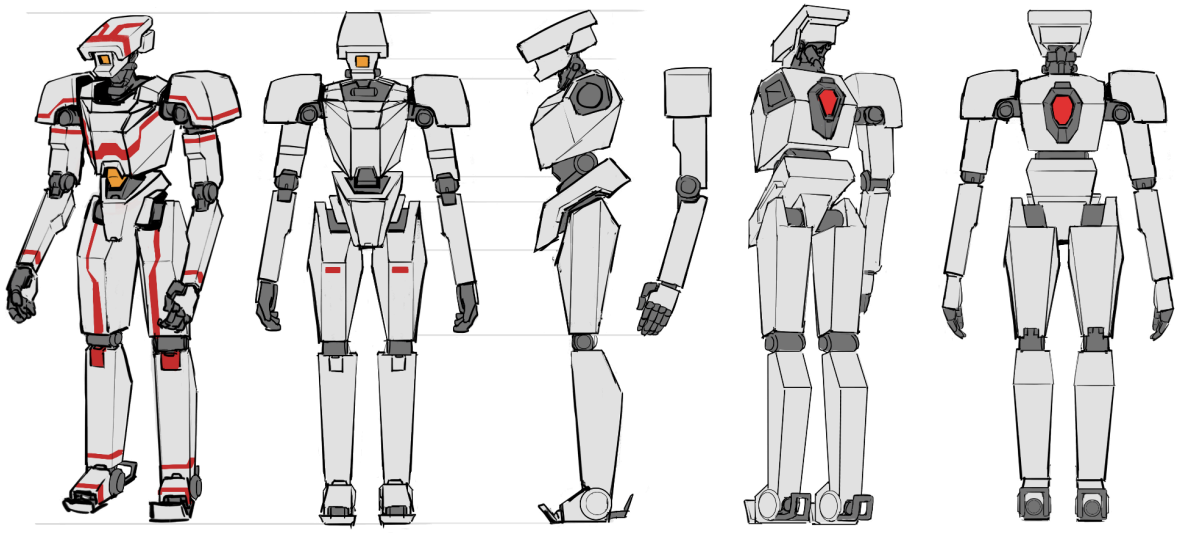
Pronouns: She/They
Age: Early-mid 20s
Role: Supporting Role
Voice Description: High, medium-high pitch: mischievous, erratic, bubbly
This role is only open for Asian LGBTQ+ VAs. Trans/nonbinary VAs heavily preferred.

Character Bio
Selena serves as COVEN's hacker and cybersecurity expert—and its resident troublemaker. From her realm of organized chaos (a messy desk), she coordinates and oversees COVEN's missions, providing invaluable support to operatives in the field. Off-duty, however, Selena enjoys relaxing, pulling small pranks, and bantering with whoever's around. She prefers to keep her work and personal life distinctly separate, to the point where she often tracks her minutes on the clock—as she detests an overworked schedule.

Lines:

- (Ironic, A Little Alarmed) This is a message for Zhay Andrews, who I presume is dead: Way to go idiot, you got yourself killed because you didn't ask for help!
- (Teasing, Smugly Replying) Already wrote them down. It's okay, you're welcome~
- (In utter disbelief, betrayed) This has to be fake, I don't believe it. I can't, this can't be real.

GUARD BOT



Pronouns: N/A (It/Its)
Age: Robot
Role: Main Antagonist
Voice Description: Low pitch: brutish, monotone
Open casting, preference given to LGBTQ+/BIPOC VAs.

Character Bio
Enemy guard bots that Zhay will have to take down during the game. Rather simple-minded for a robot, they will not stop at anything to protect General Bryant- and can be funny, in their own twisted way.
Additional Notes
There may be some lines that might be more comedic in nature, but they will be delivered in the same tone as other lines- monotone.
Actors must be okay with their voice being modified with robotic effects.

Lines:
(All monotone)

- Investigating disturbance.
- The UAD thanks you for your lack of cerebral activity.
- Time for a witch hunt.