

# Artists React To Alan Turing II



Wednesday, December 3

**Handouts:**

Jin Wicked Drawing

## Preview of Coming Attractions

- ▶ Discussion of Updegrove's Novel (Friday)
- ▶ TODAY: Artists React To Alan Turing's Life and Work II
- ▶ More Thoughts on *The Imitation Game*?
- ▶ Presentations of Term Projects
- ▶ Course Response Forms

# The Imitation Game

## Screen Play



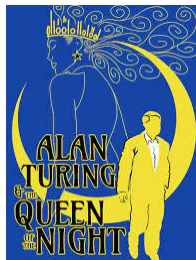
ALAN TURING, 1912-1954

# Genres

- ▶ Drama
- ▶ Novel and Short Story
- ▶ Film
- ▶ Poetry
- ▶ Painting and Drawing
- ▶ Sculpture and Statuary
- ▶ Music
- ▶ Opera
- ▶ Photography
- ▶ Ballet

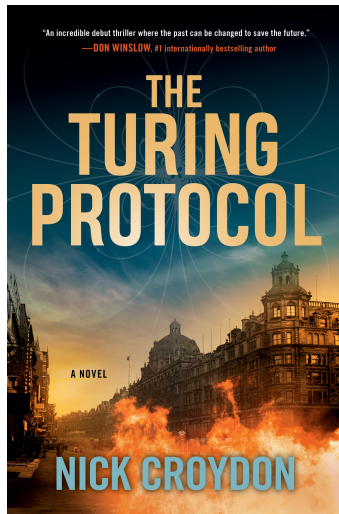
# Theater

Michael Vega Mussman and Payton Millet, *Alan Turing & The Queen of the Night*



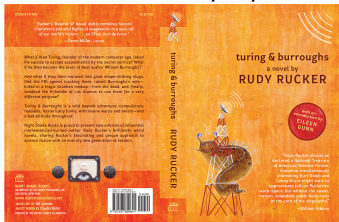
# Alan Turing in Fiction

Nick Croydon's *The Turing Protocol* (2025)



## Rudy Rucker's *Turing & Burroughs: A Beatnik SF Novel* (2012)

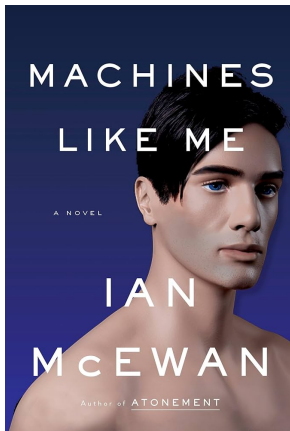
In this science fiction novel, Turing fakes his death to escape the secret service, becomes the lover of Beat author William Burroughs, and they both transform into shapeshifting slugs, flee the FBI, raise Burroughs's murdered wife from the dead, and use nuclear bombs for a different purpose at Los Alamos.



[Read More Here](#)



Ian McEwan's *Machines Like Me* ( 2015)



# Music

Stephen J. Pride *A Song for Alan Turing* (2002)

YouTube Video

Manchester, northern England, June the seventh nineteen fifty four  
He took a bite from a poison apple, they found him dead on the  
bedroom floor,

So died a quiet hero, a saviour of his country in the Second World  
War.

Then came the Cold War, and persecution, I guess he just couldn't  
take it any more.

Alan Turing, a man of vision, logician, mathematician,

Codebreaker, troublemaker, a revolutionary mind,

He turned the key that opened the door to the world of computing  
that we still explore

A world that no-one had seen before. a gift to all of mankind...

## ALAN TURING SONG TOMMY AND THE DOGS

Despite, sunlight, here comes the rain  
Hold tight, Snow White things ain't gonna be the same again  
No time to give up  
There's no prince to wake you up  
Don't take the bite its alright you'll be fine  
I can see the light dancing in the rain  
Easy apology what use is that now  
Follow me you will see things have really changed some how  
You were breaking the code  
They wouldn't let you take a different road  
? Don't take the bite its alright you'll be fine  
I can see the light dancing in the rain  
Open up let the sun in  
No need to keep on running  
Don't take the bite its alright you'll be fine  
I can see the light dancing in the rain  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksUyhJRkvNk> ???

## *Electric Sheep*

George Dennis

Commemorates the sixtieth anniversary of Turing's arrival at the University of Manchester (2008)

The piece is called "Electric Sheep" after a novel by science fiction writer Philip K Dick about artificial intelligence - one of Turing's major interests. The book later became the film *Blade Runner*.

Manchester Press Release: The clicks, clacks, taps, whirs, buzzes and humming sounds made by the humble PC have been transformed into a musical soundscape - in homage to the world renowned mathematician Alan Turing.

Matmos is M.C. Schmidt and Drew Daniel, Matmos have used the sounds of: amplified crayfish nerve tissue, the pages of bibles turning, a bowed five string banjo, slowed down whistles and kisses, water hitting copper plates, the runout groove of a vinyl record, a 5 dollar electric guitar, liposuction surgery, cameras and VCRs, chin implant surgery, contact microphones on human hair, violins, rat cages, tanks of helium, violas, human skulls, cellos, peck horns, tubas, cards shuffling, field recordings of conversations in hot tubs, frequency response tests for defective hearing aids, a steel guitar recorded in a sewer, electrical interference generated by laser eye surgery, whoopee cushions and balloons, latex fetish clothing, rhinestones on a dinner plate, Polish trains, insects, ukelele,

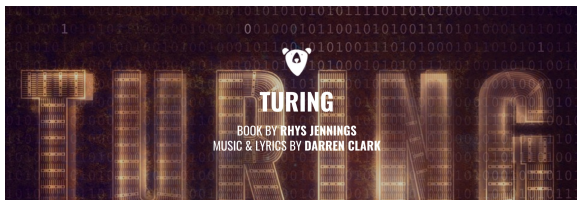


aspirin tablets hitting a drum kit from across the room, dogs barking, people reading aloud, life support systems and inflatable blankets, records chosen by the roll of dice, an acupuncture point detector conducting electrical current through human skin, rock salt crunching underfoot, solid gold coins spinning on bars of solid silver, the sound of a frozen stream thawing in the sun and a five gallon bucket of oatmeal.

- ▶ Enigma Machine for Alan Turing
- ▶ Message from the Unseen World
- ▶ Cockles and Mussels

Enigma Machine for Alan Turing

## Alan Turing and His De-gay Laser - Funky Flash



Calculation of the Heart  
Turing The Musical



# Opera



*The Turing Test* by Julian Wagstaff (2007)

<http://www.julianwagstaff.com/ttt/index.html>

Turing Test Opera Website

Helsinki Skaala Opera's *Turing Machine* opera, composed by Eepi Ursin and Visa-Pekka Mertanen, libretto is based on the play "Turing" by Miko Jaakkola, which tells the strange life story of this exceptionally talented and complex person. The opera premiered on March 28, 2008.

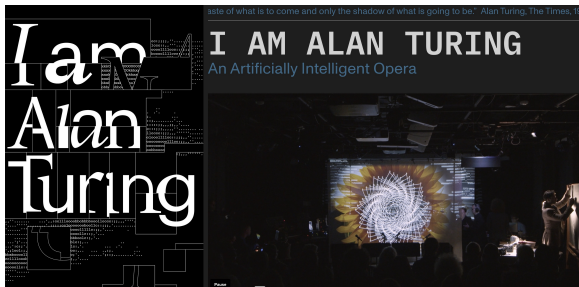
Turing Machine Opera, Part 4



*Enigma: The Life and Death of Alan Turing*

Barry Truax is a composer, and Professor at Simon Fraser University teaching acoustic communication and electroacoustic composition, and specializing in real-time implementations of granular synthesis, often of sampled sounds, and soundscapes.

2010 saw the world premier in Vancouver of his composition *Enigma, The Life and Death of Alan Turing*, a music theatre piece in five scenes, written for three singers, a dancer, and six-channel electroacoustic soundscape.

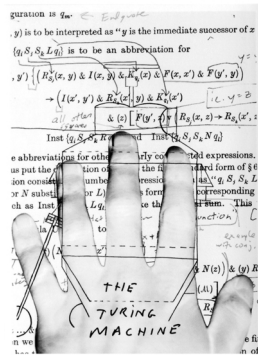
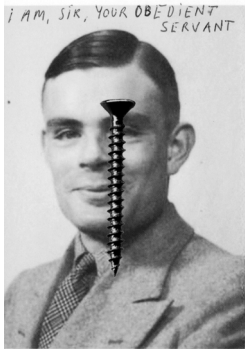


Opera Website

# Photography

Henrik Olesen





# Ballet



The World Premiere of Invertigo Dance Theatre's Formulae and Fairy Tales comes to The Broad Stage Sep 13-14. Formulae & Fairy Tales places the worlds of mathematics, artificial intelligence and cryptography into a vivid, twisted fairy-tale palette. The multi-dimensional story casts the life of Alan Turing, mathematical genius and World War II codebreaker, into the Technicolor and mythologized ideas of his favorite film, Disney's Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Step into a world of lush dance, dynamic theatre, math, sex, fairy tales, humor and death.



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Turing's Apple, created as the centerpiece of RAWdance's 10th anniversary season, was inspired by Alan Turing's dramatic life and groundbreaking intellectual contributions to modern day computer science.. Set in a sea of apples, Turing's Apple seamlessly weaves together the rigorous patterning of Turing's computations, the fantastical imaginings of his dreams, and the deep emotion of his story into a dark, kaleidoscopic journey of Britain's greatest code-breaker.





"Mark Smith's choreography is nothing short of incredible"  
Andrew Tomli



Mark Smith Productions

# Hut 8

## Tour Pack: Spring 2021

Choreographer Mark Smith has incorporated mathematical language into his choreography to make a ground breaking trilogy of dance that reveals the complexity, genius & diversity of Alan Turing. Punished for being different, yet Turing's legacy of pioneering the computer makes him relevant today. The trilogy consists of 'Turing's Machine', 'Turing Law' and '3M's.' 'Turing's Machine' is inspired by the invention of the Bombe machine, 'Turing Law' explores Turing's homosexuality & the erasure of Gay history. "3M's" invites all to reimagine Alan Turing's experiments in movement, music and maths and is a collaboration with composer Michael England. Hut 8 can also deliver a workshop for schools KS2 & KS3 devised in collaboration with Bletchley Park, home of the codebreakers.



Jin Wicked, 2003

Alan Turing comes to life in this fine print by the American artist Jin Wicked. Although she has clearly marked his dates, from 1912 to 1954, the iconography obviously suggests a mind which is struggling to reach further into time and space than this brief span allowed.

The theory behind the Turing Test is at the centre of this picture. The looping tape, inscribed with binary 0's and 1's, represents Turing's model of the computer which he formulated in 1936. Its spiralling away into space correctly shows the scope of Turing's theoretical work, which is about what any computer, however large or fast, could do. But its loop through the brain is also a correct picture of Turing's work: he was giving a fresh account of what the action of the mind. The tape is being scanned by the mind's eye, and that is why Turing's eyes are drawn turned inwards. The question it poses is whether the mind can do anything that the computer cannot. Is Turing himself a computer program, operating his pencil blindly? Or his his inner eye seeing something that the computer can never grasp?

Around that central image, Jin Wicked has crowded the space with the material world that defined Alan Turing's life. Behind that schoolboy pencil are the old stone cloisters of his schoolboy life, the rigid and declining British Empire of the 1920s. Sharp collars and old school tie almost throttle the brain. But that tie, its phallic tip awkwardly poking over the stone wall, is the only object which breaks out of the frame and refuses to fit in. This is a fair picture of his sexuality, in one way quite old-fashioned in the cultural base of the English Public School, yet turning into something very modern, insisting on an open identity which may well have been crucial in the background to his death in 1954. For those years were the most paranoid of the new American world order, and Alan Turing held in that brain some of the greatest state secrets of the age. In the left hand lower corner is the Victorian machinery of the Empire, reflecting his mother's family background in engineering. On this base rise images of the electronics of the 1940s which allowed him to turn his idea of a computer into a practical design in 1945-6, and then took him to Manchester in 1948 to organise the first working computer. At the top left are the rotors of the German Enigma cipher machine, which