Couhisaari Stories

Augmented Reality Cinema in a Historical Setting

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Louhisaari Manor

- Medieval estate
- Main building from 1650s
- Owned by aristocratic Fleming and Mannerheim families
- Year-round residence for Count Carl Erik Mannerheim and his family in the 1820s and 1830s
- Creation of the English landscape park
- Opened as a museum in 1967



Presenting the Past

- Historical and fictional characters
- Connecting the history of the estate to a wider context of aristocratic lifestyle and everyday life in the countryside
- Facts and fiction based on facts, i.e. historical possibilities
- Understanding through information and engagement



Experience

- Immersive, markerless augmented spaces
- Large visual augmentations
 - Almost augmented virtuality
- More akin to theater than video game



Content Production

- Cost-effective workflow
- Character generation, motion capture, visual script writing
- Iterative workflow to find the suitable level of detail in stylised visuals
- Dialogue audio recordings

Usability

- Clutter free UI
- Buttons for pausing the scene
- Separate information screen
 - Map
 - Synopsis of scenes
 - Dialogue log
 - Historical information about characters



Challenges & Solutions

- Large outdoor areas
 - Changing seasons, lighting, moving vegetation
 - Long distance to tracked features, many objects between them and the viewer
- Manually editing the point clouds
 - Removing unneeded points
- Carefully selecting the areas for augmentations



Conclusions

- Shift from technology to content in AR productions during the next few years
- Current tools already enable creating immersive, narrative and cinematic AR experiences
- Even credible and engaging representations of the past are possible

Thank you!

http://ar.utu.fi

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vWLx8kwbwE

