

Invisibles: Collection of Artificial Intelligence Generated Shorts

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ABSTRACT

"Invisibles" is a thought-provoking collection of short films that explores societal invisibility by highlighting overlooked minorities, hidden disabilities, and unacknowledged suffering. Drawing on Erving Goffman's social stigma theories, these films employ AI-generated media—including spoken word poetry, images, video, and music—to give voice to marginalized groups. The narrative is uniquely enhanced by the expected glitches of AI technology, creating a distinctive and immersive storytelling experience. Optimized for conference presentations, "Invisibles" not only showcases the innovative capabilities of AI in film production but also invites viewers to reflect on the often-unseen struggles within society.

CCS CONCEPTS

• **Computing methodologies** → **Philosophical/theoretical foundations of artificial intelligence**; *Animation*; **Generative and developmental approaches**; • **Information systems** → **Multi-media content creation**; • **Applied computing** → **Media arts**; **Sound and music computing**; **Fine arts**; **Performing arts**.

KEYWORDS

Post cinema, future cinema, expanded cinema, generative artificial intelligence, artificial intelligence generated films, deepfakes

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1 INTRODUCTION

The cinematic landscape has witnessed an exponential development in the past few years. Artificial Intelligence (AI)'s role in cinema is expanding, offering new tools for scriptwriting, visual effects, and content creation. Unlike traditional high-budget productions like Marvel films, which rely heavily on meticulous CGI and human craftsmanship, AI-generated content can be produced more efficiently but often lacks the nuanced artistic direction of human creators. This contrast underscores the importance of considering the balance between the utilization of AI and its impact on human creativity.

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This contrast among emerging film production methods touches upon Martin Scorsese's critique of Marvel movies. He argued that Marvel movies, despite their technical prowess, lack the qualities that define true cinema, such as conveying emotional and psychological experiences. His comments sparked a debate about the nature of cinema and the role of technology in filmmaking. While Marvel movies showcase state-of-the-art visual effects and mass appeal, Scorsese suggests that they operate more as entertainment products than as works of art that challenge and engage audiences on a deeper level. Scorsese's stance highlights a broader discussion in film studies about the impact of technology on cinematic art. It raises questions about the balance between technological spectacle and storytelling, and whether the increasing reliance on visual effects and AI might overshadow cinema's traditional focus on character and narrative depth.

The integration of AI in cinema spans various aspects such as scriptwriting, visual effects, and even influencing cinematographic choices. AI algorithms can analyze and predict audience preferences, potentially guiding filmmakers in their creative decisions. Overall, AI is not replacing human creativity but rather augmenting it, allowing filmmakers to push the boundaries of what's possible in storytelling and visual expression. It's making the film production process more efficient, and accessible.

Moreover, Marshall McLuhan's concept of technological determinism suggests that technology influences societal change. In the context of "Invisibles," AI not only shapes the production process but also the thematic focus of the films, highlighting how technology can redefine storytelling and representation.

On the other hand, Jean Baudrillard's theory of hyperreality, where the line between reality and simulation blurs, is particularly relevant to "Invisibles." The AI-generated media in these films challenges traditional notions of authenticity and engages audiences in a new form of hyperreal experience.

2 INVISIBLES: COLLECTION OF SHORT FILMS

"Invisibles" delves into the theme of societal invisibility, focusing on groups and individuals who are often marginalized or overlooked. This collection includes 6 short films crafted with AI-generated media, blending spoken word poetry, music, and visual elements to articulate the narratives of these invisible populations. The films draw inspiration from Goffman's theories on social stigma [3] and employ experimental techniques reminiscent of Stan Brakhage's work in avant-garde cinema [1].

"Invisibles" is a collection of six short films that integrates AI into every aspect of their creation, showcasing the innovative potential of this technology in filmmaking. Symbolism is central to these films' narrative, especially the AI-effects like the gradual fading of the characters' skin color, symbolizing eroding identity and societal recognition. These films could be experienced individually, on

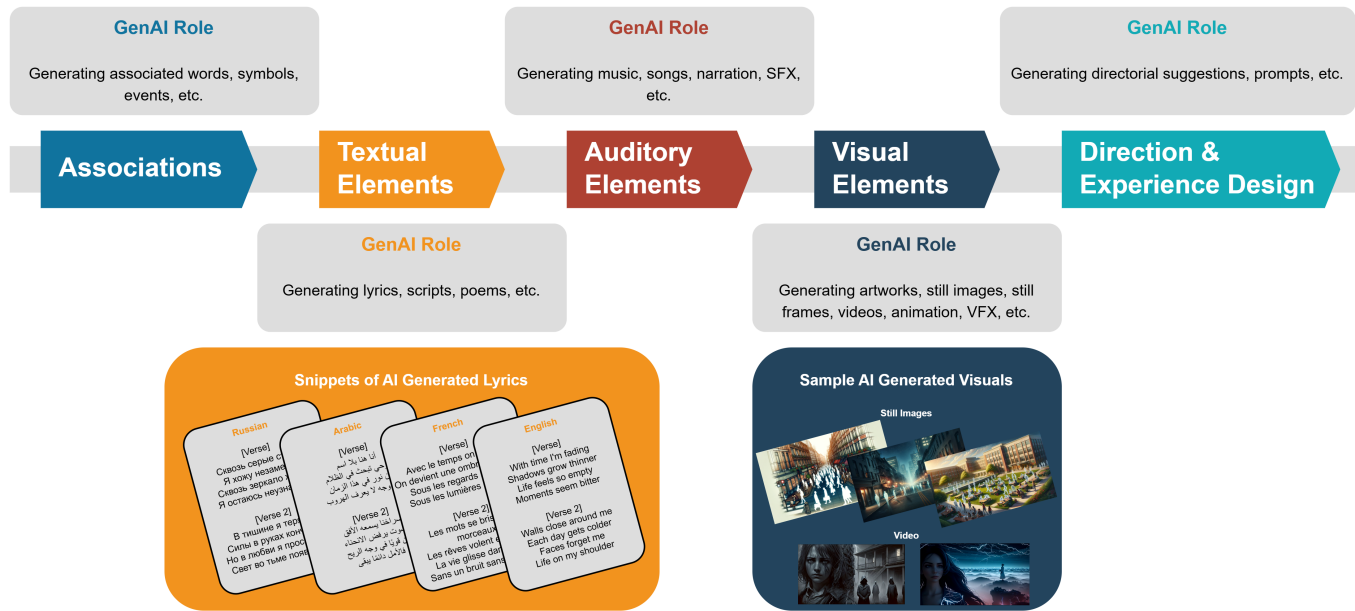


Figure 1: The Collection Design and the Role of Generative AI (GenAI) in this Process.

multi-screens or as a continuous experience utilizing split-screen techniques. The latter is the selected presentation choice for this conference. This approach echoes Eisenstein's montage [2], symbolism [5], and screen [4] theories.

2.1 First Short Film: Spoken Word

The first short film in the collection is a thought-provoking one that uses spoken word poetry to explore the concept of invisibility. The AI-generated visuals and music create a dynamic backdrop that enhances the emotional intensity of the performance. This film serves as a powerful introduction to the collection, setting the tone for the exploration of societal invisibility. It employs a unique storytelling approach. It combines documentary-style interviews with dramatized sequences and AI-generated effects, thereby blending reality with artistic interpretation. This approach not only humanizes the issues at hand but also encourages viewers to reflect on their own perceptions and biases. The stories showcased in the film are diverse, covering a wide range of experiences from different cultural, social, and personal perspectives, thus highlighting the universal nature of invisibility in human experience.

2.2 Second Short Film: Shadows Unseen

This film, a music video in English, employs a mix of AI-generated and traditional cinematographic techniques to create a visually compelling narrative that reflects the themes of hidden suffering and marginalized identities.

2.3 Four Music Videos in Multiple Languages

The subsequent films in the collection include music videos in French, Arabic, Russian, and Spanish. Each video uses AI-generated media and musical style to represent different cultural perspectives on invisibility, showcasing the universal nature of the theme while

celebrating linguistic and cultural diversity. Samples of these AI-generated materials are included in Figure 1

3 CONCLUSIONS

"Invisibles" offers a unique blend of AI-generated media and experimental storytelling to explore themes of invisibility and marginalization. The films invite viewers to reflect on the societal structures that contribute to these conditions and highlight the potential of AI as a tool for innovative and empathetic filmmaking. As technology continues to evolve, the integration of AI in cinema presents both opportunities and challenges for the future of storytelling.

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