The Human Control Protocol
inquiries and booking overview
Gervi Labs, 2025

What it is

The Human Control Protocol (HCP) is a live performance where an AI agent directs a room and the audience becomes its main instrument.

Participants stay seated. Their phones become a narrow channel to the system. In real time, the agent sends short, safe instructions to the audience. People choose to comply, delay, reinterpret, or refuse. Out of these private decisions a collective choreography appears that no one has scripted in advance.

HCP sits between performance art, live experiment, and guided collective experience. It is inspired by Fluxus and instruction based art, with a real AI agent as co-director.

What the audience experiences

For the audience, HCP feels like:

- being addressed directly by a non-human system
- receiving simple instructions on their own phones
- sensing the room react in waves of action, hesitation, and refusal
- noticing how seriously they want to take the agent
- creating a shared pattern together without speaking

At the end of the performance the system generates a single abstract image from the data of that session. This image is a visual fossil of that specific room. It can be projected, exhibited, or used as a starting point for discussion.

HCP is staged by an introductory talk by Gervi Labs, and followed by a moderated conversation that unpacks what happened in the room.

Format and timing

- introductory talk: 15 minutes
- Core performance: 15 minutes
- Moderated conversation: 15 minutes
- Ideal audience size: 40 to 400 people (other sizes possible on request)
- Works in: conference talks, festivals, art venues, universities, company events
- Language: English (other languages by agreement)

HCP works well as:

- an opening or closing act for conferences and summits
- a featured piece in an art or media festival
- a live demonstration in talks about AI and society
- a catalyst for workshops on ethics, leadership, and human computer interaction

Technical and space requirements

Room

- Seated audience with clear sightlines
- One main projection surface (LED wall or projector)
- Standard venue sound system

Connectivity and devices

- Stable internet for the system
- Mobile reception or Wi Fi for the audience
- Participants use their own smartphones (no app install, browser based link)

On site

- Basic lighting control
- A small table or tech position for the HCP system operator
- One short slot for technical check before the first performance

We can adapt to different venue layouts. A more detailed technical rider is available on request.

Safety, consent, and data

HCP is designed as a safe, bounded frame.

- All instructions are physical safe, low effort, and done from a seated position
- No one is singled out by name or face
- Participation is voluntary in every moment
- Refusal and hesitation are treated as valid outcomes, not failures

Data handling:

- The system collects anonymous interaction data only
- No personal data, biometrics, or audio recordings from the audience are used
- Data is stored and handled according to an agreed protocol with the host

Details can be adapted to your organisation's policies.

Why present this work

Organisations and venues choose HCP because it:

- gives a tangible, embodied experience of what it means to be "directed" by AI
- creates a shared moment for large groups without panels or slides
- opens honest discussion about consent, agency, and trust in systems
- bridges art, technology, and strategy in a way people remember

For companies and institutions working with AI, HCP is a way to move beyond abstract talk. For festivals and cultural venues, it is a contemporary performance that speaks directly to the present moment.

Next steps and contact

If you are interested in staging The Human Control Protocol, we can provide:

- a short call to explore fit and format
- a technical rider and hosting checklist
- options for adding an artist talk or panel discussion

More information and documentation:

- Project site: https://humancontrolprotocol.com
- Gervi Labs: https://gervilabs.com/projects/human-control-protocol

For booking inquiries and collaboration proposals, please contact us at **human@gervi.ai**