

## A beautiful tool and a terrible master: A.I. and the aesthetics of Audio-Storytelling

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When painstakingly pondering the prevailing problematics, perpetuating polemics, and persistently perplexing potentials pertaining to prototypical phenomenon of AI—which seems to have purportedly permeated the very core of the Artworld at large—it could plainly be postulated that one is presently posed with something of a perfidiously potent and perturbing predicament. In place of either dreading or revering the impending future that AI has in store, this paper wishes to suggest perceiving of AI more along the lines of a ‘beautiful, first-rate servant, but a terrible, second-rate master’. Setting aside, momentarily, issues of copyright, ethical concerns, or any so-called dystopian scenarios concerning what AI is able to achieve when it comes to simulating one’s distinct vocal signature, I wish to consider the unique aesthetic benefits in utilizing the potential of what AI is (or, by all accounts, will, as time progresses) be able to achieve. By way of illustration, and aiming to underline the immediacy of an imperative debate associated with both present prospective implications of the role of AI in the realm of audiobooks, I, for one, would certainly find merit in potentially amplifying a listener’s overall aesthetic experience by exploring such possibilities as, for the sake of argument, prompting an AI algorithm to simulate one’s aging-process—effectively generating a younger or older ‘version’ of the speaker—thus allowing one to literally hear to the apparent changes one’s voice undergoes over time.

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