

# EXHIBIT A



US006409599B1

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Sprout et al.**

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- (54) **INTERACTIVE VIRTUAL REALITY PERFORMANCE THEATER ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM**
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Wildwood, MO (US)
- (\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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- (21) Appl. No.: **09/617,388**
- (22) Filed: **Jul. 17, 2000**

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**Related U.S. Application Data**

- (60) Provisional application No. 60/144,492, filed on Jul. 19, 1999.
- (51) **Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup>** ..... **A63F 13/00**
- (52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **463/31; 463/42; 463/32**
- (58) **Field of Search** ..... **463/30-33, 40-42; 348/13-15**

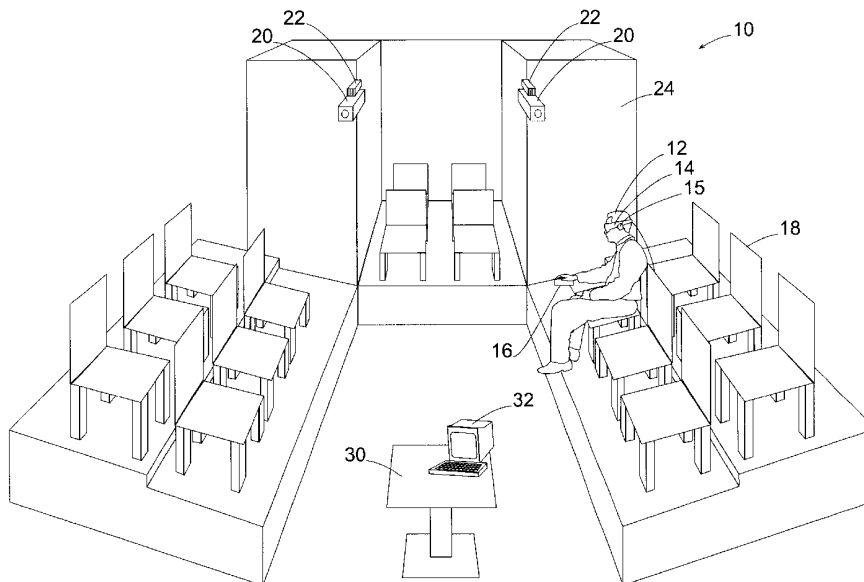
(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to a novel interactive virtual reality (VR) performance theater and environment in which a plurality of participants enjoy an entertainment and/or educational experience. The performance is viewed by the participants through VR display devices such as a head mounted display, wherein both an immersive graphical environment and live and/or pre-recorded performers are viewed. The participants exert limited control over the content and outcome of the performance through the use of input devices, such as hand held input devices having a plurality of buttons, and/or voice communications, while viewing the live or pre-recorded performers whom are mixed within the immersive VR environment. The system uses interconnected computers, video and audio processing devices, and furthermore includes a network interconnecting the computers, participants, and live/pre-recorded performers for video, audio, and graphics transmission.

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**9 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets**



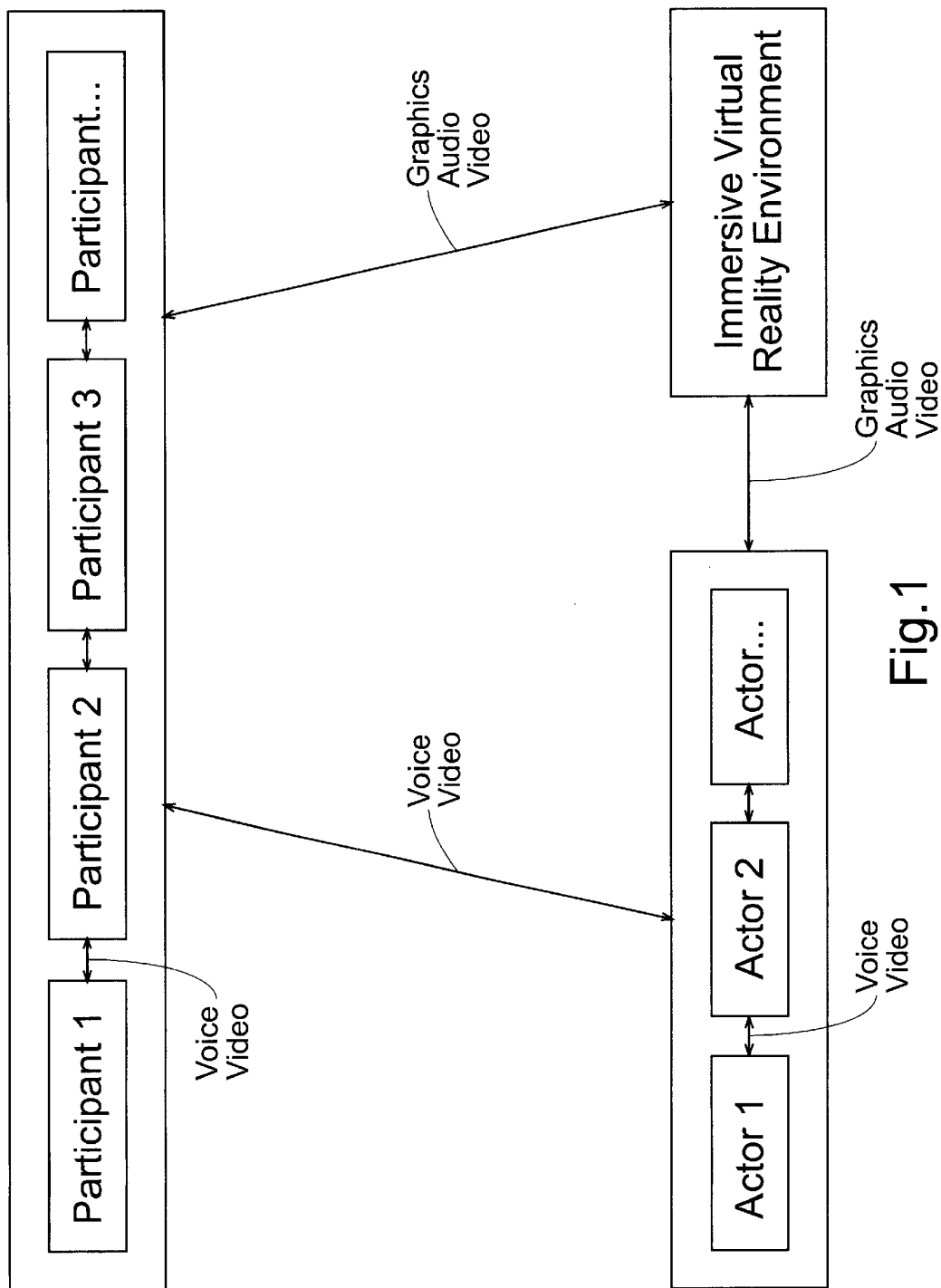


Fig.1

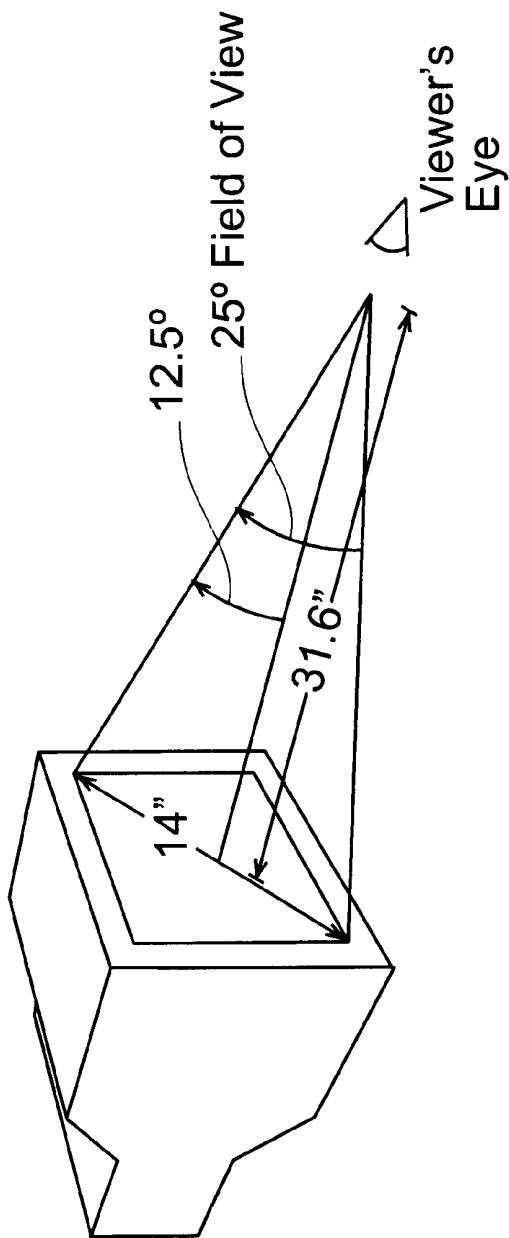


Fig. 2

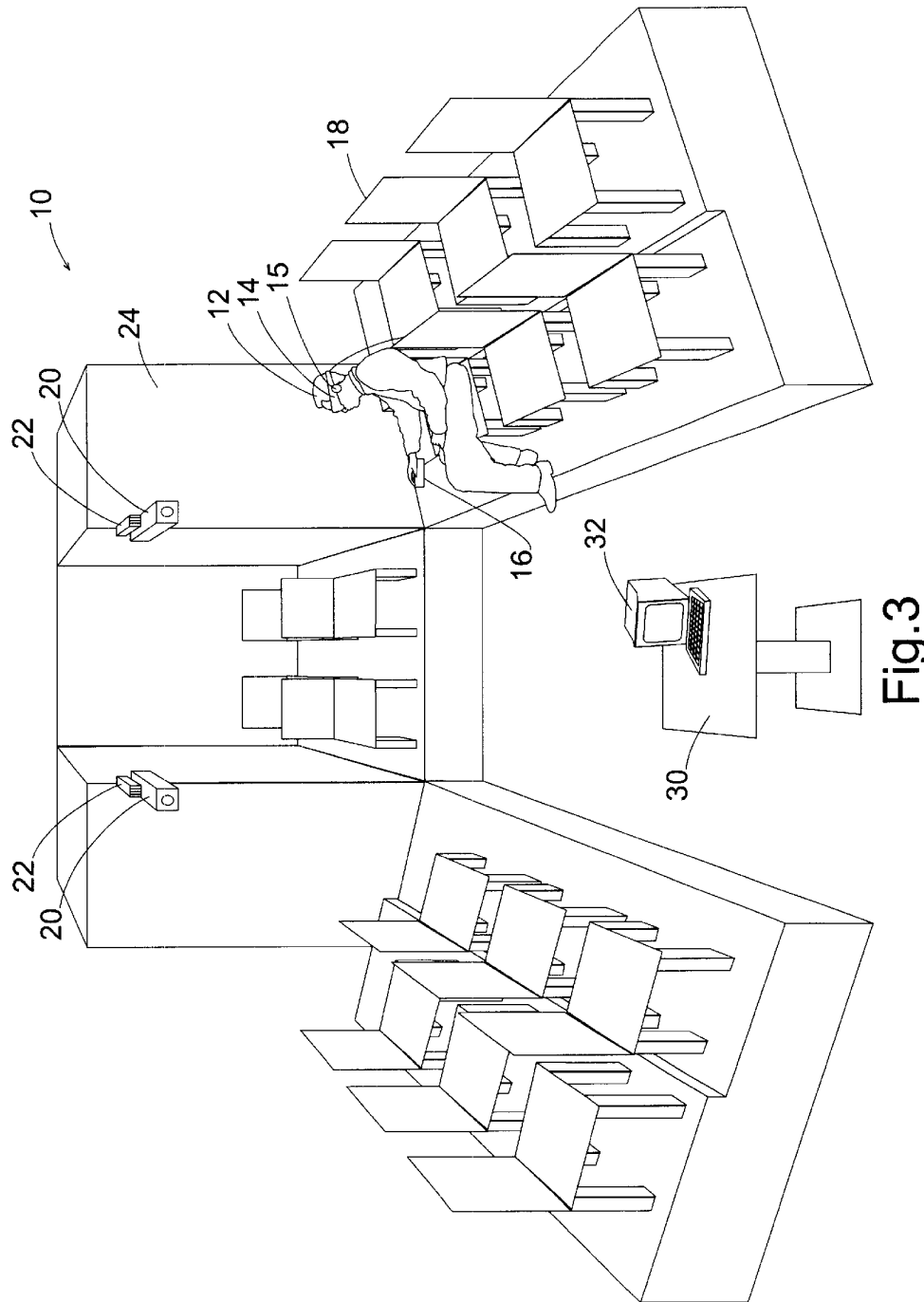


Fig. 3

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