

## **Making Theatre in a Time of Climate Crisis 29 September 2023, 11am – 5pm**

A UK sector-wide conversation between Directors and Artistic Directors about making theatre in the context of the climate crisis, using the principles of the *Theatre Green Book*.

The day's purpose is to make an impact on the sector: to reflect on the issues we face and to respond by creating actionable asks.

This event will be BSL interpreted and captioned both in-person and online and Speakers will be asked to audio-describe themselves.

### **10.30 – 10:55 Arrival and registration**

### **11:00 am – Welcome and Introduction**

**Lorne Campbell**, Artistic Director, National Theatre Wales

**Rufus Norris**, Artistic Director and Chief Executive, National Theatre

**Jackie Wylie**, Artistic Director and Chief Executive, National Theatre of Scotland

### **11:10 am – Keynote Panel: It is in Our Hands to Shape the Future**

We are living through a time of three competing narratives about the future of theatre and wider world. Some tell the story of striving for 'business as usual', others that everything is falling apart and in decline. Through their collective knowledge, experiences and visions, our keynote panel will address a third version of the story of the future. We invite you to explore with us the narrative of the climate crisis as a wake-up call and turning point towards creating an alternative future: one which is regenerative, creative and fosters justice and care, locally and globally.

#### **The Keynote Panel:**

**Kate Raworth**, co-founder of Doughnut Economics Action Lab and author of *Doughnut Economics*

**Amanda Parker**, Cultural Policy Consultant and founder of Inc Arts (Amanda will also act as 'keynote listener' across the day)

**Ben Twist**, Director of Creative Carbon Scotland

Chaired by **Jackie Wylie**

### **11:45 am – Theatre Green Book Update**

**David Evans**, Head of Production, National Theatre Wales, **Paul Handley**, Director of Production and Technical, National Theatre and **Gemma Swallow**, Technical

Director, National Theatre of Scotland will give an overview of the **Theatre Green Book**, and how it is being used across the theatre industry.

### 11:55 am – The Challenges

The theatre context for addressing climate crisis is complex: low pay, reduced funding, reduced audiences post-pandemic, high levels of precarity for freelancers, the employment squeeze, and the urgent need to take better care in rehearsal and production practices. These all create pressure on the mental space for engaging with the climate crisis, never mind the capacity for practical action. This session airs the challenges and offers practical and imaginative responses, modelling ways of navigating a path towards a better future, avoiding both false fixes and doomerism.

Our panel of responders will take on your challenges, to share ways of responding.

#### Responders include:

**Clare Slater**, Artistic Director, HighTide

**Suba Das**, former Creative Director, Liverpool Everyman

**Rachel Bagshaw**, Artistic Director, Unicorn Theatre

**Liam Sinclair**, Executive Director and joint CEO of Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre

**Jennifer Taillefer**, Certified Carbon Literacy Trainer and Production Manager

Chaired by **Lorne Campbell**

### 12:45-1:45 pm – Lunch break

There will be spaces set aside for eating lunch, with the opportunity to join breakout conversations on a range of themes, held in the Olivier Stalls foyer from 1.15pm.

#### Including:

- **An introduction to Carbon Literacy Training** with **Paul Burgess**, Theatre designer and Artist
- A closer look at how directors can support their teams to use the **Theatre Green Book**, with NTW, NTS and NT Heads of Production, **David Evans**, **Gemma Swallow** and **Paul Handley**
- **Understanding Climate Anxiety** with **Martin Fisher**, Climate Anxiety Practitioner and Psychotherapist
- **Equity for a Green New Deal** and the Equity Green Rider, with **Rachael Bellis**, Director and Part of Equity for a Green New Deal and actor/activists **Fehinti Balogun** and **Sam Swann**
- **Decolonising Dramaturgy** with **Beth Kapila** and **Gitika Buttoo**, Dramaturgy Associates of Tamasha Arts.
- **Exploring Climate Dramaturgy** with **Clare Slater**, Artistic Director of Hightide
- **SDUK and becoming a Union** with **Abigail Graham**, theatre director and SDUK board member
- **Art and Activism** introducing Culture Declares Emergency with **Chloe Naldrett**, Director of Productions, Birmingham Rep

There will also be a 'library': a quiet(er) space with books and industry-relevant reports/information

### 1:45-3pm – Models and Antidotes

This session will comprise short presentations from practitioners who have different experiences and methods of working with the *Theatre Green Book* principles, as well as different engagements with the context of the climate in their work, followed by a Q & A with the panel.

#### Panellists:

**Elizabeth Freestone**, theatre director, creative consultant and environmentalist, on the entwining of the social and environmental in directing *The Tempest* (RSC)

**Gavin Porter**, freelance Director and Producer, National Theatre Wales, on his work with Wales' oldest multicultural communities, including *Circle of Fifths* (NTW tour)

**Debbie Hannan**, Associate Director at the National Theatre of Scotland, on NTS touring production and Green Book Case Study, *Exodus*

**Max Webster**, freelance theatre director, on *Macbeth* (forthcoming, Donmar Warehouse)

**Katie Mitchell**, freelance theatre director, on exploring climate questions in the process, forms and themes of her theatre work in the UK and Europe

**Patrick O'Reilly**, Artistic Director for Tinderbox Theatre Company, on how transforming the social structure of Tinderbox away from a hierarchical model brought the company to centre environmental crisis

Chaired by **Rufus Norris**

### 3:00-3:15 pm – Break

### 3:15-4:15 pm – Visions: Imagining Otherwise

In this session we imagine the impossible. Artists and producers co-imagine potential seasons or complete reconstruction that they would like to imagine into being. They will share the anticipated challenges and talk about how these different ways of working will enable both creativity and meeting the *Theatre Green Book's* standards.

#### Panellists:

**Vicki Mortimer**, Set and Costume Designer and National Theatre Associate

**Harold Finley**, Executive Director of Stage Directors UK

**Sean Foley**, Artistic Director, **Chloe Naldrett**, Executive Producer and **Suzy**

**Somerville**, Director of Productions, Birmingham Rep

**Lorne Campbell**, Artistic Director, National Theatre Wales

Chaired by **Natalie Ibu**, Artistic Director and Joint Chief Executive, Northern Stage

### 4:15 pm – Round-up of the day

Keynote listener **Amanda Parker** in conversation with the Artistic Directors, **Lorne Campbell** (NTW), **Rufus Norris** (NT) and **Jackie Wylie** (NTS) as they each reflect on their takeaways from the day, exploring emergent themes, crux points and future possibilities. On the way out, we will be gathering your suggestions for 'asks' between

directors and artistic directors, which will be collated and edited to create a document aimed at facilitating artistic collaboration on climate care.

**4:45 pm onwards – Networking drinks in the Olivier Stalls Bar**

With further opportunities to network with speakers and peers.