

## Making Theatre in a Time of Climate Crisis Speaker biographies

Co-curated with the National Theatres of England, Scotland and Wales, by Zoë Svendsen and Lesley Anne Rose; produced by Manisha Majithia and Sunita Hinduja, with the support of Paul Handley, Gemma Swallow, Glesni Price-Jones and David Evans. Our thanks go to everyone who has made this possible.

In memory of Abdul Shayek, Artistic Director of Tara Theatre, who would have been with us today. <https://taratheatre.com/whats-on/a-space-to-reflect/>

### Artistic Directors' Welcome

**Lorne Campbell** is Artistic Director of National Theatre Wales. Lorne began his career at the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh Prior to joining NTW he was Artistic Director of Northern Stage. Highlights of his time at Northern Stage include *The Bloody Great Border Ballad* (2015) *Get Carter* (2016) and *The Last Ship* (2018), and Northern Stage's multi-award winning showcasing work at the Edinburgh Fringe. Prior to Northern Stage, Campbell worked as a freelance theatre director creating productions for Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse Theatres, Birmingham Rep, Theatre Royal Bath, Traverse Theatre, The Almeida and Hull Truck. He was Associate Director at the Traverse Theatre between 2004 and 2008. He worked as a Course Director at Drama Centre and as a Creative Fellow of the RSC between 2011 and 2013 and as founding co-Artistic Director of Greyscale between 2009 and 2013

**Rufus Norris** has been the Director and Chief Executive of the National Theatre since 2015. Alongside producing world class theatre, he has prioritised representation, new writing, increased international and nationwide work, significant digital expansion, and the environmental progress of the organisation.

**Jackie Wylie** is Artistic Director and Chief Executive of the National Theatre of Scotland. Previously, Jackie founded 'Take Me Somewhere,' a Glasgow wide international performance festival based at the Tramway. She was Artistic Director of The Arches in Glasgow from 2008 - 2015 where she transformed the organisation into one of Europe's most celebrated multi-arts venues. Edinburgh born Wylie gained a First Class MA in Film and Television and Theatre Studies from The University of Glasgow and then went on to work in film and television production. She was a fellow of the Clore leadership programme in 2016/17, was made an honorary Doctor of Letters by the University of Glasgow in 2022 and has recently been elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

## Keynote panel

**Kate Raworth** ('Ray-worth') is an ecological economist focused on making economics fit for 21st century realities. She is the creator of the Doughnut of social and planetary boundaries and author of the best-selling book, *Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think like a 21st Century Economist*, which has been translated into more than 20 languages. Kate is also the co-founder of Doughnut Economics Action Lab, which is putting these ideas into action with communities, cities, businesses, and educators.

**Amanda Parker** is an arts consultant and columnist for *The Stage*. She's led award-winning EDI and social action campaigns across education, broadcast, arts and culture - including Director of London Short Film Festival and Editor of *ArtsProfessional* magazine. As CEO of Inc Arts UK, Parker led equity, diversity & inclusion campaigns across the UK's creative and cultural sector. She served on the London Task Force Covid-19 Arts and Culture Strategy Group, and London advisory group for the Government Arts Collection Committee. Amanda is a trustee of Intermission Youth and Royal Shakespeare Company; and visiting Researcher at UWE Bristol.

**Ben Twist** co-founded Creative Carbon Scotland in 2011, combining over 25 years' experience of producing events and running permanent and temporary venues in the cultural sector with an MSc in Carbon Management and a doctorate in applying complexity theory to social systems in order to bring about more sustainable social practices. He has developed CCS into a leader in both technical support for cultural organisations in carbon management and climate change adaptation and developing culture's influencing role in addressing climate change. He has accordingly been asked to speak about this work to groups from Salzburg Global in Austria via the ArtCOP Professional workshop in Paris to the Glasgow Life Green Team Awards and the Sustainable Scotland Network annual conference. As a theatre director and producer, he was the associate director at the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh and artistic director at Manchester's Contact Theatre. He 'revised' Contact to prepare it for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and he led the restructuring of North Edinburgh Arts to bring it out of a financial crisis: both are now thriving organisations. As Chair of the Scottish Arts Council Lottery Committee, he facilitated and supported organisational change with many cultural organisations and led the distribution of over £150m of National Lottery funds, mostly to capital projects. He has directed theatre and music theatre as a freelance across the UK, Europe, North America and New Zealand. He was Chair of Scotland's leading chamber classical music group Hebrides Ensemble and Vice-Chair of the Theatres Trust and the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership.

## Theatre Green Book Update

**David Evans** is the Head of Production for National Theatre Wales. David is also the Co-Chair of the ABTT and is a Board Member of the Lagos Theatre Festival.

**Paul Handley** is the Director of Technical and Production at the National Theatre. His firm commitment to environmental sustainability goes back to the mid-2000s when he

sat on the then Mayor of London's Greening Theatre Committee. Since then, he has worked on the incremental push towards greater responsibility, and most recently supported the creation of The Theatre Green Book.

**Gemma Swallow** has been working with National Theatre of Scotland for 10 years as Technical Director. Before moving to NTS she was a freelance Production Manager working with a wide range of different organisations. She spent ten years in London working with companies such as Theatre de Complicite, The Young Vic, The National Theatre of Great Britain and Stomp, spending much of that time touring internationally. Back in Scotland there are not many companies she hasn't worked with including Stella Quines, 7:84 Theatre Company, Wildcat Stage Productions, The Tron, The Traverse, Royal Lyceum, Dundee Rep, Lung Ha's and many more. Gemma is passionate about environmental sustainability and leads on the Company's green agenda.

## The Challenges

**Clare Slater** is the Artistic Director and Joint CEO of HighTide. She is a dramaturg of new plays. She was previously the Head of New Work at the Donmar Warehouse in London, where she worked on over 30 productions, including *The Trials* by Dawn King; *Assembly* by Nina Segal; *Blindness* adapted by Simon Stephens; *[BLANK]* by Alice Birch; and *Sweat* by Lynn Nottage. Earlier in her career, Clare worked as Executive Director of the Gate Theatre in Notting Hill; as Assistant Literary Manager at the National Theatre; and in TV and film development with Rare Day.

**Suba Das** is an award-winning Theatre Director, Producer and Dramaturg who has taken up tenures at various prestigious theatres and organisations across the UK. Previously he was Creative Director of Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse Theatres, Artistic Director and Chief Executive of new writing company HighTide and Associate Director at Leicester Curve. He was a Resident Director at the National Theatre Studio and for English Touring Theatre. His many directing credits include work for the Young Vic, Theatre Royal Stratford East, Octagon Bolton, Rose Theatre Kingston, Nottingham Playhouse, Northern Stage and The Roundhouse. Suba is also a Trustee of the North Music Trust (Sage Gateshead); and the Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival. His production of *Sukanya*, the only opera by the legendary Ravi Shankar, premiered to critical acclaim and was revived in 2020 at the Southbank. Born in Newcastle, he read English at Cambridge University and trained on the prestigious Birkbeck MFA in Theatre Directing later winning the Old Vic New Voices TS Eliot US/UK Award.

**Rachel Bagshaw** is the newly appointed Artistic Director of the Unicorn Theatre. Previous work whilst Associate Director there includes: *The Bee in Me* and *Aesop's Fables*. Work for Unicorn Digital includes *Greeks Unplugged*, *Let Loose* and *Grimm Tales*. She is also currently Associate at the National Theatre as a Peter Hall Bursary recipient 2022 – 24. Other theatre credits include: *A Dead Body in Taos* (Fuel), *Augmented* (Told by an Idiot); *Midnight Movie* (Royal Court); *The Shape of the Pain* (BAC / UK tour); *Icons* (WOW Festival, Hull); *Resonance at the Still Point of Change* (Unlimited Festival, Southbank). Film work includes BBC Culture in

Quarantine commission *Where I Go When I Can't be Where I Am*. Rachel has directed extensively for drama schools and participatory projects; she is a trustee of BAC and Camden People's Theatre and also works as a coach and facilitator.

**Liam Sinclair**, For the last five years Liam has been Executive Director & Joint CEO of Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre, a dual art-form (theatre and dance), building based producing organisation. Part of his work there has seen him lead and support initiatives to tackle the climate emergency with a sectoral, civic society and operational mindset. Prior to this he has held the roles of Artistic Director of the Byre Theatre, Executive Producer for Scottish Dance Theatre, Artistic Director & CEO of Macrobert Arts Centre, Director of the Edinburgh Mela, and Head of YouthWorks Drama (Short Courses) for the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, of which he is a graduate. He very recently retired as a co-Chair of the Federation of Scottish Theatre, having been on the Board for seven years. Previous board positions have included Chair of the Board for Luminare, Scotland's creative ageing organisation and Chair of the Board for Birds of Paradise Theatre Company, Scotland's leading inclusive theatre company. He is passionate about spending time outdoors and close to nature, often with his family.

**Jennifer Taillefer** is a freelance theatre artist currently working across production management and design. Her experience includes theatre production, special events, festivals and outdoor work. A lifelong environmentalist, she actively integrates Theatre Green Book production guidance and protocols throughout her work. Jennifer is also the creator of a theatre specific Carbon Literacy Training, which she has facilitated for theatres, opera and ballet companies across the UK. Previously Jennifer was the Production and Technical Director at the Unicorn Theatre, where she still works on a freelance basis assisting in the embedding of environmental goals across the organisation's practices.

**Matthew Xia** is the award-winning Artistic Director of ATC (Actors Touring Company). He was previously Associate Artistic Director at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester; Director-in-Residence at The Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse; and Associate Director at Theatre Royal Stratford East (where he started in the youth theatre in 1993!) Directing includes: the Olivier Award winning *Hey Duggee – The Live Theatre Show* (Kenny Wax Family Entertainment/Cuffe & Taylor); the Fringe First award winning *Feeling Afraid As If Something Terrible Is Going To Happen* (FMP/Roundabout); *The Architect* (GDIF/ATC/SLDF); *Rice* (ATC/Orange Tree); *The Wiz* (Ameena Hamid Productions/Hope Mill/BBC Big Night of Musicals), *Family Tree* (GDIF/ATC/Belgrade/Brixton House); *846 Live* (Theatre Royal Stratford East/GDIF); *Amsterdam* (ATC/Orange Tree/Plymouth Theatre Royal); *Blood Knot* (Orange Tree); *Eden* (Hampstead Theatre); *One Night In Miami...* (Nottingham Playhouse/Bristol Old Vic/HOME); *Into The Woods & Frankenstein* (Royal Exchange Theatre); *Wish List* (Royal Exchange Theatre/Royal Court); *Shebeen* (Nottingham Playhouse/Theatre Royal Stratford East); *Sleeping Beauty* (Theatre Royal Stratford East); *Dublin Carol* (Sherman Theatre); *Blue/Orange, The Sound Of Yellow* (Young Vic); *Sizwe Banzi Is Dead* (Genesis Future Director Award Winner - Young Vic/Eclipse); *The Blacks* (Co-Director, Theatre Royal Stratford East); *I Was Looking At The Ceiling And Then I Saw*

*The Sky* (Co-Director, Theatre Royal Stratford East/The Barbican); *Suckerpunch Boom Suite* (The Barbican/NitroBEAT).

## Models and Antidotes

**Elizabeth Freestone** is a theatre director and dramaturg specializing in Shakespeare, eco-theatre and new writing. Recent productions include *The Tempest* at the Royal Shakespeare Company, *Nora: A Doll's House* by Stef Smith at the Citizens Theatre Glasgow and the Young Vic London, and *Queen Margaret* by Shakespeare and Jeanie O'Hare at the Royal Exchange Manchester. She has a bachelor's degree in Theatre Directing, a master's degree in environmental Humanities and is studying for a PhD in ecodramaturgy. She is the co-author of a book about playwriting and the environmental crisis called *100 Plays to Save the World* (Nick Hern Books, 2021/Theatre Communications Group 2023) and the forthcoming *Performing Shakespeare on an Endangered Planet* (Cambridge, 2024) as well as several articles on theatre, playwriting and eco-theatre practice. She teaches at Warwick University, the Shakespeare Institute and Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust, amongst others.

**Gavin Porter** is a film/documentary/theatre maker from Butetown in Cardiff. Most recently Gavin Directed a 'live-documentary' called Circle Of fifths which explores the connection between grief, loss, music and celebrates the tradition of Butetown funerals. Circle Of Fifths is about to tour Wales and London. Previously, Gavin created a participatory theatre project called The Big Democracy Project with National Theatre Wales working across Wales, ending in a 'festival of democracy' at the Senedd. Gavin is a Clore Fellow and has won a BAFTA Cymru

**Debbie Hannan**, develops and directs new work for stage and screen. They are currently Associate Director at the National Theatre of Scotland. From January to July 2022, they were the Acting Artistic Director of Stockroom. They were Associate Director at the Bunker Theatre and are represented by Independent Talent. They trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and as Trainee Director at the Royal Court. Debbie recently directed and co-wrote a short film for Film 4 and is co-writing a TV treatment for Fable. Recent theatre credits include: *The Sound of the Underground*, *Pah-La* (Royal Court Theatre); *Faun* (Cardboard Citizens); *Salty Irina* (Broccoli and Paines Plough); *Exodus*, *The Panopticon* (National Theatre of Scotland); *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *Overflow* (Bush Theatre) *The Ugly One* (Tron Theatre); *Cuckoo* (Soho Theatre)

**Max Webster** is a Tony & Olivier Award nominated theatre director. He is currently an Associate Director at the Donmar Warehouse where he will next direct David Tennant & Cush Jumbo in *Macbeth*. As Director, credits include: *Henry V* (Donmar Warehouse); *Life of Pi* (West End, Boston ART, Broadway & UK Tour); *Antigone*, *As You Like It* and *Twelfth Night* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre); *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax* (Old Vic Theatre/San Diego Old Globe/Minneapolis Children's Theatre); *The Jungle Book* (Fiery Angel); *Fanny and Alexander*, *Cover My Tracks* (Old Vic Theatre); *The Twits* (Curve Theatre Leicester); *The Winter's Tale* (The Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh); *The Sea of Fertility*, *Mary Stuart* (Parco Productions Tokyo); *Much Ado*

*About Nothing* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Shostakovich's Hamlet* (City of London Sinfonia); *Orlando, To Kill a Mockingbird, My Young and Foolish Heart* (Royal Exchange Manchester); *James and the Giant Peach, My Generation* (Leeds Playhouse); *Carnival Under the Rainbow* and *Feast Kakulu* (Hilton Festival, South Africa) & *Caucasian Chalk Circle* (Aarohan Theatre, Kathmandu). Opera credits include: *La Bohème* (Göteborgsoperan, Sweden) & *The Merry Widow* (English National Opera).

## Visions: Imagining Otherwise

**Vicki Mortimer** is a freelance set and costume designer for theatre, opera and dance and a National Theatre Associate

**Harold Finley** is a writer, director, producer and the Executive Director of the Stage Directors UK. He began working in the theatre as an actor, appearing in several West End productions, in regional theatre, in North America, and at the National Theatre. Harold wrote and performed critically acclaimed solo shows, which toured the UK, America and played sold-out seasons in London. He wrote and directed *A Thousand Miles of History*, which premiered at the Bussey Building, London, he co-founded and produced the Black, Queer & Fierce! arts festival, which is recognised as the first arts festival from a black, queer perspective. He is currently working on *Lulu* (A Monster Musical), based on Wedekind's Lulu Plays. Instagram: @theharoldfinley, X: @TheHaroldFinley

**Sean Foley** is an actor, writer and director. A double Olivier Award winner and Tony nominee, his work - as lead creative on 14 West End shows: as co-writer/star; writer/director; adaptor/director; and director - has also been Olivier nominated multiple times. He has - uniquely - been personally nominated in the acting, writing and directing categories. As co-artistic director of ***the right size***, he created, co-wrote and starred in ten original stage comedies 1990 to 2000. The company played in over 25 countries around the world, winning many international awards. Sean is the Artistic Director of Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

**Chloe Naldrett** has worked in theatre for over 20 years and is a specialist in the cross-over between the commercial and subsidised sectors. She spent six years in the commercial West End with Mark Rubinstein Ltd as Associate Producer/General Manager and five years at the National Theatre working on *War Horse* and *One Man, Two Guv'nors*. As Executive Producer at Bristol Old Vic from 2015-2020 she delivered the transfers of *Jane Eyre* and *Peter Pan* to the National, and took *The Grinning Man*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night* and *Touching the Void* into the West End. She is currently Executive Producer at Birmingham Rep, where she has recently delivered *Spitting Image: Idiots Assemble* and the upcoming *Sinatra The Musical*. For the last four years, Chloe has also been an environmental activist, organising and taking non-violent direct action with Extinction Rebellion, XR Bristol Families and Culture Declares Emergency. In September 2022 she was part of a group of 51 people who broke an injunction (a private, paid-for civil law) at an oil terminal in North Warwickshire and spent a week on remand in Foston Hall prison. She is now a spokesperson for Just Stop Oil, and has appeared on Good

Morning Britain, Jeremy Vine on 5, GB News, Sky News, Talk TV, LBC, various BBC Radio programmes and the podcast Pod Save the UK.

**Suzy Sommerville**, after training at Guildhall School of Music and Drama Suzy has worked extensively in production and stage management on a range of productions around the world. She is currently Director of Production at Birmingham Rep; having previously worked as Head of Production at the New Vic, Staffordshire and Head of Production for Assembly Festival.

**Jacob Ellis** is a Lead Change Maker for Public Affairs and International work at the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales. His responsibilities include international outreach with strategic partners (including the United Nations, UNFCCC and intergovernmental agencies) and advising public bodies with their implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations Act across Wales. As a proud futurist, Jacob works with policymakers, leaders, youth activists and agencies to advocate for the needs and interests of future generations and has spoken at international events including COP27, World Government Summit, One Young World and the UN High-Level Political Forum. Jacob recently led the Future Generations Commissioner's Section 20 Review into Welsh Government's implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and advised the UN High-Level Committees on Programmes on its UN Principles for Future Generations. In 2022, he co-developed the Football Association of Wales' Sustainability Strategy and is also a Climate Justice Advisor for the Museums Association. Jacob is a Non-Executive Director at Literature Wales and a Trustee at Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru. Jacob is also the United Nations Foundation Next Generation Fellow for Future Generations, and UNICEF Youth Foresight Fellow (2022). Jacob is an alumni member of the Unite 2030 Youth Delegate Programme. He is a former Trustee of Cardiff Third Sector Council and Scouts Cymru. He was a BBC Wales Journalist (2016-2018) and served as President of Aberystwyth University Students' Union (2014-2015). He held several roles at the National Union Students for Wales and Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.

**Natalie Ibu** is Artistic Director and Joint Chief Executive of Northern Stage. Natalie's vision is to make Northern Stage a building informed and transformed by the region so that company is an essential part of everyone's lives, making vital pieces of culture for the Northeast of today and tomorrow. For Northern Stage she has directed the world premiere of Hannah Lavery's *Protest* (2023), the UK premiere of Claudia Rankine's *The White Card* (2022, nominated for Best Director, UK Theatre Awards) and Jim Cartwright's *Road* (2021). Previously Natalie was Artistic Director of tiata fahodzi (2014- 2020), the only Black-led theatre company in the UK with a sole focus on new work. For tiata fahodzi, Natalie's directing credits include *I Know All The Secrets In My World* and Arinzé Kene's *Good Dog*. Previously she was the Creative Producer for In Good Company, launching the regional artist development programme in the East Midlands for Derby Theatre, Embrace Arts Leicester and Create Mansfield. Previous roles include Programme Manager at the Roundhouse, Creative Producer for Only Connect, Associate Director (Warehouse) for HighTide Festival Productions.

## Breakout Conversation contributors

**Paul Burgess** trained at Motley and has designed for venues ranging from Shakespeare's Globe in London to WUK in Vienna and Prithvi in Mumbai. He also leads projects as an artist-designer. He is a co-director of Ecostage and coordinator of the Society of British Theatre Designers' sustainability working group. A certified Carbon Literacy facilitator, he co-wrote the Society of British Theatre Designer's Carbon Literacy Training course. He has been a visiting lecturer at numerous universities and is currently studying MSc Green Building at the Centre for Alternative Technology.

**Martin Fisher FRSA**, Accredited Psychotherapist. It is time to stand up and be counted but I am too old to throw myself in front of the king's racehorse. Better ways to make my contribution to the climate crisis are to encourage theatres everywhere to take a public stance through Culture Declares Emergency and I'm putting together a team to contact all theatres. I also offer free therapy through the Climate Psychology Alliance, to activists experiencing climate anxiety and as a former barrister I can understand the anxiety faced by anyone affected by bail, charge, trial, imprisonment or release, be it theirs or another's.

**Rachael Bellis** is a neurodivergent director and performer with an eye for political theatre and an interest in sustainable ways of working. Directing work includes *The Collab* by Lauren Morley (The Space), *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich* (Jack Studio), *A Little Princess* (Drayton Arms), *Dream Lover* by Jane Elia (Bread and Roses) and *Antigone* (Bread and Roses). When she is not directing, you can see her perform cabaret. Rachael has been a member of Equity for a Green New Deal for the last year and a half and has been involved in the Theatre Green Book feedback. Her fringe theatre company, Aequitas is one of the first two in the world to build sustainability into contract, having done so with Equity. Rachael is also passionate about disability activism and is the TUC Disabled Workers rep for Equity. She hopes to centre her sustainable work with disabled artists in mind.

**Fehinti Balogun** is an actor, theatre maker and activist. As an actor he has worked in theatre, film, and television, with recent work in *Dune*, *I May Destroy You* and *Juliet Naked*. *In Can I live?* a digital performance about climate catastrophe, Fehinti asks the urgent questions we are facing as humanity, exploring the biggest challenges of our time through spoken word, rap, theatre, animation, and scientific fact. Alongside his acting career, he delivers talks on climate change aimed at a more rounded inclusion in the conversation on behalf of Extinction Rebellion, as a result of these talks, he has toured London and southern England discussing climate change and taking part in international climate discussions.

**Sam Swann**, Actor, theatre-maker, sits on Equity's Executive Council, co-founder and chair of the Equity for a Green New Deal network. Sam has been an environmental activist for 10 years, and active in Equity for the past 5 years. He co-founded and now chairs the Equity for a Green New Deal network which has helped divest fossil fuel investment from the Equity pension scheme and investment portfolio as well as sparking the Green Rider. He has acted on stage (RSC, NT, Royal Court, Almeida,



Unicorn), for television (BBC, ITV, Sky) and radio since graduating from LAMDA in 2010.

**Beth Kapila** is a freelance director and dramaturg originally from Peterborough, living between Birmingham and London for the last 10 years. Recently Beth was Artistic Associate at Tara Theatre in Southwest London. She trained on the StoneCrabs Young Directors Scheme and the Birmingham REP Foundry artist development scheme, forming her ideas of what theatre is and who we really make it for. She is currently studying an MA in Cities, to explore collaborative and creative practices in place making.

**Gitika Buttoo** is a Queer British South Asian Director from Yorkshire, currently based in Manchester. She directs theatre and radio nationally and has just finished her tenure as Staff Director at The National Theatre. She has been the full time Artistic Associate of Birmingham Opera Company and is currently the Associate Director of LUNG Theatre Company.

**Abigail Graham** is an award-winning theatre director. Work as a director includes: *Truman* and *The Arsonists* (Roundhouse), *Macbeth*, *Merchant of Venice* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Aladdin* (Lyric Hammersmith), *MUM* (Plymouth Drum/Soho Theatre), *The Tyler Sisters* (Hampstead); *31 Hours* (The Bunker); *Death of a Salesman* (Royal and Derngate/UK Tour); *And Now: The World!* (OpenWorks, UK tour); *Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made* (Assembly Rooms); *Debris* (OpenWorks, Southwark Playhouse); *Molly Sweeney* (Print Room/Lyric Belfast.) Awards include Best Pantomime at the UK Pantomime Awards 2022. From 2013-2017 she was the founding Artistic Director of OpenWorks Theatre, an organisation dedicated to changing who goes to the theatre by changing who makes it. She was the lead Artist of the Bush Neighbourhood Company 2021 and was the Director of the Lyric Hammersmith Young Ensemble 2019-2020. She regularly directs in top UK Drama Schools. She is on the board of Stage Directors UK.

**Kay Michael** is a theatre-maker, facilitator and activist. Theatre credits include directing *A Play for the Living in a Time of Extinction* (Theatre Royal Plymouth) and *Sequel*, a one-women show she wrote and performed that explores our relationship to food systems collapse, death and the wild (Bristol Old Vic Ferment). Kay is a co-founder of Culture Declares Emergency for whom she's produced rallies and an arts festival 'Extinction Underground' and facilitates Cultural Assemblies - such as at the Roundhouse, Central St Martins UAL and the Southbank Centre. For XR she set up and co-coordinated the local Totnes group in 2018, programmed stages for the 2019-2020 London Rebellions, got arrested during a woman's only action on the railings of Parliament, and has mobilised high profile 'Notables' for the cause. Kay is a co-founder and director of the award-winning global participatory campaign Letters to the Earth, for which she co-edited the book *Letters to the Earth, Writing to a Planet in Crisis* introduced by Emma Thompson. She is now developing Letters to the Earth for the stage.