

Making Theatre in a Time of Climate Crisis

The Pledges

1. To commit to meeting *Green Book* standards contractually
2. To acknowledge the impact on freelancers of working in environmentally responsible ways.
3. To engage with climate crisis in any teaching, training or mentoring you do, to ensure those coming into the industry engage with environmental responsibility in their work ‘from inception’.
4. To work towards ‘social and environmental equity’ – ensuring that the work you are doing on environmental and climate care is aligned with the work you are doing to empower disadvantaged groups.
5. To be the one to start the conversation about the climate context in every meeting from the very start, and throughout the production process

What does this mean in practice?

1. **PLEDGE** To commit to meeting *Green Book* standards contractually

PRACTICE Put commitments to meeting *Green Book* standards in contracts – with details/conversation on both sides on how this will be facilitated – not just in lead artists and production teams’ contracts, but in all contracts, so that the responsibility is carried collectively.

Ensure that both freelancers and staff are clear on how meeting these contractual obligations will be facilitated throughout the process (see Theatre Green Book: Productions, and/or the Donmar infographic: ‘The Show Must Go On’).

Remember that as there is no one size-fits-all 'solution', the facilitation of a climate conscious process will need to be discussed and negotiated for each production.

2. **PLEDGE** To acknowledge the impact on freelancers of working in environmentally responsible ways

PRACTICE With longer lead-in times, good communication around reusable resources, and transparency around the timing of the design process, freelancers' overall workload will be less heavily impacted, than if the theatre's lead-in times are too short or there's not early communication on available reusable resources.

Active creative facilitation, e.g. holding an early-stage design concept meeting to invite creative team collaboration and provide time for production managers' research to inspire new ideas, and/or holding a Research & Development workshop at an early stage, can enable resource-intensive practices to be 'designed out' (see *Green Book Productions*: p. 14).

A 'climate contingency' budget for last minute decisions can help reduce potential conflict between aesthetics and ethics in the final stages.

3. **PLEDGE** To engage with climate crisis in any teaching, training or mentoring you do, to ensure those coming into the industry are empowered to engage with environmental responsibility in their work 'from inception'.

PRACTICE As directors, many of us find ourselves teaching or mentoring, on a fairly regular basis, whether formally (e.g. directing a drama school production or informally, e.g. having a cup of tea and chatting with an emerging artist).

If each time we find ourselves in this position, we include care for climate in the conversation, we will be passing on the know-how as we are ourselves discovering it, as well as ensuring the next generation understand how central it will be to developing their practice.

4. Commit to **social and environmental equity** – to ensure that your work on environmental responsibility aligns with the work you are doing to

empower disadvantaged groups. (from Amanda Parker's keynote and the further references to it across the day, as well as feedback)

PRACTICE Training all members of the team and staff about the multiple interlinked harms of climate crisis, including environmental degradation from land-exploitation, and pollution from waste products, as well as global warming due to carbon emissions, and how they impact most heavily on those who are already most disenfranchised, particularly in the global south, but also across Europe. EG via Carbon Literacy Training.

Recognise how social and environmental inequities have the same root cause: the transactive, extractive practices of 'linear' economies. Instead, foster 'circular' practices that require collaboration and recognise our interdependency: bringing together social and environmental benefits through practices of care. *See Kate Raworth and Amanda Parker's keynote talks for further guidance.*

Avoid one-size-fits-all solutions for environmental care, as they are likely to perpetuate social harms through inequitable impacts. Instead, be sensitive to the multiple, varied (and often invisibilised) contexts of both people and resources, and to make decisions on how best to minimise environmental harm, with appreciation of specific needs and capacities.

5. **PLEDGE To be the one to start the conversation about the climate context in every meeting from the very start, and throughout the production process** (from 'Asks': 'We pledge to include the climate conversation at all points and levels of production')

PRACTICE Just by showing it matters to you, by bringing up the context of climate crisis in conversation, you will empower your team to make change. By leading on raising the questions, you show leadership and commitment, even when you don't know the answer.

Directors have the power to move the culture through how they lead the conversation, to change the current state of affairs, where many people in any given production team may have concerns, but no one feels empowered to mention it, so each thinks it not a shared issue, or of concern for the production. Directors and Artistic Directors have the power to change that through their creative leadership.

By ensuring environmental responsibility is central to the artistic, as well as the practical agenda, you enable greater collaboration between your team members, and will be able to draw on their know-how and expertise.