

# Venue 13

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – 25 July 2025 – Edinburgh

### **The Time Is Now: CCTA 2025 Takes Over Venue 13 in Edinburgh with Three Weeks of Unforgettable Climate Theatre**

- Climate Change Theatre Action (CCTA) marks its 10th anniversary with a powerful Fringe programme at Venue 13: 50 unique plays and theatrical events over 23 days.
- Venue 13 hosts the UK debut of this global movement, transforming the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2025 into a daily artistic pursuit to promote Climate Action.
- Ticket sales fund the work of CCTA as well as local artists and promote the continuation of Venue 13 as a community artistic hub.
- Book your tickets now: [www.venue13.com](http://www.venue13.com)
- All images and more available here: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1e6pzZxCJ9z2XuQmghuKnRAC2\\_shw1Wlg?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1e6pzZxCJ9z2XuQmghuKnRAC2_shw1Wlg?usp=sharing)

**Edinburgh, 25 July 2025.** With just over one week to go before the kick-off on 1st August, Venue 13 is proud to announce the full lineup of daily performances for Climate Change Theatre Action 2025 (CCTA 2025). Under this year's urgent global theme, "The Time Is Now", the series brings together 23 uniquely curated events, each crafted by artists from around the world to confront the climate crisis through bold, imaginative storytelling.

In its 10th anniversary edition, and for the first time ever in Edinburgh, CCTA will unfold over 23 days of one-off shows, each built around the theme: "The Time Is Now."

These 50 short plays include 10 newly commissioned works, and have been created by renowned independent playwrights and from theatres from around the world, including Edinburgh's Traverse, in response to the climate emergency.

Together with readings, immersive adaptations, performance art, installations, dance, music, games, and workshops, each day at Venue 13 becomes its own exclusive micro-festival of climate storytelling.

**Friday, 1st August, 16:00**

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*Capturing Creativity in the Climate Crisis - A Reading and*



## Discussion Hosted by Alchemy Theatre Paris

Join Chantal Bilodeau for the official opening of the 2025 Fringe session of the Climate Change Theatre Action. Together with co-director, Ian Garrett and Artistic Director of the CCTA at Venue 13, Anne Kelly, they will introduce the programme, and will be joined in conversation with collaborators and partners who will make this an unforgettable festival.

Alchemy Theatre kicks off the Climate Change for Theatre Action Fringe series with a thought-provoking evening of performance. Presenting two plays from the CCTA:

**Science is Dead!** by David Geary (Taranaki Māori, Canada/New Zealand) is a fast-paced, satirical performance that imagines a team of ad executives and spin doctors brainstorming how to discredit science itself. Blending absurdist comedy, political commentary, and Dario Fo-style farce, the piece mimics the chaos of misinformation.

**Space Cat** by Scottish playwright Lewis Hetherington is a tender reminder to appreciate and protect the only planet we have. It follows an astronaut venturing into deep space in search of a new home for humanity, while their cat waits back on Earth.

Instagram: [@antheafreya.hill](#) [@courtneybgood](#) [@lukethornborough](#) [@alchemytheatre](#)

## Saturday, 2nd August, 16:00



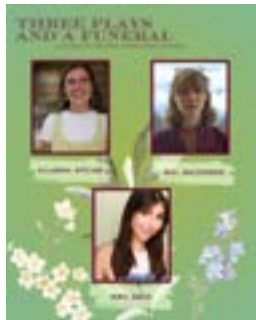
### A Eulogy for the Future is a Climate Change Theatre Action Showcase by The Blue Loop Group with Artsake Theatre Co.

A reading of four short plays, a chain-smoking deer and a funeral for the future.

Organized by Mal MacKenzie and Artsake Theatre Company, this CCTA event at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival is an afternoon in parts, to collectively process feelings of powerlessness in the face of crisis.

**PART ONE: A climate cafe held outside of Venue 13.** This meeting, open to anyone, will offer participants a chance to share emotions surrounding climate collapse in a non-judgemental, non-solution oriented space. This is a chance to express grief, fear, guilt, anger, hopelessness, or any other feeling without being talked out of those feelings.

**PART TWO: A theatrical performance inside Venue 13 of**



THAT THE CTAs theatrical performances include four CCTA plays and excerpts from "Roadkill Bambi" by Mal MacKenzie.

Roadkill Bambi is a play about two lesbians stuck in a time loop and a chain smoking deer trying to take action while caught in the headlights of disaster.

The CCTA plays featured will be:

**Here in the Long Now** by Isla Cowan is a sharp, theatrical exploration of chronowashing, a concept that critiques how corporations claim to care about long-term sustainability while engaging in short-term, environmentally destructive practices. The play contrasts voices of The Sellers, The Workers and The Clock Maker.

**Six Polar Bears Fell Out of the Sky This Morning** by Alister Emerson is an absurdist political satire which uses sharp comedy to critique climate denial and governmental spin. Echoing the styles of Monty Python and Jon Stewart, the play highlights the surreal disconnect between catastrophic environmental events and the inadequate, often laughable, political responses.

**Eat the Rich** by Tira Palmquist is set in the Atlantic Ocean and led by a pod of highly opinionated orcas. They each represent different political attitudes toward the climate crisis—especially the role of wealth and privilege in causing disproportionate harm.

**The Presentation** by Juan C. Sanchez is an introspective two-character play that unfolds in the backyard of a party. It centers on a chance encounter between Lena and Marcos, two guests reflecting on life, relationships, and their shared admiration for a mutual friend active in climate advocacy.

Instagram: [@mal.m.mackenzie](#) [@laur.mckee](#) [@emmpresley](#) [@shane.troxell](#) [@roadkill.bambi](#), [@artsaketheatreco](#)

## Sunday, 3rd August, 16:00



**Tango in Silk**, by Xi Liu (choreographer and performer) featuring Mingcong Hu

Blending Chinese and Western aesthetics, **Tango in Silk** is a poetic duet exploring identity, migration, and transformation. Paired with the reflective piece "Now", this double bill invites audiences to find strength in vulnerability and imagine better futures when reality feels uncertain.

"Tango in Silk" follows the emotional journey of an East Asian woman adapting to life in the UK, told through a striking blend of Argentine tango and Chinese movement traditions. It's a poetic exploration of identity, cultural fusion, and feminine resilience.

Paired with projected extracts of **Now** by Wren Brian, a powerful play with a strong

reminder to breathe, hope and dream about the future. It calls on audiences to confront the present moment and imagine a better future, despite the emotional and societal weight of pessimism. Through a collective or singular voice, the play invites reflection, breath, and presence while acknowledging the emotional toll it takes to hope, to dream, and to persist.

Instagram: [@wrenbrian](https://www.instagram.com/wrenbrian)



**Sea: The Breathing Matter: A sensory performance inviting you to remember the sea as breath, as grief, as shared body where poetry is born from water, and your memory becomes part of the ocean's language.**

Siho Park, from Collective Jigusumsum, is a South Korean artist, theatre-maker, and environmental storyteller. Her background in performance art, installation, and drama therapy shines through her work as it explores ecological empathy through sensory experience and poetic ritual.

This year's artistic offering, "Sea: the Breathing Matter", is a small-scale, performance-installation combining poetic text, live action, sound, and audience participation.

Additional CCTA readings include:

**The Mermaid by Nikhil Katara** is a short play set in a speculative future where misinformation has reshaped humanity's understanding of the world, and people have come to believe they are mermaids, dependent on water to survive. The play explores how false narratives, propagated by institutions and media, can distort identity and perception.

**A Letter from the Ocean by Caridad Svich** reflects on the past and our relationship with the natural world, particularly the ocean. Inspired by the field of ecoacoustics, the play speaks of a time when life was more elemental and less mechanised.

Instagram: [@siho\\_mermaid](https://www.instagram.com/siho_mermaid)



**Snowflake's Special: A sweet, funny solo piece that reaffirms the beauty, wonder and feel of the natural world**

Maria Tivnan is an independent theatre artist, who believes in the power of performance and storytelling. She has worked professionally for over 16 years in performance, writing and directing for theatre. Maria is the artistic director of Galway-based Fregoli Theatre, founded in 2007 that has 27 productions to date.

**Snowflake's Special by Kevin Matthew Wong** is a comedic



play featuring a talking snowflake named Special on a mission to make humans smile. Beneath the humor lies a poignant message about climate change, loss, and the rare magic of connection in a warming world. This performance draws on her experience in street theatre, family engagement, Gaeilge translation, and climate focus, with potential collaboration with fellow artist Tracy Bruen.

**Laila Pines For The Wolf by Hassan Abdulrazzak** is a reimagining of Little Red Riding Hood from the perspective of the Wolf. Inspired by real-world environmental threats to wildlife, the play critiques human impact on nature and reframes the Wolf not as a villain, but as a symbol of species pushed to the brink of extinction

Instagram: [@itsallperformance](https://www.instagram.com/itsallperformance)

## Monday, 4th August, Venue Closed

## Tuesday, 5th August, 16:00



### Ice and Leaves

Fregoli theatre present a compilation of short plays that challenge and celebrate ideas around nature, community and climate. Using music, song movement and some good humour, Fregoli will perform *The Polar Bears*, *Snowflake's Special* and *A Little Green*, and do a rehearsed reading of plays *All its tainted Glory* and *Ranger*.

Maria Tinvan and Tracy Bruen from Fregoli Theatre collaboratively exploring the following CCTA plays:

**The Polar Bears by Nicolas Billon** brings comedy and reflection over the loss of ice caps, lack of seals and a search for solutions. But quickly, the piece reveals deeper layers: frustration with inaction, skepticism about "market-based solutions" to climate change, and a growing weariness with climate messaging that people already know but still fail to act on.

**Snowflake's Special by Kevin Matthew Wong** is a comedic play featuring a talking snowflake named Special on a mission to make humans smile. Beneath the humor lies a poignant message about climate change, loss, and the rare magic of connection in a warming world.

**A Little Green by Charly Evon Simpson** is a gentle, poetic reflection on intergenerational hope and resilience. Set atop a hill by a climbable tree, a grandparent and grandchild share a quiet moment that speaks to legacy, renewal, and the courage to begin again. Through simple dialogue and symbolic action, the play captures how looking back can help us move forward

**All Its Tainted Glory by Georgina Escobar** is inspired by quotes from Alexandria Ocasio-

Cortez and Oscar Wilde, the piece explores how narratives about the future can either empower or paralyze us. At its core, the play challenges whether imagining better worlds is naive or necessary and, ultimately, who gets to decide.

**Ranger** by Yvette Nolan is a speculative short play set in a near future where Canada has been transformed into a vast global national park, part of a response to accelerating climate change. The story focuses on a heartfelt farewell between two people, Niall and Brook, as they stand at a closing border. Brook has chosen to stay and serve as a kind of park ranger or caretaker in this new world.

Instagram: [@itsallperformance](#), [@tracybruen](#) [@fregolitheatre](#) [@nicolasbillon](#)  
[@kevinmatthewwong](#) [@charlyesimpson](#)

## Wednesday, 6th August, 16:00

### Urban Live - Ashes of Verdant Light



Ashes of Verdant Light is a live, unscripted Dungeons & Dragons game where six adventurers explore a ruined forest ritual. Guided by magic, and dice rolls, they face ancient trials and the corrupted Verdant Avatar. Will they heal the land, seal its fate, or burn it all down?

Urban Arcane Games present: Live DnD campaign performance. Collaborating with Venue 13 to bring an immersive live game performance event to this year's Fringe. Inspired by Not Because We're Good by Chris Thorpe and Love Out of the Ruins by Zoë Svendsen from this year's CCTA plays, this is eco-fantasy at its most urgent and unforgettable.

**Not because we are good**, by Chris Thorpe imagines a future where major global problems (like climate change) have been solved, and the majority of people admit they only acted when it was convenient or unavoidable, not because they were morally driven.

**Love Out of the Ruins** by Zoë Svendsen is rooted in critiques of our current "high carbon culture". The piece rejects the idea of a single utopia. Instead, it explores multiple, overlapping visions for sustainable futures.

Instagram: [@urbanarcanegames](#)

## Thursday, 7th August, 16:00





## The Carnival of Ineffectual Climate Actions

Los Angeles-based site specific theatre company Switchboard Operations proudly presents *The Carnival of Ineffectual Climate Actions*. In this installation experience, the climate emergency is all fun and games, and you, the audience, are invited to partake in engaging activities that range from virtue signalling to colonizing other planets!

Do your part for the planet! We promise you'll leave with a conscience as clear as a crystal-blue mountain spring!

The Carnival will also include a reading of *Appreciation* and *Not because we are good*.

**Appreciation** by Katie Pearl is a satirical solo performance that uses audience interaction and applause to critique the way society responds to crises with empty gestures instead of meaningful action.

**Not because we are good**, by Chris Thorpe, imagines a future where major global problems (like climate change) have been solved, and the majority of people admit they only acted when it was convenient or unavoidable, not because they were morally driven.

## Friday, 8th August, 16:00



### Climate Theatre Workshop: How have climate and environmental plays changed over time.

Wise Ram Theatre, the Carbon Literacy Project, and Theatre Green Book invite participants to a fun, friendly, and welcoming session exploring the climate crisis and theatre's response to it. Using a selection of short plays from Climate Change Theatre Action's past ten years, the session will examine how writing and staging climate-related work has evolved over time.

The space will be relaxed and explorative, making it accessible even to those with no prior experience in climate-focused theatre or dramaturgy.

## Saturday, 9th August, 16:00



### Venue 13 presents the UK premiere of *Playing With Fire, an Ecosexual Emergency!*

This film by Annie Sprinkle and Beth Stephens explores the powerful connection between environmental destruction and social injustice. It reveals how the escalating crisis of wildfires—while undeniably driven by global warming—also exposes deeper systemic failures.

Blending loss and grief with art, humour, and community care, the film unfolds through an ecosexual lens (imagining the Earth as a lover) while weaving stories from a formerly incarcerated firefighter, Indigenous scholars, fire artists, neighbours, a witch-therapist, a fire fetishist, hot burlesque dancer, and Albert the wild white peacock who miraculously survives the inferno.

At its core, *Playing with Fire!* is about more than environmental disaster; it's about how the breakdown of natural systems mirrors the breakdown in social responsibility. The film makes a compelling case that the health of the planet and the wellbeing of its people are inseparable—what harms one, harms the other.

Instagram: [@sexecology](https://www.instagram.com/sexecology)  
<https://sprinklestephens.ucsc.edu/playing-with-fire/>

**Sunday, 10th August, 16:00**



**ARTS & CLIMATE  
INITIATIVE**



***Old McDonald Had a Farm: 01000101  
01001001 01000101 01001001 01001111***

Join the Venue 13 team as they don their alter-egos for a discussion on digital culture and climate change. Ian Garrett from the Centre for Sustainable Practice, Vanesa Kelly from V-Kind Arts, Chantal Bilodeau from the Arts & Climate initiative, and Anne Kelly from Switchboard Operations gather for a reading of three evocative plays which highlight how technology is shaping our climate future:

**Listen to Vanessa Nakate by Aleya Kassam** is a storytelling performance honouring Ugandan climate activist Vanessa Nakate, who was erased from a media image at the 2020 World Economic Forum, a symbolic act of the silencing of African voices in global climate conversations.

**Absolutely Nothing of Any Meaning by Sunny Drake** is a short play set in a living room rapidly flooding with water, a couple debates writing a message about their situation while doing little to actually stop the crisis. Inspired by Greta Thunberg's critique of political inaction, the piece uses absurdity and irony to highlight how people often delay or avoid real action.

**Six Polar Bears Fell Out of the Sky This Morning by Alister Emerson** is an absurdist political satire which uses sharp comedy to critique climate denial and governmental spin. Echoing the styles of Monty Python and Jon Stewart, the play highlights the surreal disconnect between catastrophic environmental events and the inadequate, often laughable, political responses.

Instagram: [@the\\_cspa](https://www.instagram.com/the_cspa), [@artsnclimate](https://www.instagram.com/artsnclimate) [@v.kind\\_arts](https://www.instagram.com/v.kind_arts)



## Monday, 11th August, Venue Closed

## Tuesday, 12th August, 16:00



### Earth Quadriptych

Earth Quadriptych is a CCTA event at Venue 13 featuring a reading by Susana C. Gaspar and Paula Pedregal of Chão de Oliva / Companhia de Teatro de Sintra, accompanied by expert discussion and a participatory workshop, fostering international exchange around shared ecological and social themes within the context of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Chão de Oliva is based in Portugal and is a non-profit cultural association that was established in 1987 and has been recognised by the Portuguese government as a public service entity since 1999. In 2007, it was awarded the Medal of Cultural Merit by the Sintra City Council.

Join them as they perform the following CCTA Plays:

**Homo Sapiens by Chantal Bilodeau** is a speculative play that imagines a future species looking back at humanity with a sense of gratitude, complexity, and perspective. Inspired by Elizabeth Kolbert's *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, the play grapples with the inevitability of human extinction while offering a compassionate, even hopeful, lens on our legacy.

**Pond Life by Elyne Quan** talks about the struggle of life under environmental threat but how interconnected we are with our world, and with each other. While the characters may seem powerless they teach us that we can find strength in community.

**Earth Duet by E. M. Lewis** is a reflective play inspired by a poem from Emily Dickinson that goes "In this short life that only lasts an hour, how much / how little is within our power?", and asks the same question with regards to the natural world we share.

**Original Fire by Kevin Loring** talks about humanity's relationship with fire. Featuring a youth, an adult, and an elder gathered around a symbolic flame, the piece traces our evolution through the Pyrocene: an era shaped by fire and its consequences.

Instagrams: [@cbilodeau1402](https://www.instagram.com/cbilodeau1402) [@artsnclimate](https://www.instagram.com/artsnclimate) [@elinigan](https://www.instagram.com/elinigan) [@emlewis.playwright](https://www.instagram.com/emlewis.playwright)  
[@chaodeoliva](https://www.instagram.com/chaodeoliva) [@susanacgaspar](https://www.instagram.com/susanacgaspar) [@paula.pedregal](https://www.instagram.com/paula.pedregal)

## Wednesday, 13th August, 16:00



### Hot Mess: A Comedic Reading and Panel Discussion on Climate Change

#### Song Society by Florencia Iriondo

#### The Sound of Water, by Julia Ott

Incredible programme including Kayla Kurin, Megan Phillips, Krista Rowe, and Josephine Patane who will be presenting Hot Mess: A Comedic Reading and Panel

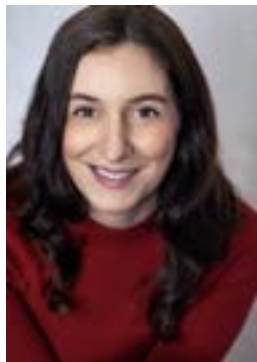
Kayla Kurin



Megan Phillips



Krista Rowe



Josephine Patane



Yvette Nolan

presenting **NOT A MESS: A COMEDIC READING AND PANEL DISCUSSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**.

The event will open with dramatic readings of *The Polar Bears*, *The Donation*, *Laila Pines for the Wolf*, *Absolutely Nothing of Any Meaning*, *Ranger*, *A Letter from the Ocean* and *Friends for Life*. Following the readings, Megan Phillips will perform a five-minute excerpt from the upcoming Edinburgh Fringe show *Catching a Cheese Pervert: A Frances Francis Mystery*.

The event will also include the debut of *The Sound of Water* by Julia Ott, a production on agriculture and water scarcity, followed by a talkback on climate storytelling and advocacy in partnership with the Idaho and Utah Conservation Leagues.

After a standout 2024 Fringe debut and a critically acclaimed 2023 Off-Broadway run at Soho Playhouse, award-winning writer and performer Florencia Iriondo comes to Venue 13 with *Song Society*, her intimate, one-person folk-pop musical. Like 'Eternal Sunshine' got stuck inside MTV Unplugged

CCTA plays include:

**The Polar Bears by Nicolas Billon** brings comedy and reflection over the loss of ice caps, lack of seals and a search for solutions. But quickly, the piece reveals deeper layers: frustration with inaction, skepticism about "market-based solutions" to climate change, and a growing weariness with climate messaging that people already know but still fail to act on.

Set in the office of an overworked nonprofit worker, **The Donation by Jordan Hall** is a dark comedy about climate anxiety. Inspired by Christopher Fry's *The Lady's Not for Burning*, it blends wit with weighty questions about mental health, climate despair, and persistence.

**Laila Pines For The Wolf by Hassan Abdulrazzak** is a reimagining of Little Red Riding Hood from the perspective of the Wolf. Inspired by real-world environmental threats to wildlife, the play critiques human impact on nature and reframes the Wolf not as a villain, but as a symbol of species pushed to the brink of extinction

**Absolutely Nothing of Any Meaning by Sunny Drake** is a satirical play about climate inaction set in a flood-ravaged living room. The piece critiques political inaction and personal complacency, asking why we delay meaningful change even as the crisis surrounds us.

**Ranger, by Yvette Nolan**, is a speculative and emotionally

Julia Ott



Florencia Iriondo

grounded play about climate restoration, sacrifice, and hope. Set in a near future where vast regions of Canada have been designated as protected global parkland, the piece explores a pivotal moment: the closing of a border into one such park, and the bittersweet goodbyes exchanged between those leaving and those committing to stay behind.

**A Letter from the Ocean, by Caridad Svich** is a poetic and reflective monologue that explores the fragility of memory, the erosion of language tied to the natural world, and the potential for healing in a time of climate breakdown. It asks: What do we carry back with us after we've left the forest? What might the ocean say if it could write to us?

**Friends for Life by Himali Kothari** is a powerful, intimate play about grassroots environmental activism and female leadership in the face of climate challenges. Inspired by real stories of the Jal Sahelis, women from central India who have banded together to address water scarcity, the play highlights how marginalized voices can become catalysts for meaningful change.

Instagram: [@the\\_sound\\_of\\_water](#), [@whoisfrancesfrancis](#), [@missedthemarkproductions](#), [@kristarowefilm](#), [@megnatphil](#), [@jopa418](#)

## Thursday, 14th August, 16:00



**The Penguins: Read by the Largest Venue 13 Cast Ever!**  
presented by Mike Fallek & Bill Moore / Big Weasel Lil Weasel from The Lawn Con

Can a play be performed by dozens of readers at once? That's exactly what Bill Moore and Mike Fallek are out to test in this joyful, chaotic, and utterly unmissable experiment in collective storytelling.

In this one-of-a-kind event, audiences become cast members in *The Penguins* by Elspeth Tilley, a CCTA play brought to life by the largest ensemble ever assembled at Venue 13. Everyone who attends will be given a role, some may even share theirs! The result? A wild, collaborative, and delightfully unpredictable reading that's equal parts performance and participation.

**The Penguins** is a sharp, satirical climate play that imagines a world in which penguins—not humans—are the ones with scientific insight, observational prowess, and critical analysis of ecological collapse. Loosely inspired by *The Birds* by Aristophanes, this short play flips the traditional human-animal hierarchy on its head.

Additional readings include:

**Undertow by Keith Barker** is a nuanced conversation between two siblings with opposing political views, set during a family gathering. Their dialogue navigates tension, miscommunication, and the search for common ground in a world increasingly shaped by

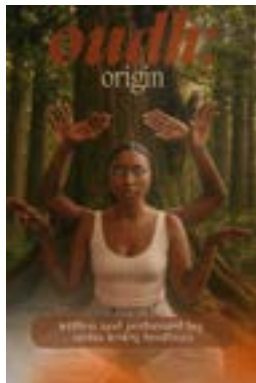
polarisation.

**We're Running Out of Chairs** by Kirby Vicente is a darkly comedic, interactive performance that uses the familiar game of musical chairs to explore the frustration, irony, and futility in how we address the climate crisis. As the game speeds up, the chairs (and options) disappear.

Expect laughter, beautiful disorder, and a lot of heart, all in the name of climate action. Proceeds from the event will be donated to environmental charities.

Instagram: [@mikefallek](#)

## Friday, 15th August, 16:00



**OUDH:origin**

**Written and Performed by Aisha Lesley Bentham**

**Narrated by Alicia Lewis**

45 mins

Step into a mystical realm of memory, choice, and transformation with OUDH:origin, a powerful solo performance written and performed by Aisha Lesley Bentham.

Follow Inam Bonai, a soul on the edge of awakening, as she is guided by a wise owl through portals of past and future lives. In each gateway, truths are revealed and the weight of a long-forgotten decision from many lifetimes ago must be faced. Rich with poetic storytelling and spiritual resonance, OUDH:origin explores destiny, self-discovery, and the cyclical nature of existence.

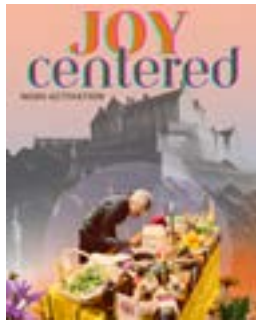


Before *OUDH:origin*, there will be a reading of the CCTA play **Consultation** by **Dylan Van Den Berg**, a sharp, politically charged short play about the exclusion of First Nations voices in decisions surrounding the climate crisis. Set in a meeting room that's literally being consumed by fire and rising water, the play stages an uncomfortable and symbolic conversation between a white bureaucrat (A) and a First Nations person (B).

Instagram: [@choosing.hue](#) [@instituteofconjure](#)  
[@eatgood.bakes](#) [@dr.bad.academic](#)

## Saturday, 16th August, 16:00

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**JOY CENTERED: Nosh Activation (Edinburgh edition)**  
**Community gathering: 20-25 ppl**  
**1hr20mins**

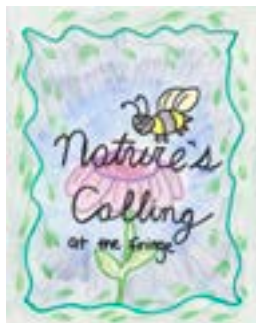
JOY CENTERED will focus on reclaiming the heart as the source of joy, freedom, and truth. In this immersive gathering, participants will engage in a guided ceremonial experience featuring three transformative and edible activations, each anchored by a master ingredient chosen for its energetic and spiritual properties.



Along with JOY CENTERED will be the CCTA 2025 offering of **The Polar Bears by Nicolas Billon**, which brings comedy and reflection over the loss of ice caps, lack of seals and a search for solutions. But quickly, the piece reveals deeper layers: frustration with inaction, skepticism about "market-based solutions" to climate change, and a growing weariness with climate messaging that people already know but still fail to act on.

Instagram: [@choosing.hue](#) [@instituteofconjure](#) [@eatgood.bakes](#) [@dr.bad.academic](#)

## Sunday, 17th August, 16:00



### Nature's Calling at the Fringe

In this special Climate Change Theatre Action (CCTA) event, Nicole Bates and Naomi Johnson will guide an epic collective reading. The session features three compelling short plays:

**Starving to Death in Midtown by Mindi Dickstein** is a darkly poetic monologue that gives voice to the bees of New York City, the symbolic messengers of ecological collapse and human disconnection. Set in the present day, the play is delivered from the perspective of a single Bee, who speaks directly to the audience. It weaves a portrait of environmental distress: pesticides, pollution, and urban decay have made even survival a challenge.



**The Project Hope by Catherine Banks** is a philosophical play about rediscovering our sense of wonder for the natural world. Set in a dimly glowing laboratory, Dr. Hope believes in the quiet power of awe and interconnectedness, while the skeptical Observer questions whether beauty and emotion alone are enough to save a world in crisis and whether individual transformation might still spark collective change.



Naomi Johnson

**So Beautiful Today, So Sunny** by Marcus Youssef, is a thoughtful, conversational verbatim play that explores climate activism through the lens of friendship, aging, and public responsibility.

Based on real dialogues between playwright Marcus Youssef and his neighbor, climate policy expert Seth Klein, the piece reflects on personal and political transitions, such as Klein's shift from professional life to writing *A Good War*, a book that argues Canada should treat climate change with the same urgency and unity as World War II.



Nicole Bates

The first two plays explore the natural world and our role in protecting biodiversity. The third dives into the complexity of climate action through human relationships and community momentum. Following the readings, Nicole will lead a facilitated discussion on climate community engagement. Audience contributions will be gathered into a reflective blog.

Additionally, the audience will enjoy an excerpt from Naomi Johnson's book, *The World at 15 mph...ish*

## Monday, 11th August, Venue Closed

## Tuesday, 19th August, 16:00



### Climate Cabaret: Songs about Climate Science by Lynda Williams "The Physics Chanteuse"

Lynda will share songs and repartee about the physics and science behind climate change, created for climate scientists and the general public. The songs range from sing-along tunes for kids to expert-level science content. It's a master lesson in science songwriting.

CCTA readings include:

**Here in the Long Now** by Isla Cowan, a sharp, theatrical exploration of chronowashing, a concept that critiques how corporations claim to care about long-term sustainability while engaging in short-term, environmentally destructive practices. The play contrasts voices of The Sellers, The Workers and The Clock Maker.

**GAIA** by Hiro Kanagawa meditates on the Earth as a living organism named Gaia, who is fighting back against human destruction as if her immune system were rejecting an infection. The piece confronts the audience with a powerful question: What happens when the planet itself turns against us?



the planet itself turns against us:

Afterwards, there will be a discussion about the science of climate and the art of writing songs about it.

Instagram: [@theatomiccabaret](https://www.instagram.com/theatomiccabaret)

## Wednesday, 20th August, 16:00



### Climate Voices

Climate Change Theatre Action and Arctic Lion Theatre invite you to an evening of short play readings. The collection of plays explore individual stories about climate, ecology and the environment and range between comedy and tragedy, satire and the absurd!

**The Polar Bears by Nicholas Billon** brings comedy and reflection over the loss of ice caps, lack of seals and a search for solutions. But quickly, the piece reveals deeper layers: frustration with inaction, skepticism about "market-based solutions" to climate change, and a growing weariness with climate messaging that people already know but still fail to act on.

**Here in the Long Now by Isla Cowan** is a sharp, theatrical exploration of chronowashing, a concept that critiques how corporations claim to care about long-term sustainability while engaging in short-term, environmentally destructive practices. The play contrasts voices of The Sellers, The Workers and The Clock Maker.

**Earth Duet by E. M. Lewis** is a reflective play inspired by a poem from Emily Dickinson that goes "In this short life that only lasts an hour, how much / how little is within our power?", and asks the same question with regards to the natural world we share.

There will also be a reading of (Un-quote), an original monologue from Dr Hamish Muir.

Finally, a Q&A with sustainable theatre makers will debate about what theatre will look like in 2050. The event is hosted by Dr. Hamish Muir, an academic who researches circular economies in theatre.

Instagram: [@arcticliontheatre](https://www.instagram.com/arcticliontheatre)

## Thursday, 21st August, 16:00

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## Comedy, Creatures, and Post-Human Perspectives by Tess Carruthers and Rosa Thomas

Join Tess and her team for a playful live reading and participatory workshop using comedy, movement, and mask work to explore posthuman futures and challenge human-centred thinking, reimagining our place in nature with curiosity, connection, and embodied performance.

Step into a playful, participatory space where animals take centre stage and human-centred thinking gets a gentle shake-up.

Together they will perform:

**Brackendale by Elaine Ávila** is a short, environmentally-themed play that uses humor and animal characters to explore the impact of climate change and human activity on wildlife. Set in Burns Bog, British Columbia, the play follows two bald eagles, Ótima and Péssima. The play blends wit and poignancy to reveal the unintended consequences of human behaviour on ecosystems and wildlife.

**The Penguins by Elpeth Tilley**, is a sharp, satirical climate play that imagines a world in which penguins, not humans, are the ones with scientific insight, observational prowess, and critical analysis of ecological collapse. Loosely inspired by *The Birds* by Aristophanes, this short play flips the traditional human-animal hierarchy on its head.

Comedy, Creatures and Posthuman Perspectives invites you to a live reading of a selection of climate-themed short plays featuring non-human characters, followed by an open, physical workshop exploring how movement, mask work, and comedy can help us embody other-than-human perspectives.

## Friday, 22nd August, 16:00



## Act for Climate with ECCAN, Active Inquiry and collaboration with Tim Honnef

This August, ECCAN partners with Venue 13 to present "Act for Climate," ECCAN's first Fringe show in partnership with Active Inquiry, with special guest Tim Honnef, visiting from the Netherlands. Edinburgh Communities Climate Action Network (ECCAN) empowers local communities to take climate action from the ground up. Active Inquiry is a Leith-based arts company dedicated to creating dynamic theatre and arts projects with and for local communities.

The event features CCTA play readings of *Now* by Wren Brian and *Appealing* by Paula Cizmar, as well as networking, and a participatory forum theatre where attendees become "spect-actors" to collectively reimagine scenes for community-led climate action. No experience needed!

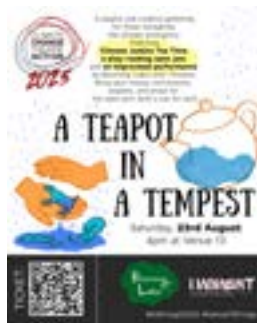
**Now, by Wren Brian**, is a powerful play with a strong reminder to breathe, hope and dream

about the future. It calls on audiences to confront the present moment and imagine a better future, despite the emotional and societal weight of pessimism.

Appealing by Paula Cizmar, is a thought-provoking short play set in the photo department of an environmental media outlet, where two colleagues examine a series of visually stunning photographs. The play interrogates how beauty can be both a tool and a trap in raising awareness, highlighting the paradox of needing to make devastation "appealing" to get people to pay attention.

Tim Honnef joins Act for Climate by reading **Starving to Death in Midtown by Mindi Dickstein**, a powerful play representing the voice of nature under threat. Set in New York City, the play uses the plight of urban bees as a metaphor for the broader environmental crisis and human vulnerability.

## Saturday, 23rd August, 16:00



### **A Teapot In A Tempest by Haeweon Yi and Francine Dulong from Blooming Ludus and Jaehyun Nho from I Moment**

The event begins with a relaxed Climate Justice Tea Time (networking + discussion), followed by a playful open jam reading of Climate Change Theatre Action plays, and finishes with an improvised performance by artists from Blooming Ludus and Korean company I Moment.



**So This is the Last Apple Pie by Haeweon Yi**, gently asks: What do we hold onto when even familiar fruits disappear? This poetic, intergenerational reflection on climate change and political inaction is set in a near future where apples and stability are vanishing.

**Canary by Hanna Cormick** is a powerful tribute to those on the frontlines of the climate crisis that honors the bodies that carry the burden of climate catastrophe and those who speak out for others who cannot.



**Earth Duet by EM Lewis** is a reflective play inspired by a poem from Emily Dickinson that goes "In this short life that only lasts an hour, how much / how little is within our power?"; and asks the same question with regards to the natural world we share.



**A Letter from the Ocean by Caridad Svich** explores the fragility of memory, the erosion of language tied to the natural world, and the potential for healing in a time of climate breakdown. It asks: What do we carry back with us after we've left the forest? What might the ocean say if it could write to us?



**Bare Spaces** by Angie Emurwon invites audiences into an intimate storytelling ritual inspired by the wisdom of the playwright's grandmothers. It explores memory, presence, and connection through spoken word and stillness.



**Us in The Past** by Nathan Ellis is an experimental, participatory play that invites audience members to speak together in unison. Inspired by Brecht's *Lehrstücke*, the piece explores how we build understanding and community in the moment through shared language and live experience.

Instagram:

[@haeweonyiii](#) [@bloomingludus](#) [@imoment.arts](#)

All images and more available

here: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1e6pzZxCJ9z2XuQmghuKnRAC2\\_shw1Wlg?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1e6pzZxCJ9z2XuQmghuKnRAC2_shw1Wlg?usp=sharing)

## VENUE 13

A venue that reflects the best of what the Fringe can be.

Centering artistry. Grounded in care. Powered by community.

[Venue 13](#), located in Harry Younger Hall at the foot of the Royal Mile, has been a fixture of the Edinburgh Fringe since 1980. Managed by the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (RWCMD) since 1996, and now taken over and reimagined as Venue 13 Fringe LTD by producers Ian Garrett and Vanesa Kelly, the venue is renowned for showcasing daring and innovative work across theatre, contemporary dance, and physical performance.

Praised as a “serene little venue” by *The Scotsman* and hailed by *Three Weeks* as “the Fringe as God intended,” Venue 13 has provided a platform for emerging artists from the UK, US, and Canada. Holding the same venue number for 34 consecutive years—longer than any other Fringe location, it celebrated 40 years as one of the longest-standing venues in the festival's history in 2020, cementing its status as an essential part of the Edinburgh Fringe.

### Join the Movement

Venue 13 invites you to be part of its next chapter: as a supporter, partner, or co-creator. For media enquiries, investment pack requests, or to get involved:

Contact Vanesa or Ian: [info@venue13.com](mailto:info@venue13.com) or [vk@v-kind.co.uk](mailto:vk@v-kind.co.uk)

Crowdfunding link: <https://crowdfund.edfringe.com/p/venue13returns>

For Venue schedule, tickets and more info, visit [www.venue13.com](http://www.venue13.com), and follow us on all the social channels on [@venue13fringe](#)

## Climate Change Theatre Action

Launched in 2015, Climate Change Theatre Action is a worldwide festival of short plays about the climate crisis presented biennially to coincide with the United Nations [COP meetings](#).

CCTA was originally conceived by Elaine Ávila, Chantal Bilodeau, Roberta Levitow, and Caridad Svich following a model pioneered by [NoPassport Theatre Alliance](#). It has since evolved into a U.S.-Canada collaboration between the Arts & Climate Initiative and the Centre for Sustainable Practice in the Arts.

[The Arts & Climate Initiative](#) uses storytelling and live performance to foster dialogue about our global climate crisis, create an empowering vision of the future, and inspire people to take action. Operating on the principle that complex problems must be addressed through collaborative efforts, we work with artists across disciplines and geographic borders, solicit input from earth and social scientists, and actively seek community and educational partners.

[The Centre for Sustainable Practice in the Arts](#) (CSPA) views sustainability as the intersection of environmental balance, social equity, economic stability and a strengthened cultural infrastructure. Seeing itself as evolved out of the principles of the 1987 Brundtland Report and 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, the CSPA aligns itself with the policies of Agenda 21 for Culture as a resource to artists and art organizations.

**Ends**