

**GATE THEATRE PRESENTS**

**SCENES  
FROM  
THE  
CLIMATE  
ERA**

**WRITTEN BY  
DAVID FINNIGAN**

**DIRECTED BY  
ATRI BANERJEE**

**23 SEP - 25 OCT**

**TICKETS FROM £16**

**GATETHEATRE.CO.UK**

**THE PLAYGROUND THEATRE, W10 6RQ**

Artwork by Madison Coby

**GATE**

# GATE

## SCENES FROM THE CLIMATE ERA

Written by **David Finnigan**

Directed by **Atri Banerjee**

This production of **'Scenes from the Climate Era'** opened at The Playground Theatre on Tuesday 23rd September 2025

Designer | **Anna Yates**

Lighting Designer | **Ryan Joseph Stafford**

Sound Designer & Composer | **Tom Foskett-Barnes**

Movement Director | **Adi Gortler**

Assistant Director | **Grace Waga Glevey**

Casting Director | **Nadine Rennie CDG**

Stage Manager | **Martin Bristow**

Production Manager | **Mark Hartley**

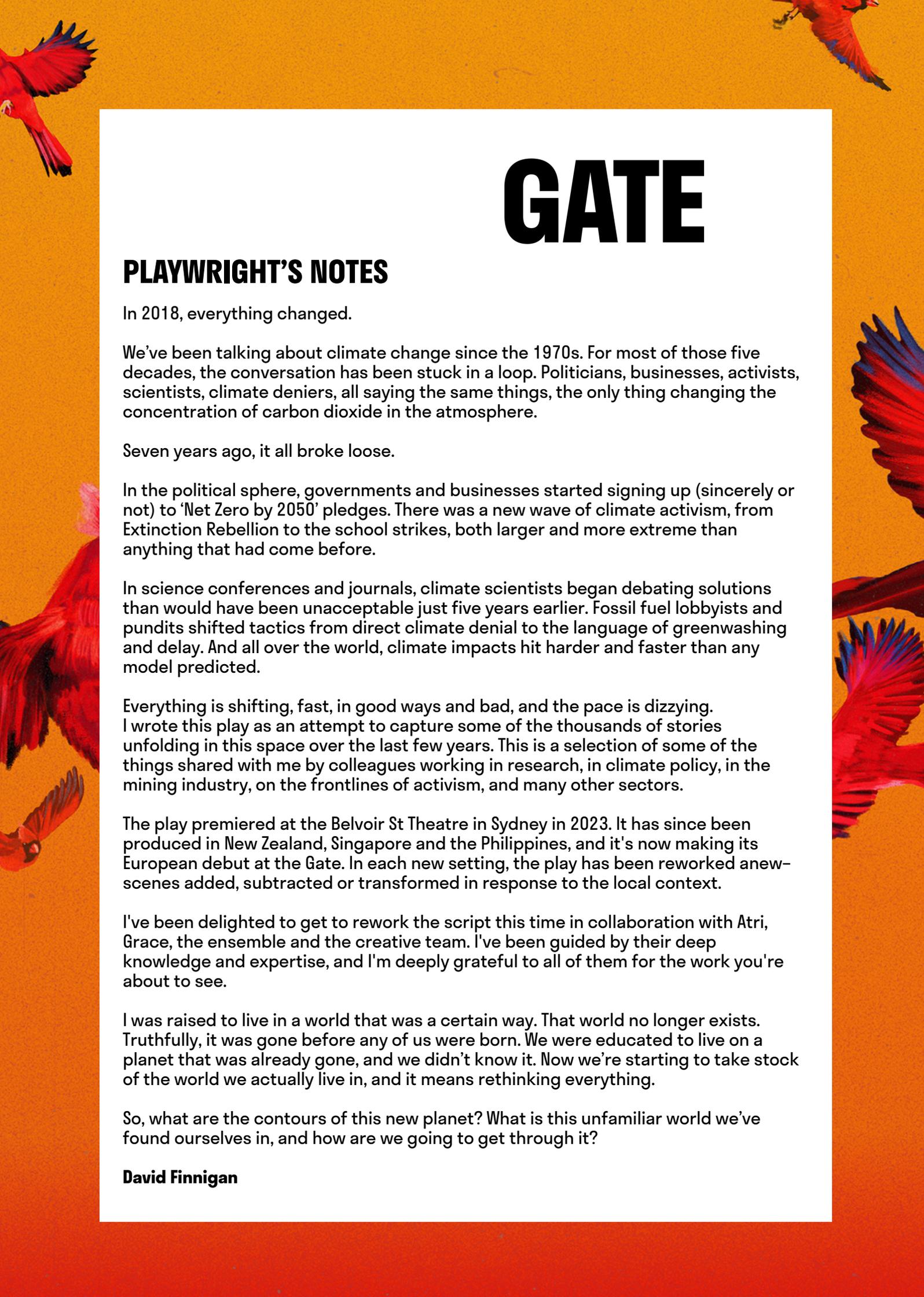
### Performers

**Harriet Gordon-Anderson**

**Peyvand Sadeghian**

**Ziggy Heath**

**Miles Barrow**

A vibrant orange background with several red parrots in flight, their wings spread, scattered across the page. The parrots are positioned in the corners and along the sides, creating a sense of movement and energy.

# GATE

## PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTES

In 2018, everything changed.

We've been talking about climate change since the 1970s. For most of those five decades, the conversation has been stuck in a loop. Politicians, businesses, activists, scientists, climate deniers, all saying the same things, the only thing changing the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Seven years ago, it all broke loose.

In the political sphere, governments and businesses started signing up (sincerely or not) to 'Net Zero by 2050' pledges. There was a new wave of climate activism, from Extinction Rebellion to the school strikes, both larger and more extreme than anything that had come before.

In science conferences and journals, climate scientists began debating solutions than would have been unacceptable just five years earlier. Fossil fuel lobbyists and pundits shifted tactics from direct climate denial to the language of greenwashing and delay. And all over the world, climate impacts hit harder and faster than any model predicted.

Everything is shifting, fast, in good ways and bad, and the pace is dizzying. I wrote this play as an attempt to capture some of the thousands of stories unfolding in this space over the last few years. This is a selection of some of the things shared with me by colleagues working in research, in climate policy, in the mining industry, on the frontlines of activism, and many other sectors.

The play premiered at the Belvoir St Theatre in Sydney in 2023. It has since been produced in New Zealand, Singapore and the Philippines, and it's now making its European debut at the Gate. In each new setting, the play has been reworked anew—scenes added, subtracted or transformed in response to the local context.

I've been delighted to get to rework the script this time in collaboration with Atri, Grace, the ensemble and the creative team. I've been guided by their deep knowledge and expertise, and I'm deeply grateful to all of them for the work you're about to see.

I was raised to live in a world that was a certain way. That world no longer exists. Truthfully, it was gone before any of us were born. We were educated to live on a planet that was already gone, and we didn't know it. Now we're starting to take stock of the world we actually live in, and it means rethinking everything.

So, what are the contours of this new planet? What is this unfamiliar world we've found ourselves in, and how are we going to get through it?

**David Finnigan**

# CAST



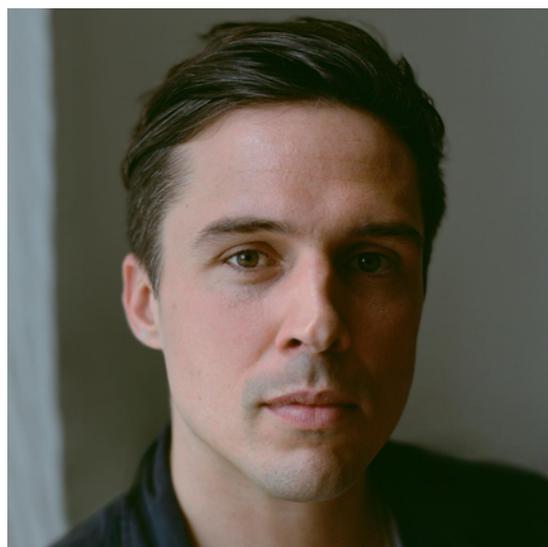
**HARRIET GORDON-ANDERSON**



**PEYVAND SADEGHIAN**



**MILES BARROW**



**ZIGGY HEATH**

# GATE

## CREATIVE TEAM



**Director**  
**ATRI BANERJEE**



**Writer**  
**DAVID FINNIGAN**



**Designer**  
**ANNA YATES**



**Lighting Designer**  
**RYAN JOSEPH  
STAFFORD**



**Sound Designer  
& Composer**  
**TOM FOSKETT-  
BARNES**



**Movement Director**  
**ADI GORTLER**



**Assistant Director**  
**GRACE WAGA  
GLEVEY**



**Casting Director**  
**NADINE RENNIE CDG**



**Production Manager**  
**MARK HARTLEY**



**Stage Manager**  
**MARTIN BRISTOW**

The background of the page is a vibrant orange-red color. Several red parrots are depicted in flight, scattered across the page. One is in the top left corner, another in the top right, and several others are on the right side, some appearing to fly towards the center. The parrots are rendered in a stylized, almost painterly manner, with bright red feathers and dark outlines.

# GATE

## MISSION

Gate, the home of international storytelling.

The Gate brings people together from across the world to engage with theatre, performance art and ideas.

Founded in 1979 to stage groundbreaking international plays, in an intimate space above a pub in Notting Hill, the Gate became a platform and home for some of the 21st century's most radical artists, writers and directors from across the globe, known for its transformative ability to push the boundaries of what theatre is and could be.

It is where they came together to imagine storytelling differently and where theatre and experimental thinking were front and centre.

Today, the Gate presents a dynamic programme of international productions, events and support programmes.

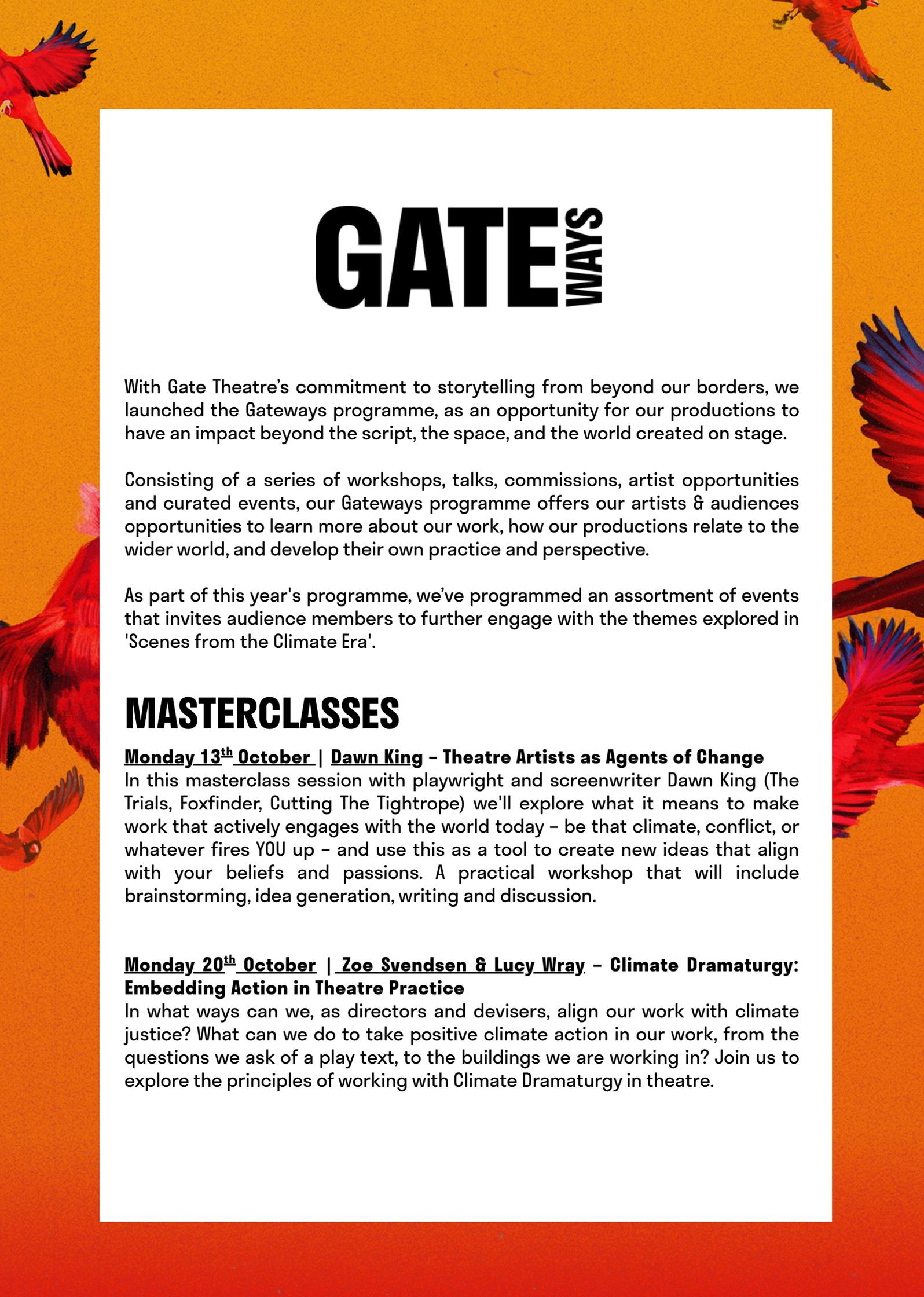
We believe in the power of theatre to provoke new ways of storytelling.

## VISION

**A different way of storytelling** | Theatre and performance that actively interrogates who we are and how we live, is a platform for people whose voices might not otherwise be heard and a space to promote equality of opportunity and social change.

**Agency through storytelling** | Gate produces collaborative, socially engaged theatre and performance work. We offer opportunities for established professionals and rising talent including people whose voices may not otherwise be heard. We believe that storytelling should move people and encourage them to think.

**Challenge the narrative** | We believe engagement with the arts has the power to provoke thought, create public platforms for voices that might not otherwise be heard, it has clear social value with the power to imagine society differently.

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# GATEWAYS

With Gate Theatre's commitment to storytelling from beyond our borders, we launched the Gateways programme, as an opportunity for our productions to have an impact beyond the script, the space, and the world created on stage.

Consisting of a series of workshops, talks, commissions, artist opportunities and curated events, our Gateways programme offers our artists & audiences opportunities to learn more about our work, how our productions relate to the wider world, and develop their own practice and perspective.

As part of this year's programme, we've programmed an assortment of events that invites audience members to further engage with the themes explored in 'Scenes from the Climate Era'.

## MASTERCLASSES

### **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October | Dawn King - Theatre Artists as Agents of Change**

In this masterclass session with playwright and screenwriter Dawn King (*The Trials*, *Foxfinder*, *Cutting The Tightrope*) we'll explore what it means to make work that actively engages with the world today - be that climate, conflict, or whatever fires YOU up - and use this as a tool to create new ideas that align with your beliefs and passions. A practical workshop that will include brainstorming, idea generation, writing and discussion.

### **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October | Zoe Svendsen & Lucy Wray - Climate Dramaturgy: Embedding Action in Theatre Practice**

In what ways can we, as directors and devisers, align our work with climate justice? What can we do to take positive climate action in our work, from the questions we ask of a play text, to the buildings we are working in? Join us to explore the principles of working with Climate Dramaturgy in theatre.

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# GATEWAYS

## PANELS AND CONVERSATIONS

### **Friday 3rd October | Post-Show Panel – Storytelling in the Climate Era**

Scenes from the Climate Era playwright, David Finnigan, is joined by writer Dawn King (The Trials), filmmaker Maia Kenworth (Rebellion), and author Farah Ali (The River, The Town) for a panel discussion on how the climate crisis and the natural world can be used as a vehicle for creativity.

### **Wednesday 8th October | Post-Show Q&A with Scenes from the Climate Era Cast & Director: BSL Interpreted**

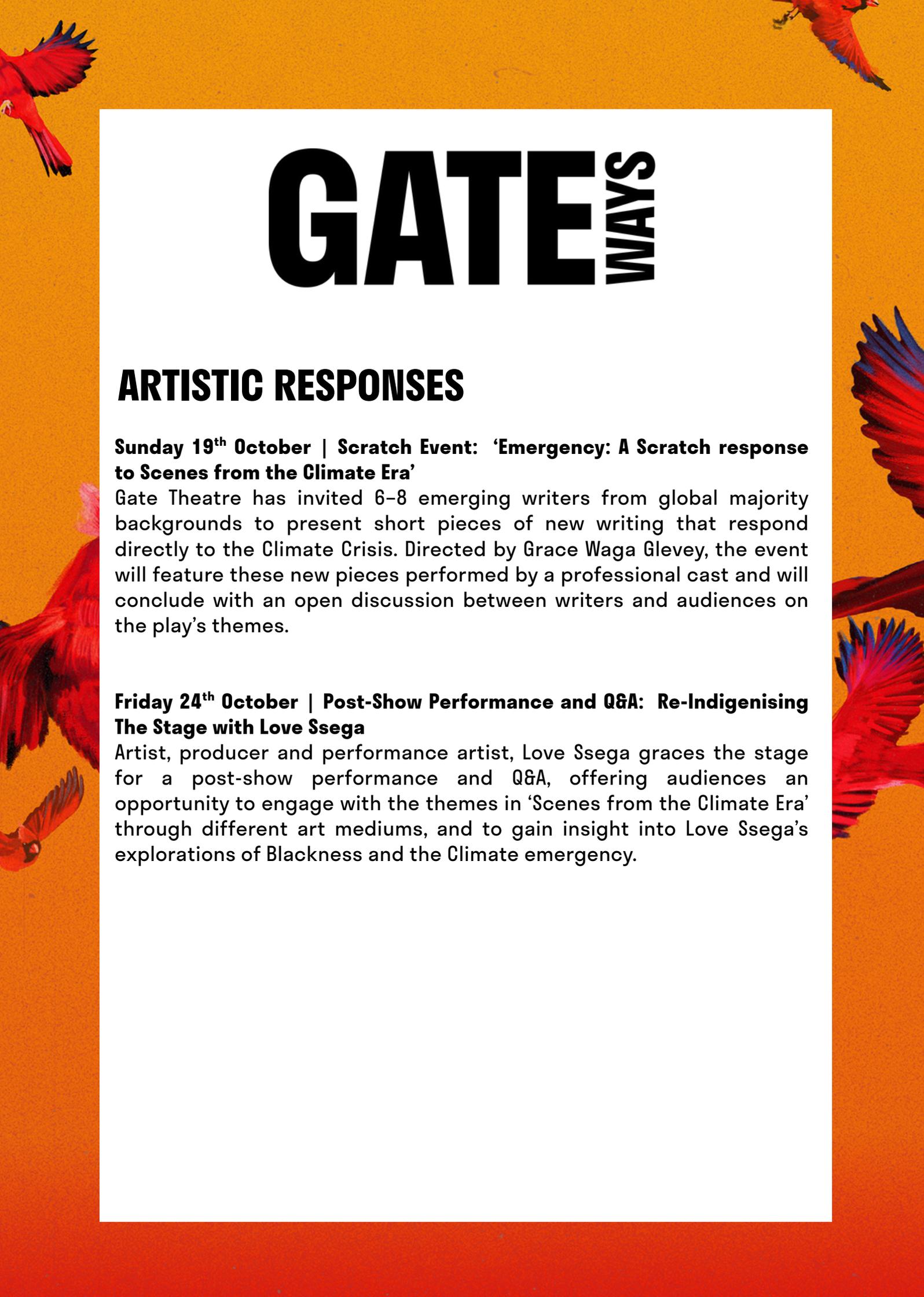
Join us for a post-show Q&A with director Atri Banerjee and the cast, exploring the humour, harsh truths, and urgency behind Scenes from the Climate Era.

### **Friday 10th October | Post Show Panel – Decolonising the Climate Era**

For this panel, footballer and community gardener Tayshan Hayden-Williams (Grow to Know), decolonial conservationist Ceylan Hassan (Decolonial Cypriot), and director and performer Ramon Ayres (Uprooted), amongst others, will explore what decolonising the climate era means, why diverse perspectives matter, and creative solutions for a societal wide response.

### **Wednesday 15th October | Post-Show – In Conversation With: Simon Evans**

### **Tuesday 21st October | Post Show – In Conversation With: Ana Yang**

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# GATEWAYS

## ARTISTIC RESPONSES

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October | Scratch Event: 'Emergency: A Scratch response to Scenes from the Climate Era'**

Gate Theatre has invited 6–8 emerging writers from global majority backgrounds to present short pieces of new writing that respond directly to the Climate Crisis. Directed by Grace Waga Glevey, the event will feature these new pieces performed by a professional cast and will conclude with an open discussion between writers and audiences on the play's themes.

### **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October | Post-Show Performance and Q&A: Re-Indigenising The Stage with Love Ssega**

Artist, producer and performance artist, Love Ssega graces the stage for a post-show performance and Q&A, offering audiences an opportunity to engage with the themes in 'Scenes from the Climate Era' through different art mediums, and to gain insight into Love Ssega's explorations of Blackness and the Climate emergency.

# FURTHER RESOURCES

## Books

- The Great Derangement – Amitav Ghosh
- This Changes Everything – Naomi Klein
- All We Can Save – eds. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson & Katharine K. Wilkinson
- The Climate Book – Greta Thunberg (with contributors)
- Clearing the Air – Hannah Ritchie
- What Climate Justice Means and Why We Should Care – Elizabeth Cripps
- Breathe – Sadiq Khan
- Energy Justice in a Changing Climate – Ed. Benjamin Sovacool et al.
- The Brainiac's Book of the Climate and Weather – Rosie Cooper & Harriet Russell

## Podcasts & Media

- How to Save a Planet (Gimlet Media)
- The Climate Question (BBC World Service)
- Outrage + Optimism

## Websites & National Organisations

- IPCC Reports
- Climate Outreach
- 350.org
- [WaterAid Climate Education Resources](#)
- Royal Meteorological Society Teaching Resources
- [British Red Cross Climate Education](#)

## London & West London Initiatives

- Action West London – local projects on waste reduction, upcycling, and climate action.
- West London Waste – borough-wide net-zero and recycling initiatives.
- Climate Ed – delivers climate workshops in London schools.
- London Climate Action Week – city-wide annual programme of events.
- WWT London Wetland Centre – education packs and workshops on climate and biodiversity.
- The Environmental Hub – central London events and workshops on environmental issues.

## Ways to Take Action

- Join local climate initiatives in your borough.
- Explore volunteering with London-based groups (repair cafés, community energy projects, youth climate programmes).
- Reduce waste, advocate for change, and use creativity to inspire climate action.