

GATE THEATRE PRESENTS

SCENES FROM THE CLIMATE ERA

WRITTEN BY
DAVID FINNIGAN

DIRECTED BY
ATRI BANERJEE

SCHOOL
WELCOME PACK

23 SEP - 25 OCT

TICKETS FROM £16

GATETHEATRE.CO.UK

THE PLAYGROUND THEATRE, W10 6RQ



GATE



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SCENES FROM THE CLIMATE ERA

Written by **David Finnigan**

Directed by **Atri Banerjee**

Scenes from the Climate Era premiered at the Belvoir St Theatre, Sydney, on 27 May 2023.

This production of Scenes from the Climate Era opened at The Playground Theatre on 23 September 2025.

Set Designer | **Anna Yates**

Lighting Designer | **Ryan Joseph Stafford**

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

Movement Director | **Adi Gortler**

Assistant Director | **Grace Waga Glevey**

Casting Director | **Nadine Rennie CDG**

Stage Manager | **Martin Bristow**

Production Manager | **Mark Hartley**

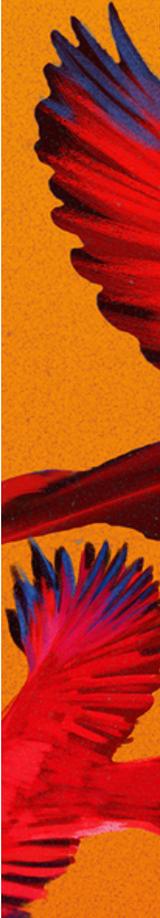
With

Harriet Gordon-Anderson

Peyvand Sadeghian

Ziggy Heath

Miles Barrow





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SCENES FROM THE CLIMATE ERA - SCHOOL PACK

The Gate would love to invite you to the European premiere of David Finnigan's **Scenes from the Climate Era**, directed by Atri Banerjee.

This welcome pack includes tools and information to help you plan and book your next school trip.

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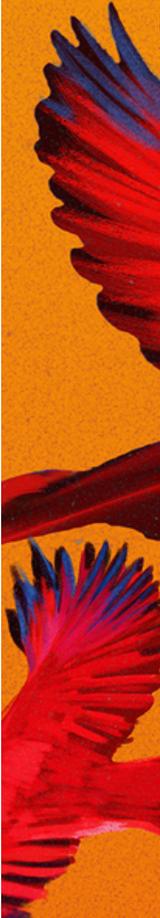
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CONTACT US:

If you have any questions, please get in contact with us:

EMAIL | gate@gatetheatre.co.uk

WEBSITE | <https://www.gatetheatre.co.uk>





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ABOUT THE SHOW

“STAGE ONE: DENIAL

STAGE TWO: OPTIMISM. SOLUTIONS.

STAGE THREE: GRIEF. ANGER. DESPAIR

Go through the stages, and then make a decision”

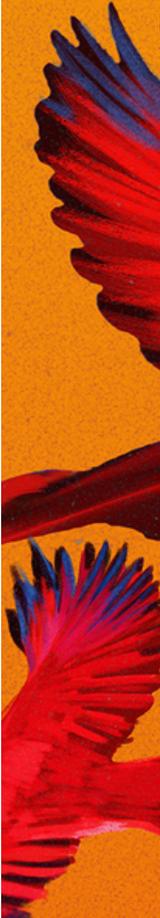
Gate Artistic Lead Atri Banerjee directs the European premiere of David Finnigan’s ‘Scenes from the Climate Era’. Four performers take us through a dizzying series of vignettes, packed with humour and heart, all tackling the biggest story of our time.

From genetically modified mice to massive Antarctic flood barriers; from community halls in Snowdonia to nightclubs on the outskirts of Beijing. Scientists, activists, friends around dinner tables; yesterday, tomorrow, today. An unflinchingly raw, funny and honest look at how the conversations around the climate crisis shape our everyday lives, our communities and the biological world around us.

THEMES OF THE PLAY:

- Climate
- Natural World
- Social Responsibility
- Technology in Society
- Media
- Politics & International Relations
- Justice
- Time
- Power
- Wealth
- Community

'Scenes from the Climate Era' IS SUITABLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN KEY STAGE 4 & 5, AND MAY BE OF INTEREST TO STUDENTS STUDYING:

- Drama & Theatre
 - English Literature & Language
 - Geography
 - Science (Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Natural History)
 - PSHE & Citizenship
 - Politics & International Relations
 - Sociology
 - Design & Technology
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CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

CAST



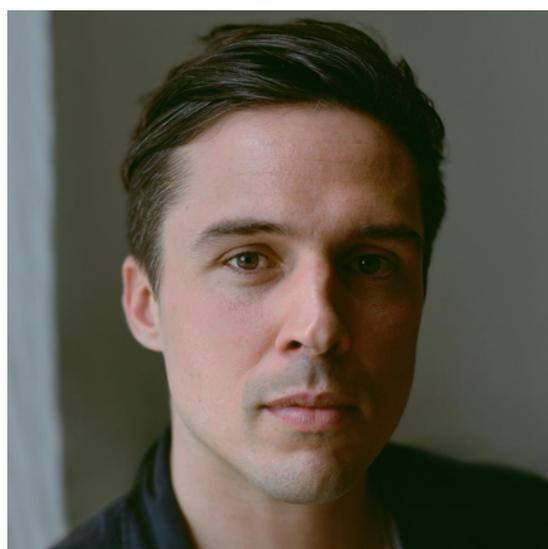
HARRIET GORDON-ANDERSON



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**



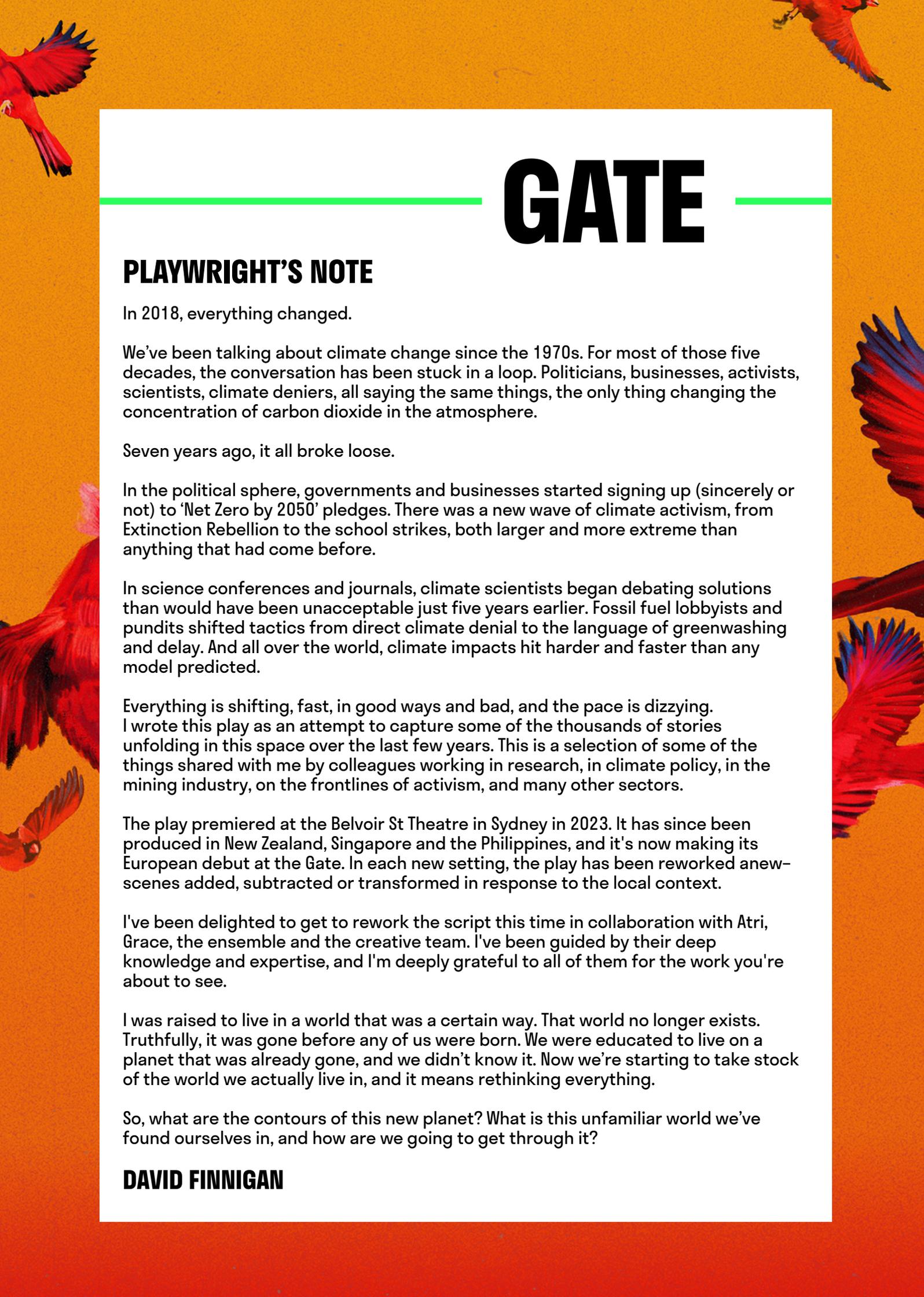
Casting Director
NADINE RENNIE CDG



Production Manager
MARK HARTLEY



Stage Manager
MARTIN BRISTOW



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PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

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.

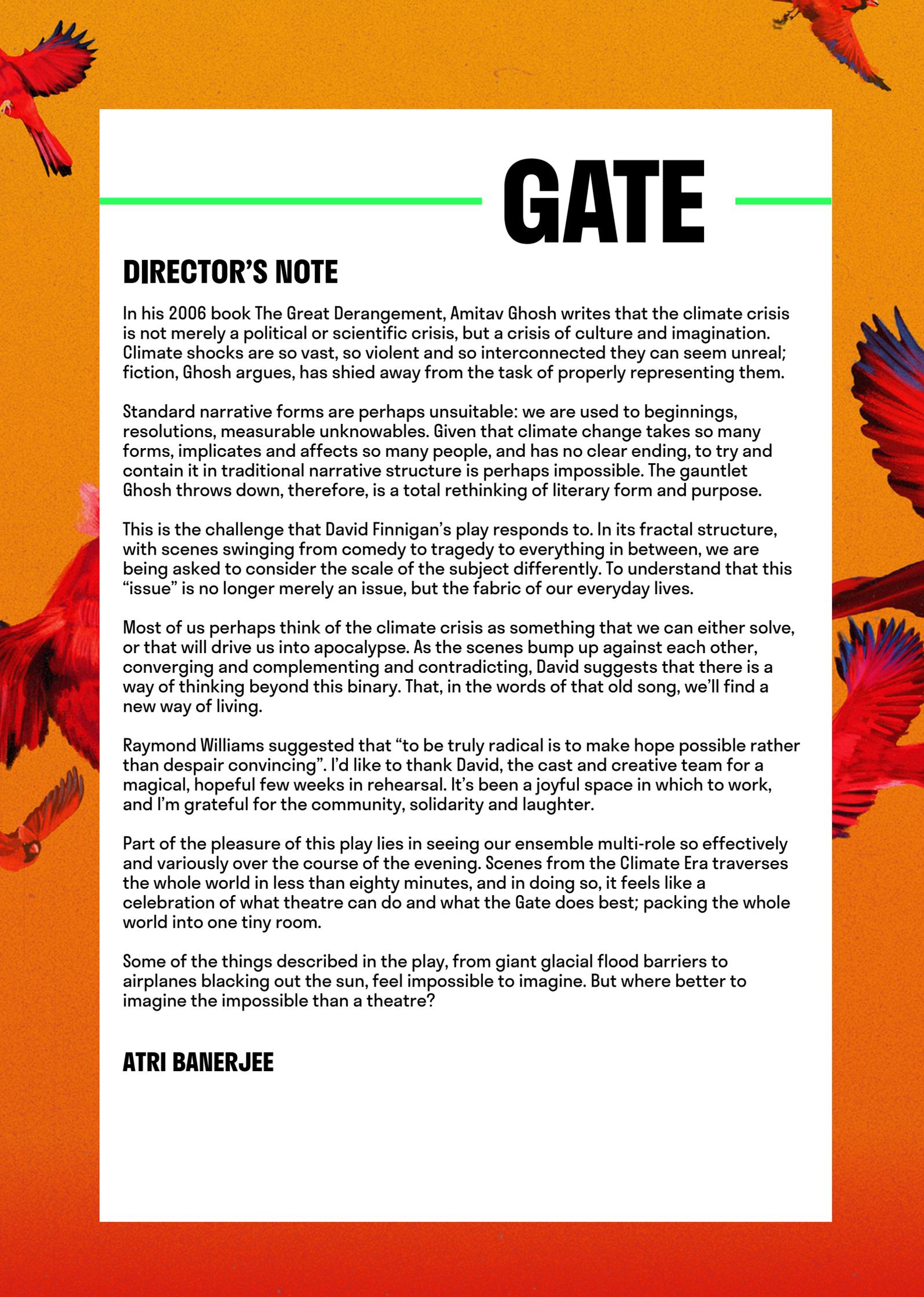
The play premiered at the Belvoir St Theatre in Sydney in 2023. It has since been produced in New Zealand, Singapore and the Philippines, and it's now making its European debut at the Gate. In each new setting, the play has been reworked anew—scenes added, subtracted or transformed in response to the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

A vibrant orange background with several red parrots in flight, scattered across the page. The parrots are shown in various stages of flight, with their wings spread, adding a sense of movement and energy to the design.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In his 2006 book *The Great Derangement*, Amitav Ghosh writes that the climate crisis is not merely a political or scientific crisis, but a crisis of culture and imagination. Climate shocks are so vast, so violent and so interconnected they can seem unreal; fiction, Ghosh argues, has shied away from the task of properly representing them.

Standard narrative forms are perhaps unsuitable: we are used to beginnings, resolutions, measurable unknowables. Given that climate change takes so many forms, implicates and affects so many people, and has no clear ending, to try and contain it in traditional narrative structure is perhaps impossible. The gauntlet Ghosh throws down, therefore, is a total rethinking of literary form and purpose.

This is the challenge that David Finnigan's play responds to. In its fractal structure, with scenes swinging from comedy to tragedy to everything in between, we are being asked to consider the scale of the subject differently. To understand that this "issue" is no longer merely an issue, but the fabric of our everyday lives.

Most of us perhaps think of the climate crisis as something that we can either solve, or that will drive us into apocalypse. As the scenes bump up against each other, converging and complementing and contradicting, David suggests that there is a way of thinking beyond this binary. That, in the words of that old song, we'll find a new way of living.

Raymond Williams suggested that "to be truly radical is to make hope possible rather than despair convincing". I'd like to thank David, the cast and creative team for a magical, hopeful few weeks in rehearsal. It's been a joyful space in which to work, and I'm grateful for the community, solidarity and laughter.

Part of the pleasure of this play lies in seeing our ensemble multi-role so effectively and variously over the course of the evening. Scenes from the Climate Era traverses the whole world in less than eighty minutes, and in doing so, it feels like a celebration of what theatre can do and what the Gate does best; packing the whole world into one tiny room.

Some of the things described in the play, from giant glacial flood barriers to airplanes blacking out the sun, feel impossible to imagine. But where better to imagine the impossible than a theatre?

ATRI BANERJEE



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PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

PERFORMANCES

TUESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER - SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER

EVENING PERFORMANCES | 7:30PM

MATINEE PERFORMANCES | 2:30PM

MATINEE DATES

W/C 29TH SEPTEMBER

Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th October

W/C 6TH OCTOBER

Thursday 9th and Sunday 12th October

W/C 13TH OCTOBER:

Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th October

W/C 20TH OCTOBER:

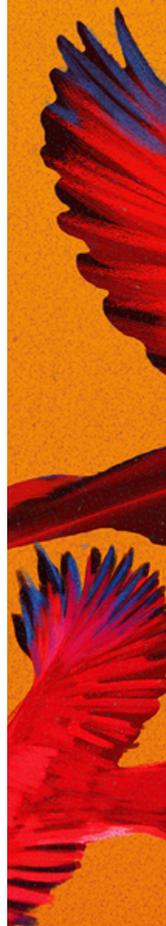
Wednesday 22nd and Saturday 25th October

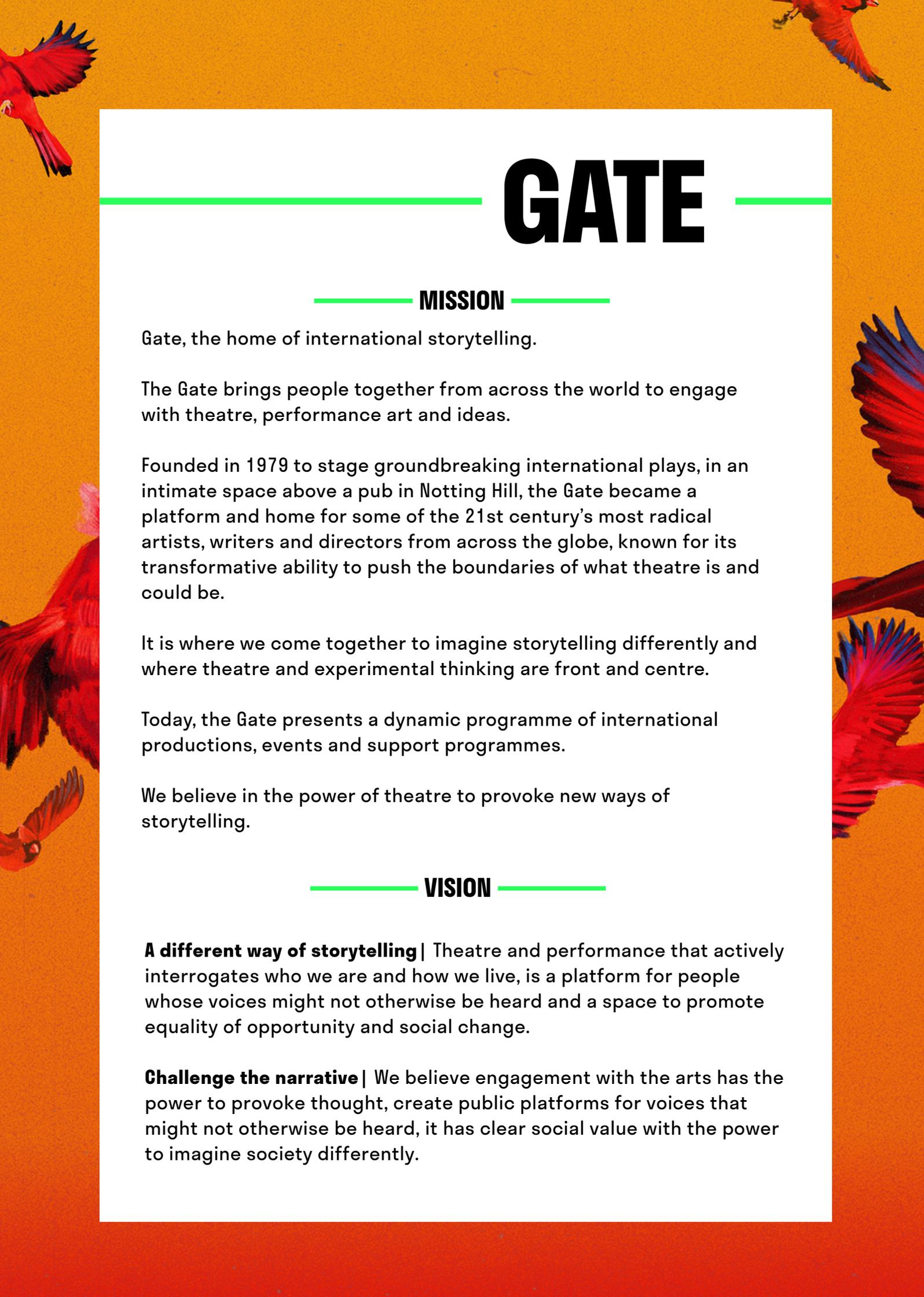
ACCESS PERFORMANCES

BSL Performance – Wednesday 8th October,
7:30PM

Captioned Performance – Friday 17th October,
7:30PM

Relaxed Performance – Sunday 19th October,
2:30PM





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 we come together to imagine storytelling differently and where theatre and experimental thinking are 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.

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.

GATE

GATE THEATRE TEAM



Executive Director & CEO
NICOLA CLEMENTS



Artistic Lead
ATRI BANERJEE



Senior Producer
ALICE LINNANE



Development Manager
MADDY PAGE



Communications Manager
SHAMIMA NOOR



Assistant Producer
DAVIDA AFRIYIE



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GATEWAYS

'SCENES FROM THE CLIMATE ERA' GATEWAYS PROGRAMME 2025

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 13th 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 20th 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

**'SCENES FROM THE CLIMATE ERA'
GATEWAYS PROGRAMME 2025**

PANELS & DISCUSSIONS

Friday 3rd October | Post-Show Panel - Storytelling in the Climate Era with David Finnigan, Dawn King, Maia Kenworthy and Farah Ali

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 panelled 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 panelled discussion, footballer and community gardener, Tayshan Hayden-Williams (Grow to Know), decolonial conservationist, Ceylan Hassan (Decolonial Cypriot), and director and performer, Ramon Ayres (Uprooted), and 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**

David Finnigan invites Climate and energy journalist, Simon Evans, and Chatham House Director for the Environment and Society Centre, Ana Yang to discussion about the science and politics of the Climate emergency and how these intersect with storytelling.



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GATEWAYS

'SCENES FROM THE CLIMATE ERA' GATEWAYS PROGRAMME 2025

ARTISTIC RESPONSES

Sunday 19th October | Scratch Event - 'Emergency A Scratch response to Scenes from the Climate Era' Scratch Event

Gate Theatre invites 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 24th October | Post-Show Performance and Q&A - Re-Indigenising The Stage with Love Ssega

For the last week of the run, 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.

CLIMATE RESOURCES

As this show directly engages with the realities of the climate emergency, we recognise that climate anxiety - a feeling of worry, stress, or fear about the climate crisis and its impacts - is a very real experience for many people. We encourage our audiences to care for themselves whilst watching, step away if needed and seek support if the material becomes difficult.

There are some great resources online at these links from [Greenpeace](#), [The Resilience Project](#) and the [Natural History Museum](#).



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FAQs

What is the running time?

80 minutes (no interval)

What is the age guidance?

12+

Are there any content warnings?

Please do take note of the following content guidance for this production:

- Pregnancy
- Climate anxiety
- Discussion of animals at risk of extinction
- Reference to sexually transmitted disease
- Drug use
- Explicit language
- Bushfires, heatwaves and flooding
- Colonialism

Sensory information:

Please note that the sensory information listed below may change after previews. For updated sensory information, please email boxoffice@theplaygroundtheatre.org.uk before your booking.

Scenes from the Climate Era will include:

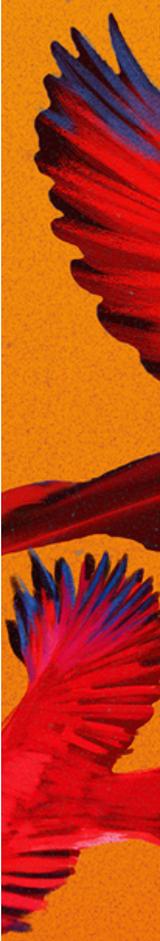
- Loud sounds in the form of music and voices on microphones
- Voiceovers within the narrative.
- Talking over music throughout the performance.
- Audience interaction, mostly at the beginning of the second act.
- This is optional and should you not want to interact, we recommend sitting in the back row.
- Flashing lights
- Smoke from a handheld flare

Will there be specific performances for school groups?

We encourage schools to book tickets for matinee performances of the show. The matinee performances are on Thursday 9th and Wednesday 22nd October at 2:30pm. For groups of 10+ or schools' discounts | gate@gathetheatre.co.uk

Does the venue have space to eat packed lunches?

Unfortunately, as the space (Queens Café) located in the venue runs independently from the theatre, packed lunches are not permitted on the premises.





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How can I book tickets?

BOOKING LINKS:

- **Gate Theatre Website**

<https://www.gatetheatre.co.uk/whats-on/scenes-from-the-climate-era/#about>

- **The Playground Theatre Website**

<https://www.theplaygroundtheatre.org.uk/projects/scenes-from-the-climate-era>

BOOKING VIA PHONE:

The Playground Theatre Box Office | 020 8960 8506

BOX OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

Tuesdays – Fridays: from 5pm–10pm

Saturdays: 1pm–10pm

How much are tickets?

£20 | Preview tickets (23rd – 30th September)

£25 | Standard (£27.50 with option donation)

£17.50 | Access, Equity members, 65+, Under 26s/Students

£5 | Unemployed/Unwaged/On Strike

For groups of 10+ or schools' discounts | gate@gatetheatre.co.uk

What are the returns and exchange policies?

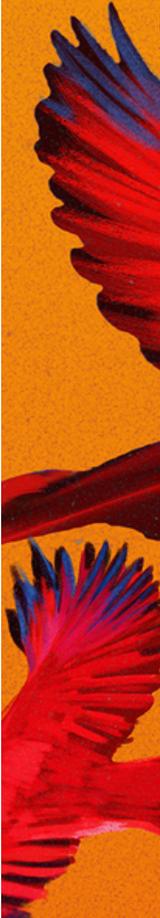
Refunds | Customer refunds are only issued if there's a cancelled performance. If a show is cancelled, ticket holders will receive a cancellation email that includes the option of receiving a full refund.

Exchanges | Please be aware that any discount codes that here is a £2 fee for all exchanges.

If you're no longer able to make a performance, you are welcome to exchange your ticket for a different date during the run.

Promotional and discount codes used on initial ticket bookings will be honoured and reflected in the exchanged ticket price. For example, if a ticket holder used a £10 promotional code in their initial booking, the exchanged ticket will remain the same price.

However, if no promotional or discount code was used on the initial ticket booking, the ticket holder may have to pay a price difference on exchanged ticket.





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Is the venue wheelchair accessible?

Yes, the entire venue is on the ground floor with a 3cm ramp at the entrance of the venue that is easily manageable for wheelchair access.

Our seating banks has always a ground floor level suitable to 3-4 wheelchairs.

What is the seating configuration of the venue?

The Playground Theatre is a 100-seater venue. Seats are configured for Theatre-in-the-round, where audience members will be sat on all four sides around the performance area.

Where is the theatre located and how do I get there?

The Playground Theatre is located on 8 Latimer Road, London, W10 6RQ

How to get to The Playground Theatre:

BY BUS

STOP S | North Pole Road: Routes 7, 70, N7

STOP U | Highlever Road/Barlby Road: Routes 7, 70, N7

STOP Q | Wood Lane/North Pole Road: Routes 7, 70, N7 220

STOP K | Caverwall Street / Wood Lane: Routes 7, 70, N7, 220

BY TUBE

Latimer Road | Hammersmith and City Line / Circle Line

White City | Central Line

Wood Lane | Hammersmith and City Line / Circle Line

Shepherd's Bush | Overground and Central Line

BY CAR

Parking

There is pay-by-meter street-parking outside the theatre, which is free after 6:30pm on weekdays, and after 1:30 pm on Saturdays.

ON FOOT

From Latimer Road Station (15 mins)

Will there be programmes and merchandise available for purchase?

We won't be selling printed programmes or merch. Audience members will be able to view the show's programme via QR code and are welcome to collect a Gate Theatre badge from the box office. Please be advised that there are limited numbers of Gate Theatre badges available.

