

National Theatre

Making Theatre in a Time of Climate Crisis 29 September 2023, 11am – 5pm

A UK sector-wide conversation between Directors and Artistic Directors about making theatre in the context of the climate crisis, using the principles of the **Theatre Green Book**.

The day's purpose is to make an impact on the sector: to reflect on the issues we face and to respond by creating actionable asks.

This event will be BSL interpreted and captioned both in-person and online.

10.30 – 10.55 Arrival and registration

11:00 am – Welcome from the three Artistic Directors

Jackie Wylie (Artistic Director, National Theatre of Scotland)

Lorne Campbell (Artistic Director, National Theatre Wales)

Rufus Norris (Director, National Theatre)

11:10 am – Keynote Panel: It is in Our Hands to Shape the Future

We are living through a time of three competing narratives about the future of theatre and wider world. Some tell the story of striving for 'business as usual', others that everything is falling apart and in decline. Through their collective knowledge, experiences and visions, our keynote panel will address a third version of the story of the future. We invite you to explore with us the narrative of the climate crisis as a wake-up call and turning point towards creating an alternative future: one which is regenerative, creative and fosters justice and care, locally and globally.

11:50 am – The Asks

Co-curator Zoë Svendsen will outline the day's aims, ethos and approach, and will introduce the 'task' of the day. The purpose of the day – in addition to sharing experiences, know-how, and approaches – is to co-imagine a series of 'asks' that will enable Directors and Artistic Directors to collaborate to avoid negative environmental impacts and meet the requirements of the *Theatre Green Book*, through evolving artistic practice and production processes.

11:55 am – The Challenges

This session airs the challenges and offers practical and imaginative responses, modelling how to steer a path to a better future, avoiding both false fixes and doom-erism.

The theatre context for addressing climate crisis is complex: low pay, reduced funding, reduced audiences post-pandemic, high levels of precarity for freelancers, the employment squeeze caused by many technicians and stage managers having left the industry during the pandemic, and the urgent need to take better care in rehearsal and production practices. These all create pressure on the mental space for engaging with the climate crisis, never mind the capacity for practical action.

Our panel of responders will take on the challenges identified, to share ways of responding – modelling how to turn challenges into possibilities.

12:45-1:45 pm – Lunch break

There will be spaces set aside for eating lunch, and a number of break-out spaces, where you can:

- join others to reflect on specific themes
- find out more about the detail of the *Theatre Green Book*
- consult with production managers and designers on ‘What can I do as director?’
- learn about Carbon Literacy Training
- find out more about climate activism

There will also be a ‘library’: a quiet space with books and reports on the issues at stake.

1:45-3pm – Models and Antidotes

This session will comprise short presentations from practitioners who have different experiences and methods of working with the *Theatre Green Book* principles, as well as different engagements with the context of the climate in their work. It will be followed by a Q & A with the panel.

3:00-3:15 pm – Break

3:15-4:15 pm – Visions: Imagining Otherwise

In this session we imagine the impossible. Creative teams have got together to present models for productions, seasons or complete reconstruction that they would like to imagine into being. They will share the anticipated challenges and talk about how these different ways of working will enable both creativity and meeting *Theatre Green Book*’s standards.

4:15 pm – Round-up of the day

The Artistic Directors, Jackie Wylie (NTS), Lorne Campbell (NTW) and Rufus Norris (NT) each reflect on their discoveries from the day, and their takeaways.

Keynote listener(s) will offer a 10-minute reflection on the themes, crux points and future possibilities offered up over the day.

4:45 pm onwards – Networking drinks in the foyer

With further opportunities to engage with the breakout spaces.