



Inspirational environmental activist and thinker and leading artistic directors head line-up at Theatres Trust conference

Tuesday 11 October 2022

Lyric Theatre Hammersmith, Lyric Square, King Street, London, W6 0QL

Headline speakers and full programme details have been announced for the Theatres Trust's Conference 22: Theatres Fit for the Future on 11 October at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith. Conference 22 focuses on creating a lively, engaging and dynamic gathering of professionals to collectively envision a more viable, sustainable, and inclusive future for the UK's theatres, and the people who visit and work in them.

The keynote session will be led by Rob Hopkins, activist, writer and co-founder of the Transition movement, a radically hopeful and community-driven approach to creating societies independent of fossil fuel. Rob will talk about how the power of theatre specifically, and our imaginations more generally, can create the future we want. He will signal how working collectively at the grassroots and across the country, we can meet the challenges of our planetary emergencies, and not just survive but thrive.

A stellar panel of artistic and creative directors including Julie Ellen (Macrobert Arts Centre), Robert Hastie (Sheffield Theatres), Low Kee Hong (The Factory) and Rachel O'Riordan (Lyric Hammersmith), with chair Hannah-Azib Pool (Bernie Grant Arts Centre) will reflect on the day's themes of resilience, inclusion, sustainability and placemaking.

Across the day, there will be sessions focusing on how theatres are adapting their buildings and their business models, how theatres can be truly inclusive places and on

theatres' role in placemaking and Levelling Up. Building on last year's conference and the Theatre Green Book, there will also be a session looking at how theatres can go even further on improving the sustainability of their buildings and productions.

The conference programme features a wide range of theatres and venues, alongside architects, practitioners, sustainability experts and theatre consultants with panellists representing organisations including property developers Argent; Future City; The Albany, London; Brixton House; The Embassy, Skegness; Komedia, Bath / Brighton; The Lowry, Salford; The Sage Gateshead; Theatre Royal Plymouth and Worcester Performing Arts Centre.

The 2022 event aims to shake things up a bit and more actively involve everyone attending (panellists, speakers and delegates) in helping to imagine what theatres fit for the future might look and feel like.

Jon Morgan, Theatres Trust Director, says, *We are absolutely delighted to have Rob Hopkins opening Conference 22, setting the tone for what will be a positive, energetic day. Theatres Fit for the Future will bring the theatre sector together, to not just talk about the problems we face, but collectively find solutions.*

Conference 22: Theatres Fit for the Future is made possible thanks to the generous support of its sponsors and partners: Platinum Sponsor Bristow Consulting, Gold and Bursary Sponsor Trafalgar Theatres, Gold and Lanyard Sponsor Unusual, Gold Sponsors Charcoalblue, Plann and Theatreplan, Silver Sponsors EM Acoustics, Harlequin, Haworth Tompkins, LW Theatres, Point One Epos, Stage Electrics, Theatre Projects and Triple E, Bronze Sponsors 3LR, Bennetts Associates and Yesplan, Lunch Sponsor J&C Joel, Bursary Sponsors Avison Young, Delfont Mackintosh Theatres and Trafalgar Theatres and Technical Sponsor White Light Ltd. Conference partners include ABTT, Community Leisure UK, Creu Cymru, Federation of Scottish Theatre, ITC, Society of London Theatre, Theatre and Dance NI and UK Theatre, and Media Partners Lighting and Sound International and The Stage.

Notes to Editors

Title	Theatres Trust
Website	http://www.theatrust.org.uk/latest/events/1794-conference-22-theatres-fit-for-the-future
Twitter	@TheatresTrust #TheatresFitForFuture

Theatres Trust

Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. They believe that current and future generations should have access to good quality theatre buildings where they can be inspired by, and enjoy, live performance. They champion the future of live performance by protecting and supporting excellent theatre buildings which meet the needs of their communities. They do this by providing advice on the design, planning, development and sustainability of theatres, campaigning on behalf of theatres old and new and offering financial assistance through grants.

Rob Hopkins

Rob Hopkins is the co-founder of Transition Network and of Transition Town Totnes, and author of several books including 'The Transition Handbook' and most recently, 'From What Is to What If: unleashing the power of imagination to create the future we want'. He is an Ashoka Fellow, has spoken at TED Global and at several TEDx events, and appeared in the French film phenomenon 'Demain'. He holds a PhD from the University of Plymouth, and is a Director of Totnes Community Development Society and of New Lion Brewery. He also hosts the podcast 'From What If to What Next'. His website is robhopkins.net, and in his spare time he makes drypoint etching prints.

Julie Ellen

Julie is Artistic Director and CEO of Macrobert Arts Centre. Before joining the Macrobert team in 2015 she was the first Artistic Director of The Beacon in Greenock, founding Creative Director of Playwrights' Studio, Scotland, producer for Suspect Culture and before that a tour producer for Theatre Centre, London. As a director her work includes Pantomime and Christmas shows for younger audiences, touring productions for companies including Selladoor and Birds of Paradise as well as shows for the legendary Play, Pie and a Pint. Julie has been a Trustee for Pitlochry Festival Theatre, Zende, EK Productions, CVS Inverclyde, and the Federation of Scottish Theatre.

Robert Hastie

Robert Hastie has been Artistic Director of Sheffield Theatres since 2016. He grew up in Scarborough, and trained and worked as an actor before moving to directing in 2011. His work in Sheffield includes Much Ado About Nothing, Rock/Paper/Scissors, She Loves Me, The Band Plays On, Coriolanus, Guys and Dolls, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Standing at the Sky's Edge, The York Realist (co-produced with the Donmar Warehouse), The Wizard of Oz, Of Kith and Kin (co-produced with the Bush Theatre), and Julius Caesar. Productions elsewhere include Macbeth (Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, Shakespeare's Globe), Breaking the Code (Manchester Royal Exchange), Henry V (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre), A Breakfast of Eels (Print Room), Cat on a

Hot Tin Roof (Theatr Clwyd), Carthage and Events While Guarding the Bofors Gun (Finborough). He was Associate Director of the Donmar Warehouse 2014-2019, where his work included Splendour and My Night with Reg, which transferred to the Apollo, West End.

Low Kee Hong

Kee Hong is currently the Creative Director at the Manchester International Festival and The Factory. Manchester International Festival (MIF) is the world's first festival of original, new work and special events, staged every two years in Manchester, UK. Kee Hong was formerly the Head of Theatre at the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, Hong Kong SAR China. Before joining West Kowloon, he was the Artistic Director and General Manager of the Singapore Arts Festival from 2009 to 2012. Prior to this, Kee Hong was the Founding Director and General Manager of the Singapore Biennale between 2005 to 2009.

Rachel O'Riordan

Rachel O'Riordan is Artistic Director and CEO of the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre where she launched her critically acclaimed debut season in Autumn 2019 with a triumphant adaptation of A Doll's House by Tanika Gupta. Previously, Rachel was Artistic Director and CEO of Sherman Theatre, Wales from 2014 and transformed the venue, winning The Stage's prestigious Regional Theatre of the Year Award in 2018. Directing credits include the Olivier award-winning Killology and Iphigenia in Splott. She was Artistic Director of Perth Theatre, Scotland between 2011 and 2014 and won The Critics Award for Theatre in Scotland for Best Director and Best Ensemble for Macbeth. From 2002 to 2011, Rachel co-founded and ran Ransom Productions in Northern Ireland. She has been named as one of the most influential people in UK Theatre in the Stage 100. Published work includes Women in Irish Theatre.

Hannah-Azieb Pool

Hannah-Azieb Pool is Artistic Director & CEO of the Bernie Grant Arts Centre, London and founder of the Tottenham Literature Festival. Previously Senior Programmer for Contemporary Culture at the Southbank Centre, where she curated Africa Utopia festival and was a lead programmer of the WOW Women of the World festival. A Guardian journalist for over a decade, Hannah-Azieb has written for many international publications including The Times, Stylist and Vogue Magazine UK and is the author of two books: Fashion Cities Africa and My Fathers' Daughter, reprinted in 2022 as part of Booker prize winner Bernardine Evaristo and Penguin publishing's Black Britain Writing Back series. Hannah-Azieb is a trustee of LIFT (the London International Festival of Theatre), an Artistic Advisor of the Manchester International Festival (MIF) and a patron

of the SI Leeds Prize, the bi-annual award for unpublished fiction by UK Black and Asian women.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

Isobel Jaffray

E: isobel@chloelkinconsulting.com, M: 07772 643 959

W: www.chloelkinconsulting.com