



CYNTHIA HOPKINS:
THIS CLEMENT WORLD

OCTOBER 24–26, 2013 8:30 PM

OCTOBER 27, 2013 7:00 PM

presented by

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater

California Institute of the Arts

CaLARTS

CYNTHIA HOPKINS: *THIS CLEMENT WORLD*

Written, Composed and Performed by Cynthia Hopkins

Directed by D.J. Mendel

Designed by Jeff Sugg

Musical Direction by Wil Smith

Sound Designed by Jamie McElhinney

Company Management by Carly McCollow

Costume Assistance and Headdress Design & Construction by Antonia Belt

Choreography by Andre Zachary

The Song *This Land* is inspired by Woody Guthrie's *This Land is Your Land*

Additional Arctic Footage by David Buckland and Matt Wainwright of Cape Farewell

The Band

Philippa Thompson, Violin and Guitar

Cassia Streb, Viola (Thur & Sun)

Natalie Brejcha, Viola (Fri & Sat)

Ian Riggs, Bass

Erick Jovel, Trumpet (Thur, Fri & Sun)

Forrest Powell, Trumpet (Sat)

Shelly Suminski, Trombone (Thur, Fri & Sun)

Matt Barbier, Trombone (Sat)

Kristin Mueller, Drums

Traci Esslinger, Piano

The Chorus

Stephanie Aston, Soprano

Sterling Powers, Soprano

Lauren Pardini, Alto

Argenta Walthers, Alto

Juan Castaneda, Tenor

Craig McEldowney, Tenor

Victor Mazzone, Bass

Carson Gilmore, Bass

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This Clement World was produced by Accinosco, Inc. (the non-profit organization established to support the work of Cynthia Hopkins, that is currently in the process of folding) and commissioned by St. Ann's Warehouse, the Walker Art Center, and Les Substances; with residencies provided by Acadia Summer Arts Program, Yaddo, Brown University, and The MacDowell Colony.

This Clement World was inspired in part by an Arctic expedition granted by Cape Farewell, and a Conference organized by Tipping Point and hosted by Columbia's Earth Institute. Works in progress of *This Clement World* have been performed at La Jolla Playhouse, Parsons School of Design, the American Realness Festival at Abrons Art Center, Brown University, Mt. Tremper Arts, and Ballroom Marfa (as part of the exhibit Carbon 13, curated by David Buckland).

The creation of *This Clement World* was made possible by the generous support of the Jerome Foundation, the MAP Fund; Co-Producers Adam and Diane Max, Cape Farewell, and Warren Habib; Associate Producers Nathaniel Read and John Hodgman; and many other individual donors including Eleanor Alper, Jony Perez, and everyone who made donations during our Kickstarter campaign.

Special thanks to Accinosco Board Members (Inga Glodowski, John Hodgman, Nathaniel Read, and Michelle Stern) and to the following individuals: Antonia and David Belt, David Buckland, Erik Ehn, Susan Feldman, Shirley Fishman, Cobey Flynn, Molly Hickok, Paul Lazar, Anatoly Lezhen, Ruth Little, Missy Mazzoli, Daniel Bernard Roumain, Gavin Schmidt, Marion Boulton Stroud, and Dan Zanes.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Cynthia Hopkins (cynthiahopkins.com) is an internationally acclaimed musical performance artist: she writes and sings songs, records albums, and creates groundbreaking multi-media performance works that intertwine truth and fiction, blurring the lines between edification and entertainment. Through the process of making performances, she alchemizes disturbance into works of intrigue and hope that simultaneously stimulate the senses, provoke emotion, and enliven the mind. She has created five full length multi-media performance works - *Accidental Nostalgia* (2005 Bessie Award for Creation), *Must Don't Whip 'Um* (2007 Bessie Award for Design), *The Success of Failure (or, The Failure of Success)* (conceived as Parts I, II, and III of The Accidental Trilogy); *The Truth: A Tragedy*; and *This Clement World* - as well as eight albums of original music. Her work has been honored with many awards, including the 2007 Herb Alpert Award in Theater and a 2010 Guggenheim Fellowship. She is currently at work on *A Living Documentary*, an experimental piece exploring the challenges of earning one's living as a theater artist in the 21st century, scheduled to premiere in March 2014 at New York Live Arts.

D.J. Mendel has most recently directed Daniel Bernard Roumain's *Symphony for the Dance Floor* which had its New York premiere at BAM's Next Wave festival and Jillian Lauren's one-woman show, *Mother Tongue*, which premiered at Summerhall in Edinburgh. Other directing credits include DBR's *Darwin's Meditation for the People of Lincoln* (BAM/US TOUR) Cynthia Hopkins' *The Truth: A Tragedy*, (Soho Rep), *Accidental Nostalgia*, *Must Don't Whip 'Um* and *The Success of Failure (or, The Failure of Success)*—all of which were presented at St. Ann's Warehouse as well as throughout the US and Europe. Mendel also works with singer Rosanne Cash, video designing and directing her last two tours: *Black Cadillac: In Concert* and *The List: In Concert*. He has directed two feature films, *Make Pretend* and *Planet Earth: Dreams*. As a performer, Mendel has worked with avant-garde theater-makers like Richard Foreman, (*The Universe*, *Permanent Brain Damage* and *Panic!*), Karen Coonrod (*Christmas at the Ivanov's/CSC*), and 31 Down (*Red Over Red*, *Here At Home*). He most recently starred in Hal Hartley's latest feature film, *Meanwhile*, which premiered at IFC in NY in October. Since 2000, Mendel has played roles in Hartley's feature films *No Such Thing*(2001), *The Girl from Monday* (2004), and *Fay Grim* (2007). Other starring film roles include: Richard Sylvarnes' *The Cloud of Unknowing* (2004) and *H.C.E.* (2007), both debuting at the Tribeca Film festival, and the title role in Salvatore Interlandi's critically acclaimed *Charlie* (2006). Mendel's plays include, *Dick Done Broke* (Bushwick Starr), *Tom, Dick and Harry* (Ontological), *Exhaust Pipes and Manifolds* (CSV Cultural Center) and *Why I Love Country Music*.

Jeff Sugg is a Brooklyn-based designer. He is a co-founding member of the performance group Accinosco with Cynthia Hopkins and Jim Findlay and co-designed their critically acclaimed Accidental Trilogy. He has also worked with many renowned companies and artists including Laurie Anderson, The Collapsible Giraffe, Richard Foreman, and The Wooster Group. Some notable theater projection designs, on and off Broadway, include *Bring it On: The Musical*, *33 Variations*, *Tribes*, *The Slug Bearers of Kayrol Island* (with Jim) and *The Truth: A Tragedy*. He has won a Bessie, a Lortel, an Obie, and two Hewes Awards.

CLIMATE CHANGE: THE BASICS

by Cynthia Hopkins

The climate of our planet is the outcome of a complex system of inter-related factors. At the moment our climate is clement—that is, it is relatively mild and hospitable to an immense variety of plant and animal life. A crucial factor of our planet’s clemency is the “greenhouse effect”: certain gases in our atmosphere—known as “greenhouse gases”—trap heat and warm our planet. Without these gases, the Earth’s heat would easily radiate out into space, leaving our planet a cold, ice-covered, inhospitable place. Some of these heat-trapping greenhouse gases are produced by human activities. For example, carbon dioxide (CO₂) is emitted whenever fossil fuels (coal, oil, or natural gas) are burned or when forests are cleared. Methane, another greenhouse gas (more powerful than CO₂ at trapping heat, though less common) is emitted by human activities such as cattle farming, mining and irrigation. And so, ever since humans have burned fossil fuels, harvested trees, and raised cattle for meat, we’ve been emitting ever-larger quantities of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, causing the planet to warm.

Our Current Situation: The Effects of Climate Change

At the present time, our actions are having a marked impact on the climate of our planet. We currently put nearly 100 million tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere every 24 hours and have increased the atmospheric concentration by 40% in the last hundred and fifty years—higher than perhaps any time in the last 3 million years. It’s very likely that temperatures today are higher than they’ve been in recorded history, in spite of fluctuations over the last 2,000 years. The ten hottest years on record have all occurred since 1997. So, what’s the trouble with a warming planet? There are multiple results of a warming planet that are troublesome for the human race, and are already occurring, such as: a worldwide collapse of ecosystems, sea level rise, disappearing ice and an increase in risks from extreme weather patterns including hurricanes, heat waves, intense precipitation and droughts. Sea level rise is caused in part by the warming of the ocean, and in part by the melting of glaciers and ice sheets. Ocean acidification is also driven directly by the increased CO₂.

Future Predictions

Climate change has always been a factor of life on Earth, but due to human activities, it is now occurring faster than at any point since the invention of agriculture and cities. Because of amplification loops within the climate system, the globe is warming faster: for example, the more ice melts, the less sunlight is reflected, the more heat is absorbed, the warmer it gets; similarly in the future as permafrost melts, methane will be emitted, causing more heat to be trapped, causing more permafrost to melt; and so on. If heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions are not reduced, it is predicted that average surface temperatures in the US will increase by 8–10° F by end of this century. It is also feared that a quarter of Earth’s species will be headed toward extinction by 2050 if warming trends continue at current rates. Sea levels will rise between another 10–36 inches over the next 100 years (a 36-inch rise would swamp every city on the East Coast of the United States, including New York City, Boston, and Miami.) There is also a possibility that the ice sheets in Antarctica and

Greenland could melt faster than expected, leading to further sea level rises of a few feet. Continued warming will also increase the frequency of some extreme weather patterns including heat waves, droughts, intense hurricanes, and wildfires. Mass extinctions, sea level rise, rainfall shifts and extreme weather patterns could in turn lead to catastrophic consequences for agricultural productivity, malnutrition, the dislocation of millions of people, and resulting wars over increasingly limited resources.

Solutions and Suggestions

The good news is that there are solutions to the climate crisis, and we already possess the means to get started. There is an abundant supply of sustainable energy available to us in multiple forms including wind power, solar power, hydro (water) power, and geothermal power. Also, we use far more energy than we need—a great deal of energy is wasted—and as awareness grows, so will energy efficiency. Reducing energy use has the added benefit of financial savings from smaller electricity and gas bills. We are already learning as a society to reduce, re-use, and recycle. Plant a tree! A single tree absorbs 1 ton of CO₂ over a lifetime. Get informed! See the list of resources in the next section. Conserve energy! Shut off power when it's not in use; use public transportation, ride a bicycle, or walk instead of driving; switch to an electric or hybrid vehicle if possible; reduce waste, re-use items instead of tossing them, and recycle. Get involved! Vote for representatives who are informed about climate change and committed to reducing greenhouse gases and funding sustainable energy development.

More to Explore (Resources for Further Information)

The following is a very small list of books, films and websites related to the issue of climate change—there are many, many more available!

BOOKS

Last Chance: Preserving Life on Earth (Larry Schweiger)

The Revenge of Gaia (James Lovelock)

Fixing Climate (Wallace Broecker)

The Weather Makers (Tim Flannery)

Our Choice (Al Gore)

The End of Nature (Bill McKibbin)

Field Notes from a Catastrophe (Elizabeth Kolbert)

Silent Spring (Rachel Carson)

Climate Change: Picturing the Science (Schmidt + Wolfe)

FILMS

An Inconvenient Truth

Chasing Ice

SITES

climateproject.org
repoweramerica.org
thisisreality.org
wecansolveit.org
naturalcapital.org
betterplace.org

This information was compiled from the books listed above, and was written and edited in collaboration with Gavin Schmidt, a climatologist and climate modeler at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York.

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