

<https://www.turquoiseelephant.au>

S.O.S presents

Stephen Carleton's The Turquoise Elephant

June 29th & June 30th



directed by Sabine Kristof-Kranzelbinder



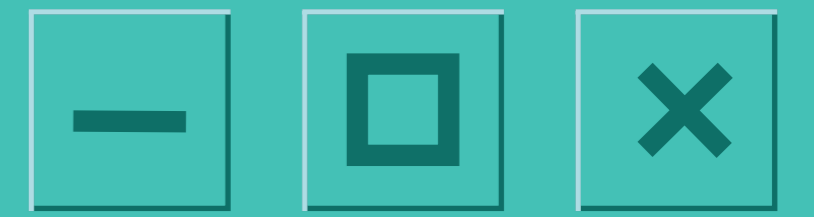
UNIVERSITÄT
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KAMMERLICHTSPIELE



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Programme Design: Vanessa Weinzerl
The Cultural Front for Environmental Preservation Logo: Nick Markozov
SOS Poster: Nick Markozov
Photographs: Elena Ippendorf & Matilde Pontiroli



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Cast

Augusta Macquarie

Aunt Olympia

Basra

Visi/Vika

Jack Cleveland

The Cultural Front for Environmental Preservation

Alexandra Kreuzer

Victoria Lenz

Bianca Köfer

Giulietta Franceschi

Silvio Baiguini

Alice Glanzer

Marie Lagomarsino

Deirdre Ogris

Matilde Pontiroli

Michaela Schmutz

Sarah Walcher

Production Staff

Director

Lighting and Sound Engineer

Lighting and Sound Designers and Technicians

Video Production and Design

Costume Design

Hair and Makeup

Projections & Sundry Props Design

Stage Manager

Assistant Director

Dramaturgs

Programme Editors

PR Team

Sabine Kristof-Kranzelbinder

Andreas Thaler

Shannon Holzfeind

Nick Markozov

Vanessa Weinzerl

Shannon Holzfeind

Nick Markozov

Amina Halilović

Bianca Köfer

Victoria Lenz

Matilde Pontiroli

Anhelina Prykhodzka

Deirdre Ogris

Matilde Pontiroli

Nick Markozov

Michaela Schmutz

Marie Lagomarsino

Julia Hoydis

Elena Ippendorf

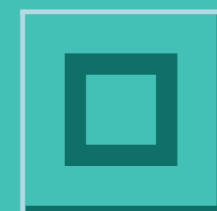
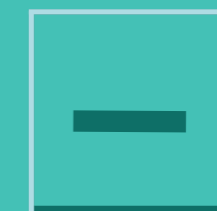
Elena Ippendorf

Lorena Mesi

Vanessa Weinzerl

Gwen Leger

Vanessa Weinzerl




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About the Play

 Lorena Mesi


The world as we know it is ending. Climate change has Melbourne almost underwater. The green movement is protesting, but is it too little too late? Meet one of Australia's wealthiest families, the Macquaires. Their divided views on the crisis are as entertaining for us as they are frustrating for them. Basra, the youngest in the family, writes "The Turquoise Elephant", a blog in which she affirms the importance of fighting climate change. Her grandmother Augusta, however, defends fossil fuels and denies the existence of anthropogenic climate change. Aunt Olympia sees natural disasters as thrilling spectacles, while outsider Jack Cleveland plans to 'save' a select few. As they debate and face unexpected dangers the flood worsens. But words without action won't save their future.

About the Playwright

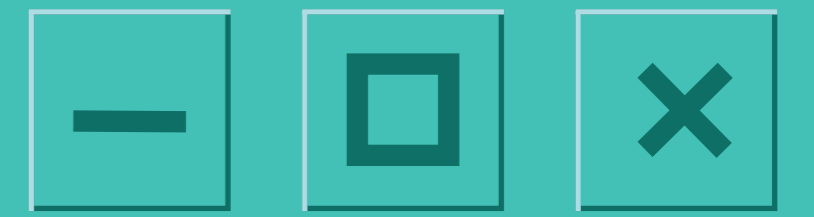
 Anhelina Prykhodzka

Stephen Carleton, the Australian playwright is known for his thought-provoking and socially relevant works. Previous works include *Bastard Territory* (2014), *Constance Drinkwater and the Final Days of Somerset* (2017), and *The Narcissist* (2019). He also teaches courses in playwriting and dramaturgy, Australian drama, and theatre history at the University of Queensland. For *The Turquoise Elephant* Carleton won the 2015 Griffin Award.

Political Drama

 Alexandra Kreuzer

A political drama is a play that addresses something connected to politics, whether it is a vehicle to express the political opinions of the playwright, to reflect upon current politics or is about a certain figure in the political landscape. Within *The Turquoise Elephant*, many elements of a political drama can be found. After all, it is a play about climate change, one of the most important topics being discussed in politics all over the world today. Characters discuss treaties concerning this issue. Within the Macquarie household certain politics and opposing theories are backed by different people. The play also puts a great deal of focus on power dynamics, posing questions such as 'Who has the power to do and decide what?', specifically in politics, 'Why are they so powerful?', and whether that is right or fair, justified or not. In this play, the behaviour of the characters is examined, not just on a personal level but on one that is very much political.



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Cli-Fi Drama

 **Silvio Baiguini**

Climate fiction, short cli-fi, is a genre that centres around environmental issues, usually aiming to raise awareness of climate change and similar crises. The term comes from science fiction, with which cli-fi shares many similarities. Cli-fi plays tend to be set in a dystopian future, where a big environmental crisis is looming over the lives of the people involved, causing discomfort and dread. They show climate change to be a deep-rooted problem outside of the control of a single character, and having enormous consequences on the lives of many. The friction between deteriorating climate conditions and the characters' wishes and struggles is what helps the audience to connect emotionally with the topic of climate crisis and builds awareness. *The Turquoise Elephant* stays true to this tradition of cli-fi, even incorporating humorous elements which help to highlight the self-righteousness of certain characters. Despite their personal dreams and ambitions, the climate conditions portrayed in the play are so dire that despair is all that is really left. Watching it, we are reminded that caring for the environment is a duty of us all, and taking concrete steps now is a responsibility that has to be taken seriously if we do not want future generations to be met with the unforgiving effects of our own reckless and selfish lifestyle.

Theatre of the Absurd

 **Shannon Holzfeind**

Have you heard of the theatre of the absurd? It originated in the 1950s with arguably one of its most famous examples: *Waiting for Godot* – a play in which nothing happens as two people are waiting for someone who never shows up. This absence of plot is typical of absurdist plays. Additionally, even though the theatre of the absurd represents humanity's absurdity, it does not try to argue about it. This is seen in *The Turquoise Elephant*, for example, in the character of Olympia who, after seeing that many animals are becoming endangered, starts to eat only endangered species. Her logic behind it is that if there is a high demand for the flesh of endangered species, companies will try to breed more of them and so save the species from going extinct; a rather absurd (haha, get it?) and macabre way of thinking. The playwright Stephen Carleton himself mentioned that he used absurdism in his play as it can encapsulate the sense of exasperation Carleton feels about the ridiculous denial of climate change. This denial is embodied by all the affluent people in the play. In a way, this is even true for Basra who, ensconced in the house she has not left for years, talks about protesting and fighting against climate change but is not taking any action herself.

THE TURQUOI

Pressing Issues

Thought Pieces

Sea Level Rise – It’s Up to Our Necks, People!

 Giulietta Franceschi

Sea levels continue to rise at a drastic speed. Since 1880, water levels have been recorded to have risen by over 23 cm. However, 7.6 cm of that have occurred over the past 25 years. It has been estimated that sea levels should rise to 30.5 cm by 2050. Emission gases have a strong effect on oceans because they emit heat that the water absorbs and thus causes it to expand. In particular, the rise over the last 25 years has been caused by this phenomenon. Furthermore, the exaggerated melting of ice caps and glaciers also influence water levels. These effects can have dire consequences ranging from, erosion, flooding and tsunamis, habitat loss, agricultural setbacks by high salt concentrations to endangered coastal populations. Some places are affected more strongly than others and could disappear by the end of the century, such as the Maldives. The Maldives is said to be the flattest country made up of 1,192 islands and is situated only about 1 m above sea level. Jakarta, or as the BBC has named it the ‘fastest-sinking city in the world’, sinks about 5 to 10 cm every year with a current sea elevation of 8 meters.

COMMENTS

Soooo inspiring...!!

Aussie Climate Activism Still Going Strong!

 Matilde Pontiroli

The hottest year for Australia was 2019, with average temperatures reaching +1.52°C above normal levels. It is not a coincidence that the continent’s 2019-2020 bushfire season was characterized by an “unprecedented intensity” compared to the previous years: a total of 59 acres were destroyed. Nevertheless, despite the challenges that were faced along the way, Australia remains a nation of passionate climate activism. There are dozens of different organizations that make an effort to change the current situation in various ways; for example, “Market Forces” focuses on improving environmental awareness in the field of marketing and economics, while “1 Million Women” is specifically designed for women who desire to protect the environment through their lifestyle. Actors have also taken part into the fight against climate change: during Earth Hour in 2021, the Aussie actress Yael Stone advocated for making “...the switch for nature and commit to a renewables-led future.”

COMMENTS

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Reposts

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FAQ

Thoughts on Food & Climate Change

 Deirdre Ogris

Nowadays it is an already well-known fact that our nutritional habits have an immense impact on global warming and climate change. Especially animal agriculture is significantly contributing to the environmental destruction. Mass meat and dairy production causes water and air pollution as well as biodiversity loss. Even though “eating local” is a widespread tip to decrease your environmental footprint, studies prove that it is also important what we eat, not just where it comes from. For sure it is great to support local food providers, but we must also think about what we eat and how much of it. Especially reducing our beef consumption would have a significant impact on our CO² emissions, as it causes by far the most gases and has the biggest production area.



About the Blog

Hi, I'm Basra and I welcome you to my blog! I'm a climate activist and I use this blog to talk about the current global crisis and to raise awareness of

BOOK NOW FOR 10% OFF!

Fancy a Local Culinary Experience?

If you want to save money on delivery costs from Australia, you will be delighted to hear that Austria offers a variety of diminishing rarities as well!

We are serving an exclusive five-course meal:

Crisps made of the delicate wings of a greater mouse-eared bat

The last 28 bats – here to melt on your tongue.

Soup with river trout, caught in a polluted river near a power plant

Lynx lasagna – there are still nearly 20 lynxes left alive in Austria, but a single bite will make you feel as if it was the last one!

Rare cheeses made from wolf's milk from one of the last 35 specimen - we recommend a red wine.

Caramelized wild bees served on vanilla ice cream, sprinkled with the pollen they collected in their short little lives.

Maybe an espresso afterwards?

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW, THE CLOCK IS TICKING!

THE TURQUOI

Pressing Issues

Thought Pieces

Endangered Species in Australia

Michaela Schmutz

Kangaroos, Koalas, and more are well known worldwide and have become more or less the mascots of Australia, to the point where there are shirts sold in Austrian souvenir shops stating: "There are no kangaroos in Austria." Different story but still funny. Did you know you can eat Kangaroo meat? I wonder if Olympia would like it roasted. Still, kangaroos are probably not endangered enough to be 'saved' by eating. The Koala, though, is now endangered due to the bushfires in 2019 and 2020. Not only were many sadly killed by those fires, but their food source, eucalyptus, was also destroyed. People need to step up to avoid those fires; a good starting point would be to rely on the knowledge of Australia's indigenous people. More than 100 animals have gone extinct since the European settlement in Australia in the 18th century. And it is not stopping, since at least ten rare animals only live in Australia and are about to go extinct if left at the status quo. Especially marsupials. Ever heard of the black-flanked rock-wallaby? A small animal, looking similar to a kangaroo, was on the brink of extinction due to clearings of their habitat and threatened by foxes and wildcats introduced by Europeans. Luckily, there are projects to protect them in cooperation with the First Nations of Australia to help them stay. Also, please do me a favour: don't eat an Australian animal unless you are there; Austrian meat is closer.

COMMENTS

My family's all about 'weatherproofing'. We live in a fortress! Is it too late to think about building sustainably? Surely, it's better than doing nothing, right?

Eco-Homes

Sarah Walcher

There are many different types of eco houses, some having low emissions, using minimal energy and/ or materials which are sustainable or mitigating the effects on the environment. One of them is referred to as "Fabric First", which means building or renovating the fabric of a house before investing in renewables. By ensuring a property is well insulated and airtight, the amount of energy required to heat the home will be reduced. Another type is the carbon neutral build which focuses on offsetting any carbon produced in the process of building the home (embodied carbon), as well as the footprint of heating and powering the home. This means using materials with a low carbon footprint, as well as renewable systems that don't rely on fossil fuels. Earthship Biotecture is a form of eco home that is made entirely from natural and recycled materials.

COMMENTS

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FAQ

Have you seen the news?... Everything's changed now. This wasn't supposed to happen for decades. This is it. ... This is the tipping point.

Tipping Points

 Amina Halilović

It is no secret that climate change has been a global concern for many years now. However, it does pose the question: when did it all go wrong and why? The answer is not as simple but can be explained by looking at the phenomenon of climate tipping points. Tipping points in general are defined as small changes that become significant enough to cause big differences, with an understanding that the change is irreversible. Applying this to the climate crisis, it refers to elements of the earth systems e.g. cryosphere (ice-bound domains), biosphere (the living world), ocean and atmosphere being disrupted by small changes, causing disruptions in other systems, and thus causing a loop of disturbance and instability. Examples for this include the melting of the ice sheets causing a sea-level rise or coral-reefs becoming algae-dominated or bleached due to the warming of the atmosphere. The first time these tipping elements were identified was in the early 2000s when it was discovered that the systems would tip once there was a 4°C rise in global temperature. As science is more advanced now, it has been discovered that not only has the earth already warmed by 1.2°C since the Industrial Revolution, but it is also on track to increase to 2.5 – 2.9°C this century.

COMMENTS



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Hi, I'm Basra and I welcome you to my blog! I'm a climate activist and I use this blog to talk about the current global crisis and to raise awareness of environmentally harmful behavior as well as pro-environmentalist changes we should all try to implement into our lives.

Search the Blog

THE TURQUOI

Pressing Issues

Thought Pieces

Have you noticed the droves of people driving to the mountains? They fear what's happened in Melbourne will happen here.

Climate Refugees

 Gwen Leger

Climate migration, also known as climate-induced displacement, is a global crisis fueled by climate change impacts such as rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and environmental degradation. These eventually force millions of people to leave their homes in search of safety and opportunity.

One of the most alarming aspects of climate migration is its potential to exacerbate existing social inequalities. Vulnerable communities, often located in low-lying coastal areas or regions prone to drought and flooding, bear the brunt of climate change. With limited resources to adapt, they are left with no choice but to relocate. This mass movement of people also presents significant challenges for destination areas. Host communities may struggle to cope with the sudden influx of migrants, leading to social tensions, strained infrastructure, and heightened competition for resources.

Climate refugees are individuals or groups forced to leave their homes due to climate change-related factors. The term „refugee“ typically implies legal protections and assistance under international law. Still, climate refugees often fall into a legal gray area. Many lack the formal recognition and rights afforded to traditional refugees, leaving them particularly vulnerable to exploitation, discrimination, and displacement.

The Pacific Island of Tuvalu, with its low-lying islands, faces existential threats from sea-level rise, leading to concerns about the nation's long-term viability. Yet, Tuvalu is just one example. Experts predict that there could be 1.2 billion climate refugees by 2050.

COMMENTS

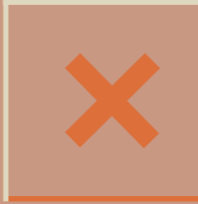
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Reposts

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FAQ

**SIGN UP NOW FOR A
ONCE IN A LIFETIME
CHANCE!**



Sun, Sea, and Suffering - The Nature of Dark Tourism

Have you already planned your annual holiday destination? If not, may I give you some trendy suggestions? How about switching your annual beach holiday for a trip to Chernobyl, or the Normandy American Cemetery? Sounds dark? That's because it is. And it even has a name: dark tourism. Fitting, isn't it?

Traditionally, dark tourism is associated with traveling to sites associated with death, suffering, and the macabre. These can range from sites of genocide and war to regions wrecked by industrial or natural disasters, and even supposedly haunted locations. While usually focused on human suffering, man-made climate change has shifted the focus of dark tourism to now increasingly include sites of environmental degradation, also known as 'last chance tourism'. Driven by a desire to experience the beauty of nature before it's too late, as well as a morbid fascination with death and 'haunted' spaces, tourists travel to witness the deteriorating Great Barrier Reef, retreating glaciers, melting polar ice caps, and the last remaining endangered species in their natural habitat for themselves. The paradoxical thing about this type of tourism is, however, that tourists traveling thousands of miles to see these by climate change affected sites, only accelerates climate change and thus causes them to deteriorate even quicker. How ironic.



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Search the Blog



MEET THE CAST



I am Alexandra Kreuzer, a creative twenty-year-old from Wolfsberg, Carinthia, who has been dreaming of a professional acting career ever since childhood. Passions beside acting include singing, writing, reading and expressing myself through social media. In the fall, I will move to Vienna where I hope to take my acting career to the next level. I am very excited and grateful to be portraying the role of Augusta in The Turquoise Elephant.

My name is Victoria and on stage I portray quirky, old Aunt Olympia. I'm studying English and American Studies and Media and Communications at Klagenfurt University. Besides that, I am a passionate English-Kindergarten teacher who loves to bake, visit museums and pursue various creative pastimes.



I'm Bianca and I will be your Basra this evening or morning or whenever you're reading this. I'm a student at the AAUs Department of English with a master's degree in procrastination. When I'm not delaying the inevitable, I enjoy crafting, making friends with random cats in the street, and staying up past my bedtime to make the most of my day.

Hey, I'm Giulietta. I am playing the character Visi in our production The Turquoise Elephant. At long last I will be pursuing biology as one of my passions at Graz University soon. I love painting, singing, reading, horse riding and being outdoors. Besides that, I adore animals and have two lovely cats at home.



I am Silvio, a crazy computer scientist from Italy living in Austria to complete my studies. Committed nihilist and serial dog petter, I got closer to acting thanks to an undying fascination for Arts. Thanks to the English Department, I am now living the dream as Jack, and looking for new ones.



Heya, I'm Sarah and I'm playing one of the members of The Cultural Front for Environmental Preservation! I'm currently studying English and American studies at the Alpen Adria University and in my free time I love immersing myself in video games or reading fantasy novels.



Hello, my name is Deirdre and I am one of the members of The Cultural Front for Environmental Preservation in the play, I also do hair and makeup. I am currently studying Romance Languages at the AAU. Apart from learning languages I love to travel, dance and practice yoga in my free time.



My name is Matilde Pontiroli and my role in the play is member of The Cultural Front for Environmental Preservation. I'm also involved in costume design, hair, and makeup. I'm originally from Italy. This is my first semester at AAU; I'm studying English and American Studies.



Hello, my name is Michaela and I am the stage manager and a member of The Cultural Front for Environmental Preservation. I'm towards the end of my Bachelor in English Studies at the AAU. Originally, I'm from Lower Austria and a cat parent.





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I'm Marie, assistant director of this production and one of the members of The Cultural Front for Environmental Preservation. I am from Klagenfurt and a student teacher for the subjects English and German at the AAU, but looking forward to continue my studies in the field of animation. When I am not studying really hard, I draw and paint and enjoy creative writing here and there.



My name is Alice Glanzer, I play one of the members of The Cultural Front for Environmental Preservation and I am one of the makeup artists. I study English and American Studies at Klagenfurt University.

MEET THE PRODUCTION STAFF

Sabine Kristof-Kranzelbinder

Born in Klagenfurt, Sabine Kristof-Kranzelbinder graduated with honors in performing arts in Vienna in 2004. In 2017, she took over the overall artistic direction of the Kammerlichtspiele Klagenfurt and founded Theater KuKuKK. Kristof-Kranzelbinder also works as a speaker, presenter, in film & on TV and as a theatre educator.

Gwen Leger

Hi, I'm Gwen, and I handle PR for the play. I am studying English and American Studies, and I also work in the University's PR and Communications department.

Amina Halilović

Hello, my name is Amina and I am part of the costume design and hair and makeup team. I am also currently finishing my degree in English and American Studies at the AAU. In my free time I enjoy to write and read (I never leave the house without a book).

Shannon Holzfeind

I'm Shannon and I am part of the tech-team. I am studying Anglophone Literature and Culture at Klagenfurt University and in my free time I like to play video games. I am also a proud parent of four little degus.

Nick Markozov

I'm Nick, and I'm part of the tech-team for the performance! I specialize in video production, animation and design! In my own time, I study Game Studies & Engineering at Klagenfurt University and develop my own games.

Lorena Mesi

I am Lorena and I am an Erasmus student. I study languages, English and German. I love getting to know about new cultures and in my free time I enjoy reading, writing, listening to music and visiting museums.

Vanessa Weinzerl

Hi, I'm Vanessa and I'm part of the production's tech- and PR-team! I study Anglophone Literature and Culture at the University of Klagenfurt and spend my free time either immersed in books, movies, and video games or dedicating it to whichever creative activity happens to spark my interest.

Julia Hoydis

Julia Hoydis is Professor of English Literature at the University of Klagenfurt. Currently, she co-leads the project „Just Futures? An Interdisciplinary Approach to Cultural Climate Models“ (funded by the Austrian Science Fund FWF), which deals with questions of intergenerational justice and the depiction of climate futures in various media. She is passionate about teaching and exploring the value of reading and the arts to make humans care about each other and the planet.

Elena Ippendorf

Elena Ippendorf is a University Assistant at the English and American Studies Department at the University of Klagenfurt. Some of her fondest memories from her time as a student are of acting in student theatre productions. Before starting to teach and work on her PhD-project at university, she worked behind the scenes at different theatres as assistant director and dramaturgical consultant. Therefore, she is thrilled to flex her theatrical muscles again by supporting the students of SOS in this and upcoming productions.



From left to right: Amina Halilović, Nick Markozov, Gwen Leger, Vanessa Weinzerl, Shannon Holzfeind

Theatre and the English and American Studies Department

 Alice Glanzer

A small theatre group that originated at the English and American Studies Department of the University of Klagenfurt during the 1970s called INEPT (Independent English Players' Theatre) was running shows for three decades under the guidance of Anthony Hall. The theatre group captivated audiences with annual Christmas and summer productions, showing a diverse variety of theatrical performances. Despite the success of the theatre group, INEPT faced challenges, such as the slow disbandment of the core group and performances began to stop over time between 2010 and 2015. However, the spirit of theatre at the English and American Studies Department was far from extinguished. With the founding of SOS, Students on Stage, in 2023 led by Julia Hoydis, Elena Ippendorf, and René Reinhold Schallegger, the theatre group was revived. This summer's SOS production of *The Turquoise Elephant* in co-operation with Kammerlichtspiele Klagenfurt and Theater KuKuKK opens a new chapter in the long history of theatre-making at the department.







STUDENTS ON STAGE

RENÉ SCHALLENGER

ELENA IPPENDORF

JULIA HOYDIS

S.O.S.

INTERESTED IN THEATRE? WANT TO GET INVOLVED ON OR OFF STAGE? THEN JOIN THE ENGLISH AND AMERICAN STUDIES DEPARTMENT'S STUDENT THEATRE GROUP! FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT ELENA.IPPENDORF@AAU.AT



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