

What to Expect

SCENES FROM THE CLIMATE ERA

- Scenes from the Climate Era is a new play written by David Finnigan. This production is directed by Carissa Licciardello and opened at Belvoir St Theatre on Wednesday 31 May 2023.
- Scenes from the Climate Era runs for approximately 1 hours and 20 minutes, without an interval.
- Scenes from the Climate Era is structured as a series of vignettes which showcase moments life and humanity in relation to global warming. Scenes are thematically linked, but the majority are self-contained, taking place across a time period referred to as the 'climate era', from 1983 to 2043 and beyond. In some instances, the actors inform the audience of the year and location a scene takes place.
- Scenes from the Climate Era explores how people engage with and respond to a world where humanity has impacted the earth in irreversible ways. The scene styles are naturalistic, and dialogue driven, and the style of the production is non-linear, with Brechtian techniques such as breaking the fourth wall, announcing time and place and montage.
- There are five actors in this production, each actor plays multiple roles. The characters don't always have names, but represent everyday people, including parents, scientists, historians, and journalists.
- The play includes references to natural disasters, extreme weather, and related mental health impacts. The play addresses climate distress and highlights moments in the past, present and future that contribute to climate change and the destruction of natural structures, species, and ecosystems. Some students experiencing climate anxiety may be sensitive to some of these concepts. The play identifies four stages of coming to terms with climate change "denial, solutions, despair and hope".
- The play includes inferred deaths of loved ones due to natural disasters. In some scenes characters share anecdotes of climate disaster in past tense, describing the loss of loved ones and species. In one scene a character alludes the death of an infant due to a heatwave, she describes the child being unresponsive "go to give Cal a drink - but he's not moving. I shake him, but he doesn't respond." In another scene a woman infers that her elderly mother did not survive a tidal wave "And I'm squeezing mum's hand and the water's rushing down on us"
- The play includes descriptions of the extinction of species. One character discusses the last of a species and lists other species that have since become or will become extinct since 1914. In another scene two scientists debate the ethics of eradicating introduced species of mice, and whether it is justified to commit genocide of a species if it prevents the extinction of others.
- The production includes references to vandalism as a call-to-action for behaviour change. In one scene a character breaks the fourth wall, speaking directly to the audience, the character "suggests" vandalism of SUV cars in the community to influence people from buying these vehicles. Later during a political discourse, they

reference the earlier scene questioning the effectiveness of “keying SUVs”, but also that the solution is actually “about disabling the infrastructure”.

- The production contains occasional references to drugs and alcohol. Some characters in the context of a social gathering appear to be varying levels of intoxicated, no alcohol is consumed in the scene. In another scene set in a Beijing nightclub one patron, character A, offers another a “bump of ketamine”, character B declines.
- The play includes very occasional sexual references. In a metafictional scene about going to a play about climate change on a date, one character confesses “I’ve got herpes, and you should probably get tested.”
- The production includes the use of strobe lighting. Some elements of the show’s design may affect people with coeliac disease. Masks will be available on request. If you have any concerns, please contact Belvoir Education.
- Some students may need to be briefed about theatre etiquette. Students need to know that the performance is live and that the actors see and hear them in the audience. Please turn mobile phones off completely, refrain from eating in the theatre and do not take notes during the performance.
- Schools Performances are followed by a Question and Answer session with the cast. Let students know they can ask questions about aspects of the play that they don’t fully understand afterwards.

