

Venue 13

PRESS RELEASE

Title: Venue 13 Attends CCTA Launch in NYC, Marking the Announcement of CCTA as Part of Venue 13's 2025 Program

- Venue 13 was invited to attend Climate Change Theatre Action's (CCTA) launch event, celebrating ten years of climate-focused theatre and marking the official launch of Venue 13's 2025 programme
- The event featured the announcement of the festival's 2025 theme, program, and how to get involved, and the launch of the latest CCTA anthology, which includes the 50 plays commissioned for the 2023 festival
- CCTA 2025, in partnership with Venue 13, will open a call on March 14 for partner artists and companies to co-host 18 readings during the Edinburgh Festival in August 2025.
- CCTA 2025 and Venue 13 will partner with organisations such as Culture for Climate Scotland and the Traverse Theatre for the series during the Edinburgh Festival.
- This will mark the 10-year anniversary of CCTA and the last round of CCTA commissions of new plays, bringing a decade of impactful storytelling to a close.
- Media images link:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1AbuwaEPu7gx6Fh-LQsXXte8MUnXvh3z4?usp=sharing>

New York, 1st March 2025 – Today, at Theatre Row, the Venue 13 team joined Climate Change Theatre Action (CCTA) as it proudly celebrates its 10-year anniversary with a preview of the 2025 festival and the launch of its latest anthology, "All Good Things Must Begin," containing the 50 original plays commissioned in 2023,

This celebration marks the official launch of Venue 13's 2025 programme, with a selection of plays confirmed to grace Harry Younger Hall this August.



CCTA Reading by (L to R) Zoe Kay, Penelope Deen, Sivan Raz

During their milestone event, CCTA announced the writers of 10 newly commissioned plays, which will join a selection of works from the last decade to create the CCTA 2025 collection. . These plays, addressing climate-related themes, represent the culmination of a decade-long initiative to tell climate-conscious stories through theatre. Since 2015, CCTA has commissioned over 250 short plays and made them available for free during its biennial, global distributed festival. CCTA plays have been performed hundreds of times on every inhabited continent.



NYC Climate Theatre Partners - L to R - Ian Garrett, Anika Larsen of New York City Children's Theatre / co-Writer and Director of *The Pocket Park Kids*, and Molly Bravermen and Austin Sora of the Broadway Green Alliance

During the event, guests enjoyed readings of a few short plays from 2023, learned about theatre artists and organisations in NYC engaging with the climate crisis and heard from a panel of previous event organizers. Partner organisations including Theatre Row, the Broadway Green Alliance, and New York City Children's Theatre shared their efforts to green theatre practices.

The celebration also featured a preview of CCTA's exciting programme for the 2025 Edinburgh Festival, where Venue 13 will host 18 readings in partnership with other theatre companies to present all 50 plays. Information about how to participate in the Edinburgh Festival was shared along with how to participate in the global festival. This international gathering promises to bring together a global community of climate-focused theatre-makers and audiences to inspire action through storytelling.

Notable partners for CCTA's first ever self-organized reading series include Culture for Climate Scotland (CCS, formerly Creative Carbon Scotland) and the Traverse Theatre. The Traverse, whose resident playwrights will be featured in CCTA 2025, will bring CCTA to their prominent theatre bookstore, and offer the full series of anthologies, including both a new edition of the 2017 anthology "Where is the Hope?" and a chapbook of the ten commissioned plays for 2025.



The 2025 CCTA/Venue 13 Team - L to R - Vanesa Kelly, Ian Garrett, Chantal Bilodeau, Julia Levine

This event also marked the culmination of the commissioning part of CCTA. Following this year's festival, CCTA will continue to encourage people to read and perform the plays from its vast collection, and use them in class settings but year round instead of in a condensed festival format. It will also support the use of the plays, especially by people with little theatre experience, through the creation of educational materials and other resources

CCTA Co-Director, and Venue 13 Producer Ian Garrett, remarked: "This year marks 10 years of investing in the creation of new plays and the dramatisation of climate change. We've commissioned over 250 plays from playwrights from all over the world for performances on every continent. It is bittersweet to end the commissioning of new plays after a decade, having seen all of the creative ways this topic has been approached. We've seen a significant increase in climate change theatre everywhere, it felt like the right time for us to shift our focus. It is an honour for Venue 13 to showcase these plays at the Fringe Festival as an acclaimed farewell."

Media images link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1AbuwaEPu7gx6Fh-LQsXXte8MUnXvh3z4?usp=sharing>

For Venue 13 media inquiries, show previews, interviews, or further information, please contact:

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Follow us online and on social media for updates:
www.venue13.com

Venue 13 social below

<https://www.instagram.com/venue13fringe/>

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<https://www.linkedin.com/company/venue13fringe>

<https://bsky.app/profile/venue13fringe.bsky.social>

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Follow us online and on social media for updates:
<https://www.climatechangetheatreaction.com/>

CCTA socials below

<https://www.instagram.com/artsnclimate/>

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To register for future events at the CCTA, or to express your interest in being involved with the plays at the Edinburgh Festival, visit <https://www.climatechangetheatreaction.com/>

Ends

Additional Information

CCTA (Climate Change Theatre Action), launched in 2015, is a worldwide festival of short plays about the climate crisis presented in the fall of every odd year. It is an ongoing collaboration between the Arts & Climate Initiative and the Centre for Sustainable Practice in the Arts. Since its beginnings, it has presented nearly 600 events in more than 30 countries and engaged 80,000 artists and audience members.

Chantal Bilodeau is a Montreal-born, New York-based playwright and translator whose work focuses on the intersection of storytelling and the climate crisis. Her plays have been presented in a dozen countries and translated into four languages. Her ongoing project is a series of eight plays about the social and environmental changes taking place in the Arctic. As Founding Artistic Director of the Arts & Climate Initiative, she has spearheaded projects for over two decades, getting theatre and educational communities, as well as audiences, to engage in climate action through live events, talks, publications, workshops, artist convenings, and a worldwide distributed theatre festival. She is the recipient of multiple awards and in 2019, she was named one of “8 Trailblazers Who Are Changing the Climate Conversation” by Audubon Magazine.

Ian Garrett is a designer, producer, educator, and researcher in the field of sustainability in arts and culture. He is producer for Toasterlab, a mixed reality performance collective and media production company; the director of the Centre for Sustainable Practice in the Arts (CSPA); and Associate Professor of Ecological Design for Performance at York University in Toronto. He has a research and performance design practice focused on ecology and accessible mixed reality technologies.

He has been involved with the Edinburgh Festival Fringe since 2008 as Producer for CalArts Festival Theater, YUFFA Fringe, and Toasterlab with shows at Venue 13, Assembly, Summerhall, ZOO Venues, and Greenside. As a champion for sustainability, he initiated the Fringe Sustainable Practice Award in 2010 and co-directed it with partners Creative Carbon Scotland until 2017.

[CSPA](#) The Centre for the Sustainable Practice in the Arts (CSPA) aims to position the arts and culture sector as a driver of sustainable societies by providing tools, research, educational resources, training, & consultation related to sustainable development, in particular ecological responsibility.

They publish, electronically and in print, associated research in this field to reflect the myriad ways in which sustainability in the arts is discussed, approached & practiced. As well as providing carbon calculation and reporting tools for cultural organizations to record, measure and understand their environmental footprint, they also share free courses to cultivate community learning.

[The Arts & Climate Initiative](#) uses storytelling and live performance to foster dialogue about our global climate crisis, create an empowering vision of the future, and inspire people to take action. Operating on the principle that complex problems must be addressed through collaborative efforts, we work with artists across disciplines and geographic borders, solicit input from researchers in the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences, and actively seek community and educational partners.

[Venue 13](#) Located in Harry Younger Hall at the foot of the Royal Mile, Venue 13 has been a fixture of the Edinburgh Fringe since 1980. Managed by the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (RWCMD) since 1996, and now taken over by Producer Ian Garrett, the venue is renowned for showcasing daring and innovative work across theatre, contemporary dance, and physical performance.

Praised as a “serene little venue” by The Scotsman and hailed by Three Weeks as “the Fringe as God intended,” Venue 13 has provided a platform for emerging artists from the UK, US, and Canada. Holding the same venue number for 34 consecutive years—longer than any other Fringe location, it celebrated 40 years as one of the longest-standing venues in the festival’s history in 2020, cementing its status as an essential part of the Edinburgh Fringe.

[Traverse](#) Theatre is known as Scotland’s new writing theatre, established in 1963. It is a dynamic centre for performance, experience and discovery, enabling people across society to access and engage with theatre. They commission, produce and programme for existing and future audiences to offer new and exciting experiences for everyone, and their partnerships with other theatre companies and festivals enable them to present a wide range of innovative performances.

CCS Founded in 2011 as Creative Carbon Scotland and rebranded as Culture for Climate Scotland in January 2025, the organisation focuses on the vital role of the arts, screen, cultural, and creative industries in driving environmental sustainability in Scotland. It collaborates with individuals, organisations, and strategic bodies across cultural and sustainability sectors to leverage culture in achieving transformational change. They offer strategic expertise, consultancy, carbon management training, and programs that support artistic practices addressing sustainability and climate change. Culture for Climate Scotland champions equality, diversity, and inclusion, ensuring that those most impacted by climate change are central to the movement for change.

V-Kind is dedicated to transforming the landscape of public relations and event strategy, with a core focus on sustainability and net-zero artistic projects. Run by Vanesa, who works closely with clients and organisations to create the perfect strategy for companies to grow, bringing her extensive experience in events, public and corporate relations.