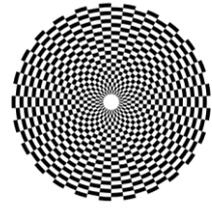


**SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE**

**CLIMATE
SPRING**



**FERN
CULTURE**

PRESS RELEASE

26 FEBRUARY 2026

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE ANNOUNCES NEW CLIMATE PLAYWRITING PRIZE WITH CLIMATE SPRING & FERN CULTURE

Shakespeare's Globe, Climate Spring, and Fern Culture are delighted to announce the launch of the **2026 Climate Playwriting Prize**. The Prize aims to embolden and champion playwrights engaging with the nature and climate crisis, to uncover the most exciting new and accessible work.

The Climate Playwriting Prize aims to **empower the theatre industry into new climate conversations**, drawing on the skills of storytellers and artists to inspire societal shifts towards a restorative relationship with nature. The **winning playwright will receive £15,000** and dramaturgical support to develop the play, including rehearsal draft with specialists at Shakespeare's Globe, Climate Spring and Fern Culture, and industry exposure to leading theatre decision makers.

The Climate Playwriting Prize will engage with the breadth and diversity of environmental writing to encourage writers across the UK to move climate storytelling on-stage with a larger platform.

To enter, writers must submit unproduced full-length stage plays in the English language that address the climate and nature crisis. For this prize, 'climate' is defined expansively: it includes environmental changes in the broadest sense, but also the social, political, and cultural response. The Climate Playwriting Prize is open to plays that connect with the widest possible audience and respond to living through this profound time in human history. Further terms and conditions will be available on the Climate Playwriting Prize [website](#).

Submissions will open in June, and close on 1 September 2026. Winners will be announced in Autumn 2026.

The Climate Playwriting Prize is being delivered in association with partner organisations **Chichester Festival Theatre, Exeter Northcott Theatre, Leeds Playhouse, Lyric Theatre Belfast, Mercury Theatre Colchester, New Earth Theatre, Pentabus Theatre, and tiata fahodzi**. Each will host a climate storytelling workshop delivered by the Globe, Fern Culture, and freelance playwrights which will feed into the award's reading and judging process.

The judges for the Prize will be announced at a later date.

Michelle Terry, Artistic Director of Shakespeare's Globe, said: *"Almost every play Shakespeare wrote was about human beings, our human nature, and our place in the natural world. Shakespeare knew that "one touch of nature made the whole world kin". He helped build a Theatre made of 1,000 oak trees, open to the sun, the wind, and the rain, bobbing alongside the ebb and flow of the river Thames. He brought thousands of strangers together in this elemental imaginarium and he put his craft to work. We are so proud to be launching a prize that encourages, platforms, and celebrates those brave writers who are putting their craft to work today to make a better world tomorrow.*

Now is the time to remind ourselves of our human-nature and remember the profound and positive contribution we can make on planet earth. There is no better way to do that than through the stories we tell. And there is no greater art form than Theatre to unite people and tell those stories together.”

Guy Jones, New Work Associate at Shakespeare’s Globe, said *“I am thrilled that the Globe is the launchpad for the Climate Playwriting Prize, and am hugely grateful to our partners at Fern and Climate Spring, and partner theatres across the country, for helping to make it happen: this mycelial network of organisations working together gives me enormous optimism for the future. I hope that it will attract plays from a huge diversity of writers, from those steeped in climate lore, to others who hadn’t seen themselves as a climate playwright, until now. I can’t wait to read the work that is submitted through the award process and maybe find a play that could change the world.”*

Amber Massie-Blomfield, Director of Fern Culture, said *“We exist in a time of profound significance for all human history, as we transform the ways we live to ensure a flourishing future for life on our planet. We cannot do it without the storytellers. Story, after all, is how we have always gathered, the way we process human experience, make sense of the events of our times, connect with our environment and start to imagine possibilities for the future. This Prize will empower and celebrate the extraordinary artists who write stories for Britain’s stages, encouraging all of them - even if they’ve never engaged with climate before - to understand how the climate crisis is relevant to their writing. Our ambition is to flood our theatres with exhilarating, inspiring, and surprising plays about the climate, as diverse and inventive as the playwrights who create them.”*

Josh Cockcroft, Director of Impact & Research at Climate Spring, said: *“Theatre transforms us, it moves us beyond ourselves to create, for a moment, a community experiencing something wholly unique and metamorphic - moments of collective effervescence that we need now, more than ever, to bring us together. In this moment of rupture, culture has a vital role to play, and the Climate Playwriting Prize is a seed we are planting along with our work in film, TV and literature to cultivate a change in how we respond to the climate crisis. We want the Prize to enable playwrights to show just how expansive, surprising and inspiring climate storytelling can be, and we are delighted to be launching the prize in partnership with Shakespeare’s Globe and Fern Culture, along with our partner theatres across the country”.*

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IMAGES

Artwork:

Logos: [Partner Logos](#)

Globe Theatre: [Globe Theatre](#)

Sam Wanamaker Playhouse: [SWP](#)

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Our Cause

We celebrate Shakespeare’s transformative impact on the world by conducting a radical theatrical experiment. Inspired and informed by the unique historic playing conditions of two beautiful iconic theatres, our diverse programme of work harnesses the power of performance, cultivates intellectual curiosity, and excites learning to make Shakespeare accessible for all.

“London’s best-value theatre ticket” – Time Out

‘And let us ...on your imaginary forces work’ Henry V, Prologue

Shop

Our award-winning shop at Shakespeare’s Globe features an enticing selection of hand-picked gifts, stationery, posters, books, and more. Both our in-house and online shop are full of Shakespeare and theatre gifts you can’t get anywhere else. Over 80% of our clothing, bags, and homeware are exclusive to us! There’s also 10% off your first online order when you sign up to the shop newsletter.

Supporting Shakespeare’s Globe

Be part of something inspiring with Membership and support our productions, education work and community outreach from £5 a month. Members also enjoy backstage exclusive content, special events and discounts throughout the year as a thank you for their support.

For more information on how to become a Member, or gift a Membership, you can visit our website

<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/join-and-support/membership> or call on 020 7902 5970

Swan Bar & Restaurant

Swan Bar is open 7 days a week. Situated at the theatre on London's bustling Bankside, we serve morning coffees to evening cocktails and everything in between, including breakfast and brunch, lunch, afternoon tea, pre-theatre and a la carte dining. From craft beers, local artisan gins and creative cocktails to classic dishes, summery salads, and delightful puddings. Opening times and menus can be viewed here: swanlondon.co.uk

Background Information: Shakespeare's Globe

Shakespeare's Globe strives to make Shakespeare for all. It is a registered charity and has operated independently since opening in 1997.

Shakespeare's Globe is a world-renowned theatre, education centre, and cultural landmark on the bank of the River Thames in London, UK. Founded by the pioneering American actor and director Sam Wanamaker, our site is home to two venues – the iconic open-air Globe Theatre (1997) and the candlelit indoor Sam Wanamaker Playhouse (2014).

The Globe Theatre is a unique full-scale replica of Shakespeare's original 1599 Elizabethan open-air theatre. Our indoor candle-lit Sam Wanamaker Playhouse is an archetype of an indoor Jacobean theatre.

Many of our productions also enjoy an extended life online through our video-on-demand service [Globe Player](#), in cinemas across the UK, and on television. We are also a major venue for visiting artists, comedy, concerts, and special events, and over our twenty-eight-year history have produced over 45 world premieres of new plays, several of which have gone on to enjoy success in the West End, on Broadway and beyond.

Background information: Climate Spring

Climate Spring is a global organisation transforming how the climate crisis is represented in film, television, and popular culture. We champion powerful storytelling that shifts narratives, sparks imagination, and inspires action. They support the screen industries with development funding for scripted and unscripted projects; editorial consulting on climate narratives in film and TV projects; training and world-building workshops; writers' development opportunities; and bespoke advice to help projects move from idea to distribution. To date, Climate Spring has funded, co-financed, and consulted on more than 100 film and TV projects, spanning genres from crime and thriller to romantic comedy. Climate Spring is a leading expert on climate storytelling, advising the film and TV industry and working across the culture sector with training, consultancy and partnerships. Climate Spring is also home to the [Climate Fiction Prize](#) - the first literary award of its kind to celebrate novels tackling the climate crisis - and is a campaign partner of [Green Rider](#), an actor-led movement dedicated to making the screen industries greener, cleaner, and fairer.

[LinkedIn](#): Climate Spring

[Instagram](#): @Climate__Spring

[Website](http://climate-spring.org): climate-spring.org

Background information: Fern Culture

Fern Culture supports the development of outstanding new theatre about the climate and nature crisis. We empower playwrights and theatre makers to tell impactful stories about the environment, informed by the latest thinking from the climate sector. To date we have worked with partners, collaborators and clients including Creative Crawley, Havering London, Icon Theatre, Headlong Theatre, Norfolk & Suffolk Culture Board, The Paper Birds, Shakespeare's Globe and tiata fahodzi.

Founded in 2025, Fern Culture is led by Amber Massie-Blomfield. Former executive director of Complicité, interim executive director of Actors Touring Company and joint CEO of Camden People's Theatre, Amber has an extensive background producing outstanding climate theatre, including Actors Touring Company's *Bodies of Water*, Complicité and Fehinti Balogun's *Can I Live?*, Complicité's *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead*, Hannah Mulder's *Unstoppable: A Beginners Guide to Realising an (Im)possibly Glorious Future* and Camden People's Theatre's *Fog Everywhere*. She is also author of *Acts of Resistance*, a book about the power of the arts to create a better world.

[LinkedIn](#): [Fern Culture](#)

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