

CCTA 2025_Graz Program



SCAN ME



Climate Change Theatre Action, launched in 2015, is a worldwide short-play festival put on every two years to coincide with the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings. The original devisers of CCTA were Elaine Ávila, Chantal Bilodeau, Roberta Levitow, and Caridad Svich.

“[S]torytelling and live performance to foster dialogue about our global climate crisis create an empowering vision of the future and inspire people to take action.” (CCTA)

Every second year, 50 professional playwrights spanning all continents, several cultures, and multiple Indigenous nations, are commissioned by CCTA to write a five-minute play about an aspect of the climate crisis based on that year’s given prompt. This year the prompt was: “The Time Is Now.”

Made available to organizers – such as the Centre for Intermediality Studies in Graz – around the globe, events of various kinds are set to engage audiences and promote actions. The festival runs from September 19 through December 20. After the conclusion of the live-performance festival, an anthology of the plays will be published, ready to keep the conversation going.

*Wir erlauben uns darauf hinzuweisen, dass bei dieser Veranstaltung Foto-, Ton- und Videoaufnahmen gemacht werden. Mit der Teilnahme an der Veranstaltung nehmen Sie zur Kenntnis, dass die Foto-, Ton- und Videomaterialien, auf denen Sie eventuell abgebildet sind, zur Öffentlichkeitsarbeit und zur Darstellung unserer Aktivitäten in verschiedensten (sozialen) Medien, Publikationen und auf Webseiten der Universität Graz veröffentlicht werden.

Six Polar Bears Fell Out of the Sky This Morning

A CCTA short play by Alister Emerson

CAST

Madame Press Secretary: Anna Köll

Advisor to the Press Secretary: Kirstin Kniebeiß

Advisor's Assistant: Gloria Gilliar

Reporter: Anna Rosenzopf

Director & Stage Manager: Belma Prnjavorac

Director: Mikayla Jensen-Large

"All political parties die at last of swallowing their own lies."

— John Arbuthnot

Six Polar Bears is a sharp, satirical comedy about media fabrication and the manipulation of truth by those in power. Using absurdity and exaggeration, Emerson exposes how governments twist undeniable facts for their own benefit. Inspired by Molière, Jon Stewart, and Monty Python, the play turns panic, confusion, and incompetence in those who occupy positions of authority into biting humor rather than heavy drama, inviting the audience to laugh while recognizing the seriousness beneath.

About the Author

Alister Emerson is a New Zealand playwright and the Artistic Director of Duck Bunny Theatre, known for its satirical work critiquing corporate greed and political absurdity. His recent plays include *The Fridge* and *Ed Sheeran Tastes Like Chicken*, the latter addressing the endangered Māui dolphin and shortlisted for the NZ Playmarket Plays for the Young competition.

www.duckbunnytheatre.com

Single Use

By Marcia Johnson

“Single Use” has also been featured in the 2017 *Where is the Hope?* CCTA anthology. The play follows two characters, Val and Mitchell, on their very brief date in a diner, where they talk about single-use plastics and their impact on sea turtles. The further they discuss environmental issues, the weaker their connection becomes. The play thus brings to the fore the challenges one faces when addressing pressing global concerns. The play has been/is set to be performed 48 times during this year’s festival.

Today’s performance:

Cast

Mitchell: Nathalie Frate

Val: Sáva Szankovich

Director/Props

Lisa Niedermayr



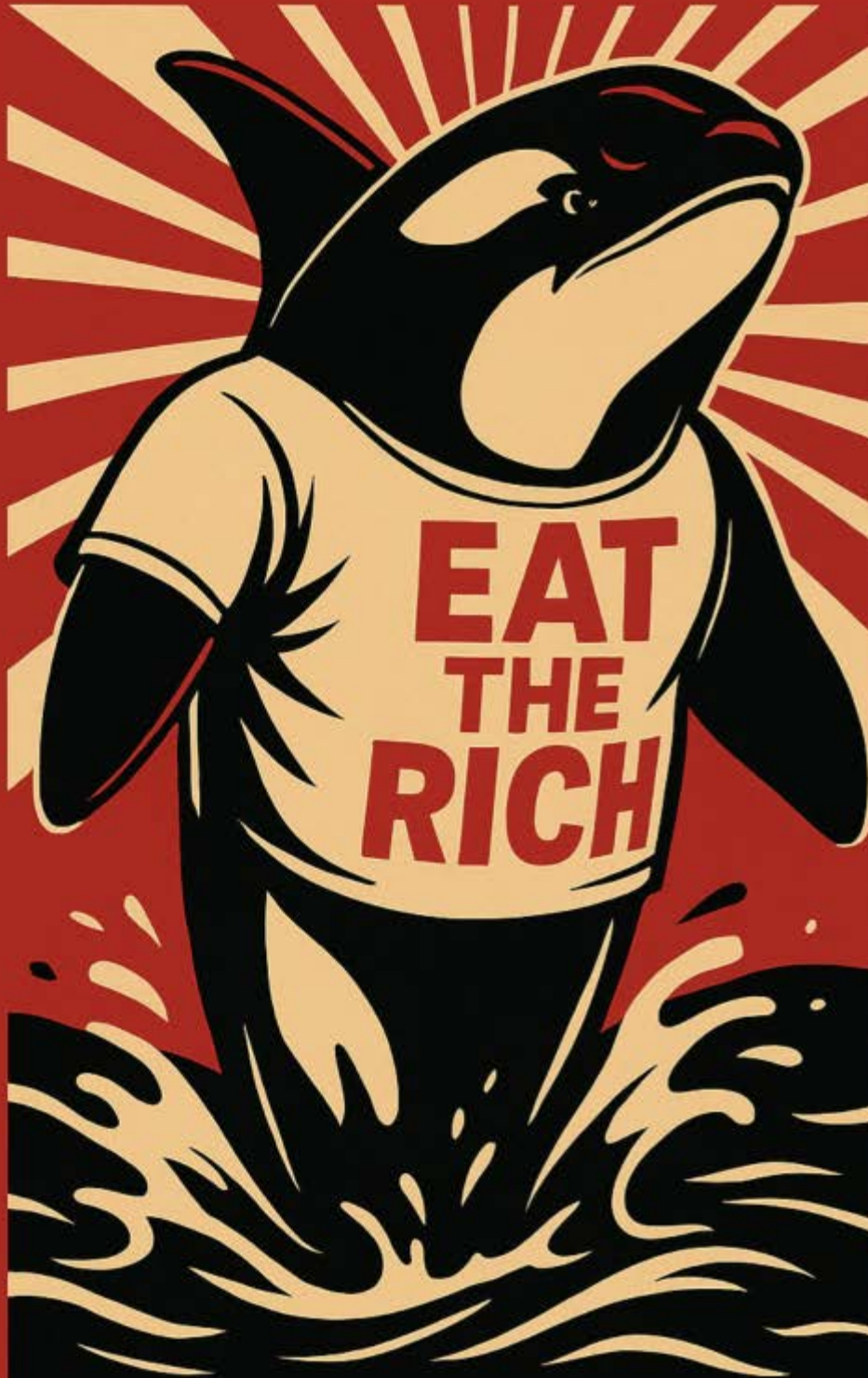
About the author:

Marcia Johnson, an actor, playwright, librettist, and dramaturg, was born in Jamaica and has lived in Canada since she was six years old. Her works include: *Serving Elizabeth*, *Binti’s Journey*, *Late*, *Say Ginger Ale*, and *Perfect on Paper*. She is the former Vice President of Women Playwrights International. Marcia Johnson has contributed twice already to the CCTA anthologies, in 2017 to *Where is the Hope?* and in 2019 to *Lighting the Way*.



EAT THE RICH

BY TIRA PALMQUIST



A climate-crisis uprising... but
with orcas.

ATLANTIC OCEAN, 2025

**ORCAS ARE DONE
WITH HUMAN
BULLSHIT.**

- ONE ORCA WANTS COLLECTIVE ACTION.
- ONE WANTS ORDER.
- ONE WANTS TO SINK CRUISE SHIPS—
THEY'RE ANGRY —
AND HONESTLY, THEY
SHOULD BE.

A SHARP, FUNNY PLAY
ABOUT CLIMATE JUSTICE
POWER, AND SHOWING
YOUR TEETH

**"EAT AN OLIGARCH,
SAVE THE PLANET!"**

**"WHAT'S IT CALLED?
COLLECTIVE ACTION?
GOOD TROUBLE."**

**"YOUR CURRENT
PLEASURE IS OUR
FUTURE PAIN."**

CHARACTERS:
KAI, DELMAR, STEVE—
A POD DIVIDED

EAT THE RICH

BY TIRA PALMQUIST

AUTHOR

Tira Palmquist is an American playwright known for blending the political with the personal, often focusing on climate change, environmental justice, and the human cost of ecological collapse. Her writing is sharp, direct, and emotionally grounded, using humor and intimacy to expose the urgency of contemporary crises.

ABOUT THE PLAY

Eat the Rich is a short, satirical climate-crisis play set in the Atlantic Ocean in 2025. Three orcas – one who builds consensus, one who follows rules, and one who embraces rebellion – debate power, justice, and how to respond to human exploitation of the oceans. Their conversation highlights themes of wealth, pollution, environmental destruction, and the illusion of human ownership over the planet. The play is fast, funny, and furious, combining humor and critique in equal measure.

CHARACTERS AND CAST

KAI: Mira Simonides

DELMAR: Ida Jenewein

STEVE: Katharina Falk

DIRECTOR/PROPS: Vanesa Arifović

The Donation

A CCTA short play by Jordan Hall

Trigger Warning – Suicide:

This piece discusses suicide and suicidal ideation. If you or someone you know is suicidal, please contact your physician, your local ER, or the suicide hotline:

0800 / 44 99 33.

“I want to donate my life.”

The Donation blends dark humor with climate anxiety, guilt, and heroism. The play explores feelings of hopelessness and despair, pushing as far as viewing suicide as a “solution” while also highlighting resilience, empathy, and the struggle to act in a warming world.

Tonight’s performance invites us to reflect on our own environmental choices:

Do everyday actions matter? How do we deal with guilt over climate change?

CAST & CREW

Jen: Amina Causevic

Tommy: Manuel Kasper

Director/Props: Rosa Eder

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jordan Hall is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter based in Vancouver, Canada, on the unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxw̓.7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. She’s best known for her plays *Kayak* and *How to Survive an Apocalypse*, and for creating and writing the cult-hit webseries *Carmilla*. She teaches screenwriting at Capilano University.