

# DAVID GLASS ENSEMBLE

## Requiem for Change



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## “History knocked at your door, did you answer it?”

In 2018, United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report that illustrated the global catastrophe that awaits the world due to the climate crisis. The David Glass Ensemble sought to create a story for today's young people facing this titanic struggle.

*Requiem for Change* tells the story of mankind through the history of one family. Klein is an investigative journalist researching Capitalism's effect on Climate Change, while her sister Naomi is a reclusive cellist who is battling nature to become pregnant. Naomi's husband, Mahler is struggling to write a requiem to be performed at the close of the World Climate Change Summit in November 2016. *Requiem for Change* moves across fragments of time — from the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps in 1945, to the story of Nature, Naomi and Mahler's young daughter, in today's world. It chronicles the biggest global undertaking ever envisaged and enacted by human beings to save the planet and ourselves.

In keeping with the subject and the urgency of the situation, the piece has been developed internationally by young performers whose lives will be affected by the choices and actions we are taking—or failing to take—now. Over the course of four years, David Glass and his ensemble have worked with the groups of students to develop the piece at East 15 Acting School (UK), LASALLE College of the Arts (Singapore) and the Singapore American School (Singapore). Our goal is to continue to use the arts and theatre to engage the students' hearts and minds in learning about climate change. The piece seeks to inspire hope, action and fearlessness in the face of this global crisis.

There are several ways that we can bring the content of *Requiem for Change* to your school to support your learning:

### **Workshops for Young People**

Our workshops combine theatre games and explorative, experience-based discussions in order to engage with facts and events surrounding the global climate crisis. Using themes and exercises that were discovered during the making process of *Requiem for Change*, we aim to engage the students in a learning process that is experiential and embodied.

### **Workshops for Your Staff**

Our workshops tailored for organizations uses David Glass' *Creative Practice Handbook* as a foundation. We seek to provide tools that can be adapted to the world of education, social development and technology, so the educators and staff members in your institution can engage even more openly and creatively with the issues in their work.

### **Bringing *Requiem for Change* to Your Organization**

Building upon the work of young people at educational institutions around the world, you can produce *Requiem for Change* at your school.

For More Information, Contact the David Glass Ensemble at [learning@davidglassensemble.co.uk](mailto:learning@davidglassensemble.co.uk)

## TESTIMONIALS FOR *REQUIEM FOR CHANGE*

“Requiem delves deeper into conundrums of our times than most performance art forms today. ... David Glass’s play aims at the heart and mind in his nudge to make society turn. ... Requiem’s messages parallel Gretha Thunberg’s pleas for social justice, grounded in a simple ask aimed at the mind: Will the physical science behind climate change be understood by adults and acted upon by those in power, now, please? Is that not what we wish? Young people to shake us awake?”

—Dr. Martha Began, High School Environmental and Life Science Teacher, Singapore American School

“Requiem for Change is frankly revolutionary: a piece created by our collective voice of change, told through the art of the actors on stage. In every scene, from Occupy protests on Wall Street to the depths of human cruelty in Auschwitz, Requiem is a reflection of ourselves. I could see myself in every character, every action on stage; reality is catching up with us. We have twelve years left, and for a generation that could potentially face the brunt of climate catastrophe, we need to wake up. We need to take action, we must live with the knowledge that the system has failed us and it’s up to us to take action. Requiem for Change is undeniably a piece of art, carried on the shoulders of change, and deserves its place in the pantheon of brilliant contemporary plays. It’s time for a requiem, a renaissance, and a revolution - Requiem makes you realize that.”

—Viv Srinath, Vice President, Singapore American School

“Just brilliant necessary work. Lasalle students under the Direction of [David Glass](#). ... Tight ensemble work, beautiful stagecraft. Masterful direction. The students went beyond.”

—Sharon Frese, Theatre Practitioner

“By playfully creating a theatrical world of surprising materials, the performers invited us to play with them to consider how resources are used in both the theatre and life. I left feeling both the urgency of this requiem and a sense of hope that if we just might be open to playing creatively with each other and our world we just might give rise to some solutions.”

—Maiya Murphy, Assistant Professor of Theatre Studies, National University of Singapore

“This is clearly an important piece of epic theatre.”

—Mike Alfreds, Theatre Director, Author of *Different Every Night*

“Energetic and visceral. David Glass has created an epic yet intimate production which demands that the audience question their humanity.”

—Tracy Lowe, Executive Director, Manchester International Festival

## WORKSHOPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

**It is a right and necessity for the young to learn the craft of performing and theatre making to open and transform their bodies, minds, hearts and worlds.**

This is central to the Ensemble's work. We believe learning is a human right, not a commodity.

Always beginning in the body, our learning strand roots itself in the belief that young people fundamentally want to have relationships with each other, the world around them and themselves. Rooted in the practice of Jacques Lecoq, Jerzy Grotowski, Augusto Boal, Peter Brook and Mike Alfreds, our teaching artists conduct practical and rigorous workshops for performers. Starting from the body, and exploring principles of spatial dynamics, improvisation, observation and — above all — play, each workshop delves into a different territory of students' creativity.

Workshops for young people will focus on engaging them to think critically about the world around them, as well as introducing them to foundational skills to build a life-long craft in the theatre.

Audience: all ages 5-20, material will be adapted to the experience of the group

Workshop Size: 10 - 20 students per facilitator

Workshop Duration: 3 days - 2 weeks

Workshop Facilitators:

David Glass, Simon Gleave, Briony O'Callaghan, Alessandra Fel, Hester Welch, Margherita Fusi, Silvia Priscilla Bruni, Joseph Lynch, Derek Elwood, Charlotte Gray, Chelsey Lee, Gavin Richards, Christopher Sivertsen, Benji Reid, Varshini Pichemuthu, Robert Golden, Tommy Carmichael, Melissa Eveleigh, Ling Tang, Francois Testory, Alessandra Fel

Our workshops includes several modes of learning about theatre and performance as ways of engaging with the story of *Requiem for Change*

- **Physical Theatre**

We focus on the three emotional centres of the body, the basic grammar of movement, fixed points, and the elements and the struggle of pushing and pulling. Beginning with *élan* (the French word for 'life-fullness'), performers will learn how to have a greater presence on stage to communicate.

- **Devised Theatre**

Devised theatre now sits at the heart of modern theatre practice. Here the actor as collaborative maker is central. The participants will explore the tools of eliciting, image-making, emergence, story structure and theme, to develop skills in the creation of original and authentic theatre.

- **Ensemble Theatre**

We use a clear progressive framework of games, exercises and process built around an 'open' circle approach. Focusing on two important foundations: The first is the need of all humans to want relationships, with each other, the world around us and ourselves. The second is the need to tell stories which are ways of transforming our lived experiences into the arena of play. From the powerful dynamic of these two foundations, extraordinary work can grow.

- **The Chorus**

We engage the students in a very rigorous process focusing on group breath, working with the ground, giving and receiving, the primal rhythms of the heart beat (threes) and the breath (twos) which form the primal music that we hear in the womb, balancing the stage, group emotions, the dynamics of climax and death, animal groups (shoals of fish, flocks of birds and herding), the use of fundamental vowels 'e' 'a' and 'o' (me , you, us) and the use of the chorus to grow story to evoke and to provoke. David Glass sees the Chorus as the heart of group theatre and a natural and primitive link to our need for community and tribe.

## WORKSHOPS FOR YOUR STAFF

The Ensemble shares our core skills, principles and provocations tailored to different organizations, communities and unique experiences. These workshops explore creative and innovative practices and how we can adapt these to your organization and the world of politics, education, social development, learning and technology. Our Creative Learning is rooted in *The Creative Practice Handbook*, written by David Glass—a practical guide on using Creativity to enhance the impact of social, developmental, arts and educational communities worldwide through learning, training and practice.

Audience: all ages and all levels of experience

Workshop Size: 10 - 20 students per facilitator

Workshop Duration: 3 days - 2 weeks

Workshop Facilitators: David Glass

- **Creative Practice and Modes**

Creativity sits at the heart of how organisations work, how communities achieve wellbeing and how people and communities reach their full potential. The workshop will take the participants through the Five Stages of the Creative Process that is used in all forms of creative activity, from project development to arts projects and teaching:

1. Preparation
2. Origination
3. Organisation
4. Manifestation

- 5. Reflection**

David's approach is fun, practical and rooted in real world skills. All of his training uses Games, Exercises and Forum Integrative learning to give a wide range of participants a direct experience and intellectual underpinning of this training. Students will come away with tools and skills and a framework that they can apply immediately to their work.

- **Facilitating**

The key to almost all creative leadership is the skill of facilitating. All too often this is simply seen a superficial tool for managing a process. The Ensemble's approach teaches the four fundamental engagement modes of directive, coached, facilitated and delegated behaviour. Soft, firm and strong engagement are developed with direct, indirect and 'from behind' approaches. In this training the participant will learn the power of open, closed and half open questioning along with the powerful relationship between proposal and provocation. The Ensemble has successfully trained facilitators in 40 countries across arts, social development and educational organisations.

## **BRINGING *REQUIEM FOR CHANGE* TO YOUR ORGANIZATION**

If you are interested in licensing the play to produce at your organization, please contact our Executive Director, Natalie Richardson ([natalie@davidglassensemble.co.uk](mailto:natalie@davidglassensemble.co.uk)). We will also engage actively in the creation process with you, and the original creators of the piece and our teaching artists are available as a resource to support you.

## DAVID GLASS ENSEMBLE LEARNING

**The artist is constantly using their work to make people see again, think again and feel again. Central to the artist's process is learning through experience, exploration and expression.**

Our teaching artists bring their years of experience and skills to pass on the provocations and skills of the David Glass Ensemble to diverse communities of young people, students, life-long learners and artists around the world.

We conduct masterclasses and workshops in theatre practice, experiential learning, creative applied theatre and digital storytelling in partnership with conservatoires, universities, schools and development agencies.

The ensemble currently operates across five regions in the world, in countries including China, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, the United Kingdom, Italy, Serbia, Spain, Denmark, Norway, Ireland, Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.

The ensemble's training and experiential learning centers on the participant's body, the group, the world, and the potential of making work and projects. The Ensemble's workshops are practical, rigorous, playful, and skill-based, built on clear frameworks that have been tested in the world of theatre practice. [\[SEE OUR CURRENT AND PAST WORKS\]](#).

The Ensemble's learning strands have been developed from a tapestry of theatre projects and ensemble experience over its thirty years working in 74 countries, as well as on the practice of modern theatre masters Jacques Lecoq, Jerzy Grotowski, Augusto Boal, Peter Brook and Mike Alfreds.

**The body, imagination, memory, creativity, play and community are the key elements running through the Ensemble's learning strands. Tools, Skills, Attitudes, Behavior and Quality of person are the key areas that these workshops all grow and develop.**

## OUR TEACHING ARTISTS

**The Ensemble is comprised of an intergenerational group of performers, designers, writers and composers, all striving to create current and revived work to a new generation.**

[\[SEE OUR CURRENT TEAM OF TEACHING ARTISTS\]](#)

## OUR PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

### Europe

#### **UK**

Bath Spa University  
East15 Theatre School/Essex University  
Theatre Omnibus  
London International Mime Festival  
The Point Eastleigh  
Theatre Royal Winchester  
New Theatre Royal Portsmouth

#### **Italy**

Topi Dalmata Siena  
Ruotalibera Rome  
Siena Municipality

#### **Serbia**

National Theatre Novi Sad  
Balkans Producing House

#### **Greece**

Michael Cacoyannis Foundation

#### **Denmark**

Denmark National Theatre School

#### **Norway**

Grsomhetens Teater Oslo  
Kongsberg International School Kongsberg

#### **Ireland**

Abbey Theatre Dublin

### East Asia

#### **China**

Marphy's Playhouse Chengdu  
Sichuan University Chengdu  
Central Academy of Dramatic Arts Beijing

#### **Hong Kong**

O Theatre Workshop  
Asia Society  
British Council Hong Kong  
Dream of Tomorrow

David Glass Ensemble Learning

Save the Children  
Tai Kwun Centre for Heritage and Arts  
Youth Square  
Theatre Ash

**Macau**

Rolling Puppet Theatre Macau

**South East Asia**

**Singapore**

LASALLE College of the Arts Singapore  
Haque Centre For Acting and Creativity

**Malaysia**

KL Shakespeare Players Kuala Lumpur  
Now Theatre Learning Collaborator Kuala Lumpur  
Mov Creativ/Studio Pentas Penang Learning Collaborator

**Vietnam**

LifeArt Learning Hanoi  
Ensemble Films Hanoi

**New Zealand**

The Conch

**North America**

**Canada**

Flying Arrow Productions Revelstoke