## PEACE CHILD INTERNATIONAL & GREEN CROSS INTERNATIONAL

2050: THE FUTURE WE WANT

## ASSEMBLY HALL, UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA - SEPTEMBER 3RD AT 19.00

Young people today seem convinced that their lives are going to be less fun than the ones their parents enjoyed. There is a lot of evidence to support that view: run-away climate change, inability to implement sustainability policies that genuinely take care of the needs of future generations, wholesale human rights abuse going unpunished around the world, and a catastrophic dwindling of resources from fossil fuels, to fish, to water, food and essential minerals.....

The purpose of <u>Peace Child.</u> (the musical on which <u>2050: the Future we Want</u> is based) - is to kick those gloomy thoughts into the long grass, and present instead a vision of an entirely exciting, livable future that is much cleaner, more peaceful, more fun and more comfortable for the entire human family than the one we live in today. It is not a 'polyanna-ish' / 'rose-tinted spectacles' vision: it is wholly plausible. And, as you will discover when you see the show, it is completely attainable within the lifetimes of the young people who perform it.

It may surprise you to learn that the solutions of the story are found at the United Nations: despite many setbacks, it remains the only game in town. Though criticised and cold-shouldered by political leaders in several member states, almost all still pay their dues. And the young people of today look up to it, hopeful that it will deliver the Full Spectrum Security they crave.

This performance benefits not just from the participation of Sharon Stone, a Hollywood 'A' List star but also from the plangent, magisterial music of David Gordon and that of his better known brother, Cat Stevens (now Yusuf Islam). It also has a magnificent international cast of young people, carefully selected just for this show: they come from Argentina and the Ukraine, Indonesia and Syria, Botswana, Uganda and Nigeria; Denmark, Canada and the USA. They are dancers, singers, actors, drummers... but most of all, they are young people who want an exciting, challenging future - who are hungry to come out on stage of the United Nations Grand Assembly Hall to show you how they are going to achieve it.

Here in Geneva, we also benefit from graduates of Geneva's own Simply Theatre Academy - young performers whose parents work at the UN or its Agencies - for whom the kinds of challenges addressed in this play form the substance of many meal-time conversations. But - we mix them up with mavericks and trouble-makers from other parts of the world - young people who are not used to taking 'No' for an answer - young people who want change. Young people who ask not what the UN system can do for them, but rather what they can do for the UN system.

So please! Come see the show! There is magic in the weave of it: the first version told of young people ending the Cold War which then happened - 3 years after its first, historic US-Soviet performance at Washington DC's Kennedy Centre. Another had protestant and Catholic Irish ending 700 years of conflict... The Good Friday agreement came hard on its heels; a Central America show was followed 3 weeks after its final performance by the Escipoulas accords. The 1989 South Africa tour was followed - 6 months later - by the release of Nelson Mandela. It doesn't always work: Peace Child Israel folded last year after nearly 30 years of beating heads against brick walls... But - already, this cast are asking of the *Future we Want* story: "What would it take to have this happen in reality?" We hope that, after seeing it, you too will ask that question - and that you will work with PCI and Green Cross Intl. to make it happen.

The **Poster Illustration** by Gizem Cakaya, 11-years old from Turkey was included in Peace Child International's Youth Edition of Agenda 21, *Rescue Mission : Planet Earth* - sponsored by UNEP, UNESCO, UNDP and UNICEF. We use it here to remind ourselves that we live on a blue planet, 71% of which is water - our most precious resource which we must cherish if we are to save the fishes, the birds and our forests - not to mention ourselves, our bridges and our infrastructure.

In honour of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Green Cross International, founded by President Mikhail Gorbachev

> SHARON STONE

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The Future

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