



Time Travel Chat Show

- 20-min. Assembly Presentation -

[Bare stage – five chairs set up, with a coffee table, interview style. If you want, you can have TV cameras. The Floor Manager, comes on with a clip board.]

FLOOR MANAGER (Louis)

Welcome, everyone! - to our show about the Future. Your future! Nobody's been able to predict the future. Until today! Do any of you watch *Dr Who*?? Well – today – we've got a real Tardis that's going to bring some of you back from the year 2050. But first, let's look at our world in 2017. As we sit in here in Buntingford today, the World looks in pretty good shape, doesn't it? But, look a little deeper, and our scientists will tell us, it's not in good shape at all....

Music begins, the Floor Manager steps aside and the whole group, dressed as scientists in white coats come forward and sing – each taking a line from the first verse. Images of Death, violence & environmental destruction are projected behind them.

World

Child	World – look at the way we are
Child	Look at the things we do
Child	Look at the words we say
Child	Life! – look at the way we live
Child	Look at the love we had
Child	Look at the things we've made

Two other children, wearing normal clothes, come and stand either side of the white coat child:

ALL	Gone, gone are all those lovely days
	Gone are all the peaceful ways
	All that's left is old and grey
	And our world is fading
	Our world is dying – today!

Chorus of all children come forward – their energy and hope projecting forward in excitement:

Child	Can't you see the tide is changing?
Child	Don't you know that truth is fading?

Child People coming out from under
 Child Slowly rising to the thunder
 ALL Listen to the shouting people
 Broken churches, broken steeple
 There's no one for them to follow
 Every one's a God tomorrow

Child Can't you see the world is dying?
 Child Repentant people all are crying
 Child Law and order has been drowned
 Child Chaos rules and has been crowned!

ALL World – look at the way we are
 Look at the things we do
 Look at the games we play
 Life! – look at the way we live
 Look at the things we build
 Look at the love we've killed

Child *(Diminuendo)* Gone, gone are all those lovely days
 Child Gone are all the peaceful ways
 Child All that's left is old and grey
 Child And our world is fading
 ALL Our world is dying – today!

FLOOR MANAGER

Thank you. And, I hope you will all agree, the main job of our life is to STOP our world dying – to keep it alive for our children and grand-children! But How? That's what we hope our show today will tell you. So, will you welcome please, your host for the Time Travel chat show: Dr Alex Rifkin!! *(He holds up **Huge Applause** - and the audience clap.)*

ALEX RIFKIN (Bear)

(entering) Hallo everyone! – and THANK YOU! - for joining me for a great Television time travel adventure! But – Louis and I are going to need your help: time travel technology works for some of the people some of the time and none of the people most of the time. So – will you help me? (“Yes!”)

FLOOR MANAGER

That sounds a bit half hearted... Will you help us? (“YES!!”) Will you HELP US???

(the audience roars – “YESSS!!”)

ALEX RIFKIN

Good! It's a simple chant – but it gets the right rhythms working in the Tardis: A- righpah! – A- righpah!!

ALL (Louis & Bear & the scientists moving around on stage – whipping up the audience)
 A- righpah! – A- righpah!! A- righpah! – A- righpah!! A- righpah! – A- righpah!!!!

ALEX RIFKIN

Louder!! – Louder!!

FLOOR MANAGER

Stand up! - and sway side-to-side with your hands in the air – locked together, tight!

ALEX RIFKIN

That's right – go for it!

AUDIENCE:

A- righpah! – A-righpah!! A- righpah! – A-righpah!! A- righpah! – A-righpah!!!!

ALEX RIFKIN

(Waves for them to stop. Listens on the earpiece...) It's not working, is it?

FLOOR MANAGER

Again - Louder!!!!

ALL

A- righpah! – A-righpah!! A- righpah! – A-righpah!! A- righpah! – A-righpah!!!!

ALEX RIFKIN

(Waves for them to stop!) I think you did it!! *(Listens on the earpiece... to Louis)* Yes! – they did it!

FLOOR MANAGER

Are you great or what!?!? YOU DID IT!!!! See you at the Intermission! *(He Exits)*

ALEX RIFKIN

- and now it is my enormous pleasure to welcome for you, the first ever guests to my Time Travel Chat Show. Back from the year 2050!! Give them a big hand!!
*Drum Roll / Piano Chords – and the visitors from the Positive Future come on: Amy, Chloe, Benji and Charlotte. Louis darts back on with the **Huge Applause** sign, getting the audience to applaud.*

AMY

What just happened?

CHLOE / CHARLOTTE

Where are we?

BENJI

It looks kind of familiar?

ALEX RIFKIN

You're at Edwinstree School in the year 2017.

CHARLOTTE

Our old school?!

AMY

It hasn't changed much!

ALEX RIFKIN

That's time travel! It's exactly as you left it! But you haven't changed much either! What's the secret??

CHLOE

We found the secret to Eternal Youth!

BENJI

We all eat supa-healthy diets –

AMY

– and we have clean air, clean water and a very healthy lifestyle.

CHARLOTTE

We all have our own personal trainers....

CHLOE

Becoming multi-millionaires does help.

ALEX RIFKIN

How did you all become so rich?

ALL

Green Tech.

ALEX RIFKIN

What?

CHLOE

Well – I don't think I learned about it here, but when we got to Secondary School, we got to learn about the Sustainable Development Goals and our "Generational Challenge" of building a Green, Sustainable Economy powered by renewable energy.

BENJI

Green Tech. I took a degree in Green Business Studies and Sustainable Political Economy.

AMY

I did my degree in Germany – the Green Tech experts

CHARLOTTE

And when Amy started Dobner Energi, I was her first employee! And the rest is history.

ALEX RIFKIN

For you perhaps. But not for us...

AMY

No, no – of course: Let me explain. I did my PHD on Turnip Juice – showing how turnips could make enough biofuel to replace fossil fuels on every aircraft in the sky.

CHARLOTTE

And then I came along and showed her how we grow turnips in swamps and woodlands to make it all happen.

AMY

Very Profitably!

ALEX RIFKIN *(to Benji)*

And what did you do?

BENJI

I went to work on my dad's farm – and then got into Vertical Farming: any run down office block or flats, we converted into urban farms delivering milk and fresh vegetables direct to city super markets.

ALEX RIFKIN

And did that make money?

CHLOE

A lot of money!

BENJI

Not as much money as you!

ALEX RIFKIN

What did you do?

CHLOE

I was involved – am involved – in sub-terrenes.

ALEX RIFKIN

Sub-terrenes?

CHARLOTTE

Vacuum tubes tunneled by nuclear robots deep in the earth

BENJI

– which allow you to travel from London to New York in under an hour.

ALEX RIFKIN

Sounds a bit dangerous.

CHLOE

No! Very safe! We've never killed a passenger.

AMY

And it's a whole lot more sustainable than hauling hundreds of tons of airplane into the sky

CHLOE

– and much, much cheaper. A sub-terrene flight from London to Sydney with 100 people uses as much fuel as one journey by one of your smelly cars to Stevenage!

ALEX RIFKIN

Interesting, but what's happening politically?

BENJI

Now – in 2017? That was the year of the Big Muddle, wasn't it?

AMY

Theresa Trump and Donald May....

ALEX RIFKIN

Close! – what happened after them!

CHARLOTTE

Well – finally, it was the religious leaders, wasn't it? They got together and demanded that governments tell the truth.

BENJI

“Integrity in Politics!” It led governments to focus on global problems like climate change.

CHLOE

- and the fact that we were running out of everything – food, water, energy.

AMY

Suddenly we got a United Nations which worked!

CHARLOTTE

Global Agreements that worked!

BENJI

It was great.

ALEX RIFKIN

So was it the Sustainable Development Goals that triggered it?

CHLOE

Yes that – and Climate change. With all the coral reefs dying, and extreme weather – more hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts – all of us, especially the youth! demanded that governments take action. And they did!

ALEX RIFKIN

So – was there a revolution?

AMY

A quiet one, yes!

CHARLOTTE

I got involved in the Green Party in 2030 and pushed through the legislation for all cars to be electric by 2040.

BENJI

Now – in the world we live in – no one would touch your smelly old petrol and diesel engined cars.

CHLOE

Just like no one would eat red meat. It's amazing how quickly people change once you make it cheaper for people to do so.

ALEX RIFKIN

So – what are the big remaining challenges?

AMY

Not many! HIV-AIDS is a thing of a the past; cancer is cured; the universal water and energy grids means that there are very few poor people any more.

BENJI

There is absolutely no reason for anyone to feel unhappy any more.

CHLOE

Except some are – and we still have some mad terrorists –

CHARLOTTE

People blowing themselves up – making wars – killing people.

ALEX RIFKIN

We're running out of time, but do you have any ideas what to do about that?

AMY

It's all about loving and caring for one another

BENJI

Values!

CHLOE

Sharing nicely – and treating every stranger as a friend you haven't met yet!

BENJI

Seeing the best in everyone!

CHARLOTTE

Like that song we used to sing!

AMY

“Reach out?”

CHLOE

That's the one - about friendship – about recognizing the good in everyone – no matter where they come from, their religion, the colour of their skin.

CHARLOTTE

Can we sing it now? - across the bridge of years?

ALEX RIFKIN

Go for it!

BENJI

Though many things have changed, I learned here at this school the value of friendship – friendship across ages, cultures and religions. That's the one thing we all have to remember.

[Music starts – the visitor stands and children from the chorus join her.]

Reach Out!

Visitors Reach out for a star!
 Come out from where you are
 Show me what you can do
 Believe in me, I believe in you!

Child from Chorus: (*sings*)
 Reach out for your dream
 It's not as hard as it may seem

Child & Vis.: Together we can make it through
 Together - me and you!

Chorus Wake up - open your eyes,
 This is our world, our paradise.

Visitors Reach out, don't be afraid
 Come on now, we'll find a way
 There's a whole new world for us to see
 There's a universe in you and me.

Chorus Reach out, put your hand in mine!
 Oh see! - see how we shine!
 Together - we'll make it through,
 Together me and you!

Visitors Don't be shy, just be yourself!
 You are your greatest wealth!

Chorus Reach out for a star!

Come out from where you are
Show me what you can do
Believe in me, I believe in you!

Child & Vis.: Show me what you can do

Child: Believe in me

Visitors I believe in you!

[**VISITORS EXIT** waving good-bye]

ALEX RIFKIN

Thank you everyone. Now - for the second half of our show, we welcome guests from the Alternative Future. So – let’s see if we can get the technology to work! Louis!! (*Calling for the Floor Manager who comes on Stage.*)

FLOOR MANAGER

Slightly different chant this time: A - wrongpah – wrongpah!! Can you do that??

ALEX RIFKIN & FLOOR MANAGER (*urging the audience*)

A - wrongpah – wrongpah!! Keep it going! Punch the air – Sway!

AUDIENCE:

A-wrongpah – wrongpah!! A - wrongpah – wrongpah!! A - wrongpah – wrongpah!!

ALEX RIFKIN & FLOOR MANAGER (*pushing the audience*)

Keep it going! Punch the air – Sway!

ALEX RIFKIN

(*Waves for them to stop*) Stop!! It worked!

FLOOR MANAGER

It’s always easier getting them back from the alternative future. They really want to come! **(EXIT)**

ALEX RIFKIN

Thanks, Louis! Now - will you welcome please, our guests from the alternative future,

Drum Roll / Piano Chords – and the visitors from the Negative Future come on: Emily, Amy (Jenner), Ruben and Jessica. They are all made up to look older. They’re covered in plastic sheets, dressed in rags with masks over their faces. They look filthy – dishevelled – and very surprised to be there.

EMILY

(*Removing the mask, taking deep breathes and looking around amazed!*) Mmmm. Wow!

AMY (*Removing her mask*)

Where am I?

JESSICA (*Removing her mask*)

Why is the air so clean?

RUBEN (*Removing his mask*)

Are we in Scotland? – or is it one of those really expensive Oxygen Ventilators.

ALEX RIFKIN

Oxygen Ventilators?? What are you talking about? You look terrible! What happened!?

AMY

What happened? Terrible, terrible things happened!!!!

JESSICA

Everything!

EMILY

Everything we did was wrong and I think we all knew it.

RUBEN

Sustainable Development Goals –

AMY

Climate change and all that nonsense –

JESSICA

– no one took a blind bit of notice of any of it. We ignored what the experts said.

EMILY

We went on holiday – drove big cars, turned up the air conditioning.

RUBEN

It was all great –

ALEX RIFKIN

Until it wasn't?

JESSICA

That's right!

EMILY

Until it wasn't.

AMY

In the 2030s...

RUBEN

Before then – it started to go bad under Trump and May –

AMY

And then it just got worse

JESSICA

And Worse

EMILY

And WORSE!

RUBEN

They were all trying to get us to consume more and more

AMY

Get us back into jobs in coal and steel

JESSICA

Frack and burn

RUBEN

Like the only way to prosperity was to rob each other

AMY

– and the earth. To consume, consume, consume!

RUBEN

And suddenly, the Arctic wasn't there any more.

EMILY

The Greenland ice cap melted

JESSICA

There were mountains and lakes in Antarctica

AMY

– and the rivers dried up across South Asia and millions of people had to move.

RUBEN

And then we had the Great War of 2030 – and that was it....

ALEX RIFKIN

What was it?

RUBEN

All out war!

JESSICA

The United Nations fell apart and everyone started to grab land everywhere.

AMY

Every one was murdering one another

EMILY

– and bombing everything.

RUBEN

And then the North Koreans started nuking the big cities.

AMY

That was it. Game Over!

JESSICA

We were back to the Stone Age!

ALEX RIFKIN

Sounds awful!

EMILY

It was the end of the world as we knew it.

AMY

And for the few of us that are still alive, it's getting worse.

RUBEN

Because there is no intelligent government anywhere in the world.

JESSICA

They're all corrupt, all selfish

EMILY

All out to feather their own nests!

RUBEN

People like us struggle just to survive from one day to the next.

ALEX RIFKIN

What about the religious leaders? Didn't they try to stop it?

AMY

They may have done

JESSICA

– but nobody noticed.

EMILY

They didn't do enough.

RUBEN

Nobody did!

ALEX RIFKIN

Did you try?

RUBEN

Course we did!

AMY

We tried – we really tried!

EMILY

We tried to get the good people to lay down their guns and refuse to fight.

JESSICA

We did non-violent protests, like Gandhi.

AMY

But nobody listened.

RUBEN

Just this morning, they were press-ganging people in my street to go fight the 3rd Battle for Scotland!

ALEX RIFKIN

Why?

RUBEN

Because it's one of the few places left in the world where you can still breathe without a ventilator.

ALEX RIFKIN

How did you escape?

EMILY

You brought us here!

JESSICA

Thank you!!

ALEX RIFKIN

You're welcome! Well folks, again, we're running out of time, but I think we've learned enough to know that this is NOT a future any of us should work towards. Any of you want to?

JESSICA

NO! (*+ a half-hearted "NO!" from the Audience.*)

AMY

You don't sound very sure!?

JESSICA, AMY, EMILY & RUBEN (*whipping up the audience*)

NO! NO! NOOOO!!!! (*Audience – louder: NO!*)

ALEX RIFKIN

Thank you! Well, folks! - that just about wraps it up for today's show. We still have time to choose our future. Our friends here do not. So let's give them a big hand for visiting us and giving us all that awful warning! (*Applause*) – and now, your Tardis awaits....

RUBEN

You mean we have to go back?

ALEX RIFKIN

Of course!

EMILY

You have to be kidding!?

ALEX RIFKIN

Sorry - That's the rules of time travel: no second chances!!

AMY

We can't go back!

ALEX RIFKIN

You have to! You make your bed. You sleep in it. You make your future – you live in it!

RUBEN

Now let's just talk this over, man-to-man...

AMY

We can show you how to avoid all the mistakes we made!

JESSICA

We know where we went wrong!

ALEX RIFKIN

I'm sorry folks – that's the end of the show!

JESSICA, AMY, EMILY & RUBEN (*on their knees, begging Alex, pulling at his sleeve*)

No – Nooo NOOOO - PLEEEEEAAASE!!!

ALEX RIFKIN

Louis – I need some help here! (*The Floor Manager returns*)

FLOOR MANAGER

We could let them do one Final Statement...

ALEX RIFKIN

OK – get it: you’re going back. But we’ll give you time for one final statement.

[The Visitors converse amongst themselves – then turn, resigned, to Alex and Louis]

RUBEN

OK! We get the picture.

EMILY

We’ll all be dead soon – but you, all of you, you have your lives before you.

AMY

You - your generation, all of you - have just one great challenge:

JESSICA

To build a Green, fair and sustainable economy that brings prosperity and peace to all

RUBEN

We believe you can do it.

AMY

We believe that people of faith, can lead us in the way of peace, harmony and collaboration.

EMILY

And we must – because, as we return to that miserable husk of a planet my generation created, we have to believe that, even now! - people of faith, can turn things around.

JESSICA

With God’s help, even we can make it.

AMY

Do you believe that? *(Audience give a half-hearted “Yes!”)*

AMY & JESSICA

Do you believe that? *(Audience gives a slightly bigger “Yes!”)*

AMY, JESSICA & RUBEN

Do you believe that? *(Audience gives a big “Yes!”)*

AMY, JESSICA, RUBEN & EMILY

Do you believe that? *(Audience roars “YES!!!”)* Then sing – come sing with us! *[Music]*

I Believe

Visitors If the sun lost it's shine – and the trees started to die!
 I guess I’d still be full of hope – and yes, I know the reason why!

 If the wind grew too old, and the seas started to dry
 Yes I would still be full of love – don’t ask – don’t ask me why!

Chorus I still believe in God
 I still believe in us His people!
 And if you really want to know
 I still believe in this His land

Visitors So don't turn your head away - don't give up on who you are
 Just keep loving more each day - and the world will shine for you!

I guess it's all in the mind - what you feel is what you see
So within your heart just sing these words
Come sing - come sing with me!

Chorus We believe in God
 We believe in us His people!
 And if you really want to know
 We still believe in this His land

We believe in God
We believe in us His people!
And if you really want to know

Visitors I believe

Chorus - Yes I believe

Visitors I believe

Chorus - Yes I believe

I believe in this His land!

(The visitors hug the Chorus & exit - waving. Alex & Louis wave sadly after them.) **[BLACK-OUT]**

THE END