



PEACE CHILD FORUM THEATRE MUSICAL

on

CLIMATE CHANGE – BASE SCRIPT



Peace Child International – www.peacechildthemusical.com / email: david@peacechild.com

INTRODUCTION TO THIS “BASE SCRIPT”:

Forum Theatre was developed in the 1960s in Brazil by Augustus Boal. It is a form of interactive drama that aims to engage an audience in understanding and exploring creative solutions to real-life dilemmas in a safe environment in a way that stimulates discussion, debate and action. It has been used successfully in many different formats around the world but this is the first time we have developed a *Peace Child* Forum theatre show – and, of course, it is different from any other Forum Theatre show you’ve ever seen.

For a start, every *Peace Child* has a “Base Script” which is re-written by the cast, inviting them to imagine themselves as the leading characters. Every *Peace Child* show thus starts life as a kind of Forum Theatre piece but with this, you don’t stop with the cast: you invite the audience to co-create the story.

The truth is that none of us know how to solve the Climate Emergency: weaning ourselves off the fossil fuels which have powered almost everything that human civilisation has enjoyed these last 200 years, in the process building a \$5 trillion dollar a year energy industry that pays more tax into government treasuries than any other single industry (- and which also has the biggest, most sophisticated lobbying operation of any interest group -) is a massive, almost insoluble task. And yet that is the task that the generation of children passing through our schools today **MUST** solve if Planet Earth is to be able to play host to the 10-12 billion people who are likely to be here by the end of this century.

There are no “Named Characters” in any *Peace Child* script because you develop it via improvisation and discussion, inserting your cast members’ names for Child / Youth 1, 2, 3 and the soloists so that they “become” the young people of the story. They must make the characters, the lines, the songs, the scenes – everything! – their own. But the 1st and last scene *must* be set 50-years hence in a world that’s solved today’s problems. For the point of *Peace Child* is to tell the story of what today’s children and young people do with their lives to bring about a world in which climate change, war and unsustainable behaviours are distant memories. *Peace Child* requires solutions and a happy ending.

This script sets you, your school or community cast of young people – the *Peace Child* production challenge: and with this Forum Theatre version, you then take that challenge to your wider community.

David R Woollcombe, Author, *Peace Child*,
Founder and President, Peace Child International



Peace Child International
empowering young people



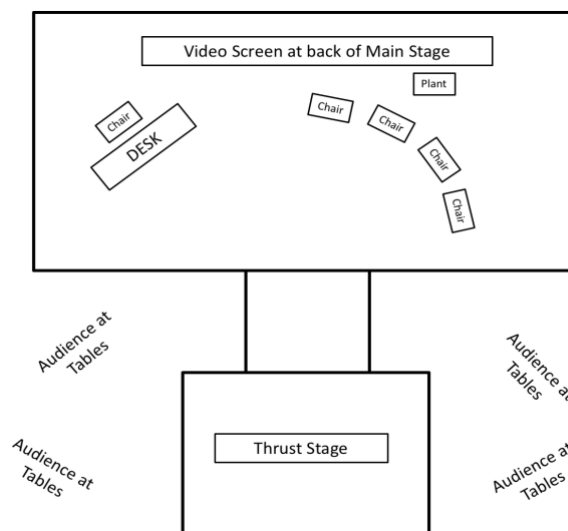
— CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE —

PRODUCTION NOTES

Cast: *Peace Child*'s flexibility starts with its casting: in this Base Script, we envision a whole school or community group creating an intergenerational cast of +/- 30 aged 9 to 90. But by doubling up roles and using good actor-singers, you can reduce this number to 10-15. And you can adapt the script to be suitable for young people of a single age group (10-25 years), location and language:

CHILDREN:	YOUTH:	ADULT "INTERLOCUTORS":	ELDERS:
Child 1	Youth 1	Advertiser	Master / Mistress of Ceremonies(MC)
Child 2	Youth 2	Activist (1)	
Child 3	Youth 3	Activist (2)	
Child 4	Youth 4	Activist (3)	
Child 5	Youth 5	Media Executive	
Child 6	Youth 6	General	
Child 7	Youth 7	Member of Parliament(MP)	
Child 8	Youth 8	Business Leader	
+ Soloists & small Chorus (4 -10 persons)		+ a 9 th Adult "Interlocutor": - the UN Diplomat who is recorded;	

Set: Bare Stage with wings / off stage area. The auditorium should, if possible, be set out with the audience seated around tables, dinner-theatre style, not in serried rows, theatre-style. (This makes the Forum / World Café scene more effective.) Use a thrust stage if you can to bring the action forward into the audience. There's a screen at the back with video projector; simple on/off lighting; decent sound / PA system for videos + music backtracks and/or live band or keyboard. The main piece of "scenery" is a big desk which the cast moves from one side of the stage to the other; seats, chairs or couches + a Potted Plant which the cast move on/off stage as needed.



Songs: *Peace Child* is a musical: it's beating heart are the songs written by David Gordon, some of which were recorded by his brother, pop superstar, Cat Stevens. So this Base Script includes them. But – most Forum Theatre pieces do not have music – so you can do it without any of them: you can launch straight into the dialogue of Scene ONE – and close on the dialogue of Scene TWELVE. For the Entr'Actes, you can use humming, drums, woodwind improvisations, mime, or extracts from TV documentaries or popular dramas that relate to the upcoming sector dialogue. Or you can create your own songs, raps, poems or stand-up comedy links. Over to you!

If you do use original *Peace Child* songs, we can help you with videos, scores (in Sibelius and PDF), instrumental backing tracks and sung audio tracks. Links to these are listed under each song.

Screen Backdrops & Videos: These are currently in preparation for the 1st Production and will then be available on the website for future Casts and Producers. Here are the ones currently in preparation:

PLOT VIDEOS: (Required)

- State of the Planet Animation: 2075
- State of the Planet Animation: 2022
- UN Diplomat Dialogue

SONGS:

- Peace Day (Indonesia)
- Let's Make Peace (Poland)
- Child for a Day (Arab / English)
- World (David Essex)

BACKDROPS: (Powerpoint Slides)

- 2075 UN Day Festival Slide
- Advertiser's Office Slide
- Activists' HQ Slide
- Media Exec's Newsroom Slide
- General's Barrack-room Office
- MP's Waiting Room slide
- Business Leader's sumptuous Office
- World Café 'What would you do?' Slide
- The Global Strike – Slide Sequence
- + other slides as requested by the Cast

* * *

Scene ONE – UN Day 2075: *VIDEO opening: if you have a video projector and a screen at the back of stage, the easiest way to do this scene is to run the [Indonesian Recording](#) of the song.*

The cast run on stage chattering excitedly to each other as this title slide comes up on the screen at the back:



UNITED NATIONS DAY FESTIVAL

24TH OCTOBER 2075

Child 1 Quick – it’s beginning!
Child 2 Sssh! Quiet! I can’t hear if it’s saying anything.
Child 3 Do we get lunch before the ceremony – or afterwards?
Child 4 Afterwards, I think....
Child 1 Come on – settle down

They throw themselves on to bean bag cushions to watch still chattering amongst themselves. The Master/Mistress of Ceremonies(MC) appears upstage right and walks down between them:

MC Happy Peace Day!! Happy Peace Day children – here and around the world!
All Happy Peace Day, Story-teller!
Child 2 Where’s it coming from this year?
MC Jakarta, Indonesia!
Child 3 Where?
Child 4 Indonesia
Child 5 Where’s that?!
MC Ssh! It’s starting.....

The song starts on the screen – and the scene carries on as written below from the end of the Song.

ALTERNATIVELY

Scene ONE – UN Day 2075: *If you have good soloists, a chorus, dancers and a great choreographer – you can do the classic live Peace Day opening:*

A spotlight splits the darkness. A soloist emerges singing the opening lines of the [Peace Day](#) anthem:

Song: Peace Day

[\[click here\]](#) for Video] [\[click here\]](#) for Score] [\[click here\]](#) for Song - with vocals] [\[click here\]](#) for Song - instrumental]

Soloist Come into my Joy!
Come into my Pain!
Come – you be a friend of mine!
I’ll be the same.

Soloists then emerge from every corner of the theatre, repeating the same anthemic chorus two more times. Then the band comes in – and two soloists meet each other on the main stage singing:

Soloist 1: As I go through my years with many passing fears
I've never seen my guiding light,
The clouds in front of me won't ever let me see
And I'm so weary of the night

Soloist 2: I've tried so many times to read between the lines
But the words keep turning round
And a thousand fears are ringing in my ears
And 'm so weary of the sound -

Soloists 1 & 2: So give me Peace enough, Peace enough, peace enough!

So give me peace enough for peace of mind,
Everything coming up sunshine. *(Repeat x 1)*

The Theatre is engulfed with the children of the Chorus – dressed in white waving streamers – entering down every aisle, greeting the audience and singing and clapping their hands to the upbeat tempo:

Chorus: Come into my joy,
 Come into my pain
 Come - you be a friend of mine
 I'll be the same. *(Repeat x 1)*

Part of the chorus moves on stage forming a tableau with the soloists. Together they create a space into which the dancers process, streamers poised. The Chorus & soloists sing majestically:

Chorus: PEACE DAY PEACE DAY WE ALL SAY !
 HAPPY WORLD, HAPPY DAY !
 WEAR A LEAF AND SHOW THE WAY
 CELEBRATING THIS PEACE DAY!

The music switches back into fast tempo: the dancers start a fast, festive dance and the whole cast sways in rhythm with the music as they sing:

Chorus: Peace Day Peace Day we all say
 Happy world, holiday,
 Wear a leaf and show the way
 Celebrating this Peace Day!

 Peace Day, Peace Day - sing and dance
 It will be a big romance
 People of the world as one
 Peace Day, Peace Day has begun.

 Celebrations, jublations
 Laughter, shouting - lots of fun.
 Singing dancing - take your partner
 Celebrations have begun.

 Celebrations, jublations
 Laughter shouting - join the fun!
 Smiling dancing - grab a partner
 Happiness for everyone!

 Peace Enough for all mankind
 Healthy body, happy mind
 Faith and love, the world as one -
 Peace Day, Peace Day has begun.

 Come into my joy,
 Come into my pain
 Come - you be a friend of mine
 I'll be the same! *(Repeat x 2)*

As the final choruses are repeated, the chorus floods on to the stage, filling it with smiling, happy, swaying children. The number builds to a spectacular climax; the dancers form a tableau with the chorus: hold for a moment as the audience applauds. Then they break and fall into each other's arms wishing each other "Happy Peace Day!" – like it was Christmas in Midsummer.

All Happy Peace Day! Happy Peace Day!

Into this mele, walks the Master – or Mistress – of Ceremonies (MC) – an elder actor, or a child greyed up. In a classroom setting, s/he can be dressed like a normal teacher. If you're going for a more esoteric, other-worldly look, s/he could be dressed in a robe with a half-mask, like a Greek Chorus. Whichever way, the chorus and soloists are thrilled to see him/her – and gather round excitedly wishing "Happy Peace Day!"

MC Happy Peace Day, Everyone - !
Child 1 Did you get the data sets?!
MC I did
All *(Excitedly together)* So how are we doing? Is it getting worse or better? How long have we got?
MC Calm down! Patience: the whole report will go live in just a moment...

On the screen at the back of the stage, a prompt card comes up announcing:



**UNITED NATIONS DAY
STATE OF THE PLANET REPORT
24TH OCTOBER 2075**

[to be released at 12.00 EST]

MC As usual – there’s good news and bad news.
Child 2 What’s the good news?
MC Lot’s of good things: Population appears to be stabilising at around 10 billion – fertility rates are falling and there’s a good chance that next year, population will actually be lower.
All *(severally)* Great! That’s fantastic! Well done us!!
Child 3 And the bad news?
MC To put it simply, we’re still too greedy and selfish: the planetary overdraft is much worse...
All *(despondently / severally)* Oh No! That’s terrible! Aaargh! ... etc.
MC And the Inequality Index is getting wider –
All *(severally)* Noooo! I thought we’d cracked that one; that’s so selfish – bad – disgusting!
MC And most of us – a big majority – are not keeping to our Personal Carbon Budgets...
All *(severally)* That’s not fair! How dare they?! They’ve got to do more prosecutions!
Child 4 Are we going to have to go on strike again?
MC Maybe. But we’ll get to that in a moment. First – as you may have noticed – we’ve got visitors *(indicates the audience)*
Child 5 *(peering at them with some distaste)* Who are they?
Child 6 Where did they come from?
MC They’ve time-travelled forward from my childhood to give themselves hope that the world can be saved...
Child 7 But you knew that?!
MC We do now! Back then in the dark days of the 2020s, it was far from certain. You know the story – but they don’t! They’ve probably never even heard of a Personal Carbon Budget!
Child 8 So – what? Are we going to tell them!
Child 4 The whole story?
MC Yes! The lower 6th have rehearsed it all up!
Child 1 Can we watch too?
MC Of course! Do you remember how it starts?
Child 3 Today – on UN Day – watching a State of the Planet Report from the UN
Child 4 Like we’re doing today

MC Exactly right! And we have the recording of that 1st UN Day State of the Planet Update that started it all off. So – let’s travel back in time to when I was your age – sitting sullenly in school as some dull teacher told us that we had to watch a special broadcast from the United Nations. But it wasn’t dull at all. It was all presented by young people, and it was, in fact, terrifying!

Scene TWO – State of the Planet 2022:

Music starts – Intro to [Song: World](#). On the screen at the back of the stage, a prompt card changes to:



UNITED NATIONS DAY STATE OF THE PLANET REPORT 24TH OCTOBER 2022

Again, you can choose to let the [David Essex Video](#) run with the Data sets. Better is to bring forward a soloist to sing the song live – with the chorus standing behind, joining in at the second stanza:

Song: World

[\[click here for Video\]](#) [\[click here for Score\]](#) [\[click here for Song - with vocals\]](#) [\[click here for Song - instrumental\]](#)

Soloist World! – look at the way we are
Look at the things we do
Look at the words we say
Life! – look at the way we live
Look at the love we had,
Look at the things we made!

Soloist & Chorus 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!

In the 15 x ‘beats’ of the song – we see the statistics about the state of the planet – most extremely depressing. The documentary dialogue explaining continues on screen but the sound fades as the children react to it:

Child 1 Was it really?

MC Was it really what?

Child 2 Was it really dying?

MC I’m afraid it was!

Child 3 Why?!

Child 4 How could the grown-ups let it get that bad?

MC Greed – carelessness – ignorance. People really don’t want to change their behaviours until they’re absolutely forced to....

Child 5 Even if it cost them the planet?!

Child 6 What were they thinking?!

Child 7 Crazy people!

MC Yes – but you can’t get people to change their behaviours by insulting them: you have to be a bit diplomatic.

Child 8 Yes – but you’ve got to stop them being bonkers!! If the whole planet was in danger, the first thing to do is to stop it getting worse.

Child 1 But HOW?

Child 2 What did you do?

MC Watch – and let the Lower 6th tell you, and our time-travel visitors, the story.....

The Children get up and move to the side of the stage. They slouch on the bean bags, watching as the older Youth come on, arranging the set with chairs and stools, facing each other. The Youth watch the screen – dumbstruck.

Youth 1 Switch it off!
Youth 2 I've seen enough!
Youth 3 I can't believe any of that!?
Youth 4 That has to be fairy stories!
Youth 5 It couldn't possibly be that bad?!
Youth 6 A billion people dead because of climate change in our lifetimes?!
Youth 7 Impossible!
Youth 8 But what if it is true?
Youth 1 Tell us it's not true? *(s/he asks the MC who has now become a teacher)*
MC I'm afraid it is. You can't argue with the facts – and the fact is, we're running out of planet!
Youth 2 But the sun comes up every morning; there's food in the supermarkets, the butchers, the bakeries! Clothes in the shops. Trains are running – people are going to work.... Nothing seems to be wrong!
MC That's what makes it so difficult: by the time everyone realises how bad it all is – it will be too late to do anything about it.
Youth 3 You mean we should do something about it now?
MC If you want to have a planet that's safe for you – and your children's – to live on, you HAVE to. Now!!
Youth 4 But what?
Youth 5 What can a bunch of kids do?
MC You could do another School Strike – like Greta Thunberg: that got people's attention.
Youth 6 But that was all it did.
Youth 7 It didn't solve anything.
Youth 8 *(to the MC)* So what do YOU think is the nub of the problem?
MC Me?
All Yes you!
MC What do I know?! I'm just a humble school teacher.
Youth 1 Well – we've got to start somewhere....
MC I can give you my opinion – and my opinion is that the nub of the problem is consumption: we're all buying and eating and using too much stuff. Stuff we don't really need.
Youth 2 So that's advertising for you! My Dad's in advertising and he's always saying that it's a wonderful job to be "driving consumption in the market place!"
MC Whereas – if you guys want to save the planet from catastrophic climate change – you need to be driving less consumption in the market place.
Youth 1 How do you advertise to achieve less consumption?
Youth 2 I guess you could use the same techniques to drive a different message.
Youth 3 Is that even possible?
Youth 2 I've no idea. Let's go talk to him!

BLACK OUT

Entr'acte: *The Entr'acte allows the cast to change the scenery for each new scene: remember, you can use the song extract to cover – but you can also use hums, drumming, mime, a stand-up comedy routine or a video documentaries or dramas. Discuss with your cast what they want between scenes:*

For this Scene, the cast place the Big Desk Stage Left and set up an office space with a potted plant in the corner:

Song: World so Blind

[\[click here for Video\]](#) [\[click here for Score\]](#) [\[click here for Song - with vocals\]](#)

Soloist For every gain there is a natural loss
In every church a temple and a mosque
For every paradise there must be a hell

In every saint a devil dwells
For every mountain there must be a plain
In every sea a piece of land

Soloist & Chorus But what we gonna do when it all runs out
What we gonna say when its to late
Are we going to blame it all on someone else
Just not ourselves

Scene THREE – Advertising: *The advertising man comes on – sharp suit, firm handshake, a sense of extreme self-confidence that is shared by most of the individuals that the youth talk to.*

Advertiser: Wow! This is quite a delegation. Should I get you some more chairs?

Youth 2 No – it’s fine, Dad!

Advertiser: So – what can I do for you?

Youth 1 I suppose you saw the UN Day State of the Planet Report on Tuesday?

Advertiser: I didn’t actually. I find the news distracts me from my work – and it’s often so depressing! Why upset yourselves?!

Youth 6 Better to be upset than to wake up and find the planet died while you were sleeping!

Youth 3 If you were going on a long journey –

Youth 4 - by car or by plane!

Youth 3 You’d want to know you’d got enough fuel in the tank to get you to your destination.

Advertiser: Of course!

Youth 2 Well that’s the point, Dad: the UN Day Festival showed us that, if we carry on as we are, we’re going to run out of planet before we get to be fifty or sixty.

Advertiser: Ach! You mustn’t believe these prophets of doom! There’ve been cranks telling us the world will explode on Thursday fortnight since the beginning of time. It’s nonsense.

Youth 5 We don’t think it is nonsense, sir!

Youth 6 We’re using up the resources of the planet far faster than we’re replacing them.

Advertiser: That’s probably true: but a lot of our clients are very clever companies that are working to turn that around and create a new, green, sustainable economy.

Youth 7 A lot of that is greenwash, sir!

Advertiser: Absolutely NOT! We don’t do greenwash in this company.

Youth 2 You still encourage people to consume!

Advertiser: Yes! That’s our job! We are the fire in the market place! We inspire all our clients’ customers to fulfil their wildest dreams – their greatest hopes and aspirations.

Youth 1 Which is generally all about consuming more stuff!

Advertiser I would never describe an E-Class Mercedes as “Stuff”

Youth 2 But Dad: if consumption is the problem – could you see your business encouraging people to consume less?

Advertiser Say: “Hey guys! Don’t buy what our clients are paying us to try to get you to buy!”? Don’t be silly: that would never work.

Youth 7 But if doing that would save the planet – and our future – surely it’s your duty to do that?

Advertiser Duty?! Duty?! My only duty is to my clients. I don’t have any other duties....

Youth 2 Not even to your family?

Advertiser That's different!

Youth 3 How? We're asking you to think about your wider duty – your responsibility to the wider human family and the people who are hoping to live on this planet long after we're gone.

Advertiser Why should I think about them?! They don't pay my bills – they don't put food on my children's table! I see where you're going with this – and I don't like it: I do my bit to promote the green economy – selling the heck out of electric vehicles – and promoting the environmental sustainability of my clients' products. But that's all I can do! You will never get any one in my industry to promote Non- consumption. That is not what people pay us to do – and you could never afford our fees anyway.

Youth 4 The advertising industry turns over - what? - \$600 billion a year?

Advertiser About that, yes!

Youth 5 That's \$600 billion to encourage the people of our world to consume our planet's shrinking pot of resources as quickly as possible not caring if it leaves nothing for future generations?!

Youth 6 Is that a good business to be in? Does that make you feel happy? Fulfilled??

Advertiser Yes! Because you doom merchants are almost always wrong: if we run out of resources on this planet – we'll go mine asteroids, or set up communities on the Moon or Mars. There's no limit to human invention. But I can see you disagree. So – go talk to the NGOs – the activists that piss everyone off by stopping the traffic on the M25 or stopping us getting our newspapers! They'll help you promote your depressing message of gloom. Best of all, they'll do it for FREE!

Youth 2 Thanks, Dad!

Advertiser Sorry I couldn't be more help to you. **BLACK OUT**

Entr'acte: *SONG – World so Blind*. The singers turn on the advertiser and then the audience, angry and disappointed that their gambit hasn't worked. The cast set up the next scene moving off the Desk & plant, and re-arranging the chairs:

Song: World so Blind

[\[click here for Video\]](#) [\[click here for Score\]](#) [\[click here for Song - with vocals\]](#)

Soloist & Chorus World so blind, pretending as if nothing is wrong
 Hey there man ! I'm talking to you!
 Wait a minute, don't walk away now
 Yes its you! not someone else on a different floor
 I mean you! they'll be breaking down your door
 Blaming you forever more

BLACK OUT

Scene FOUR – Non-Government Organisations:

Lights come up on the Extinction Rebellion's Activist office. Three young activists in dishevelled jeans and sweaters are painting placards for their next demonstration. They are angry and depressed:

Activist (1) Honestly – I don't know why we bother!

Activist (2) How much did you have to pay to get him out?

Activist (3) Hundred quid! A whole week's dole money....

Activist (1) That's robbery that is!

Activist (2) *(as the young people walk in)*. What do you want?

Youth 5 We want to join your movement!

Youth 6 We want to change the lives we're leading and learn to live more sustainably!

Activist (3) Have you any idea how hard that is?

Youth 8 No

Activist (3) It is the hardest thing that any one – anywhere – has ever tried to do?

Youth 7 Why?

Activist (1) Because you've got a \$5 trillion dollar a year fossil fuel industry whose share-holders are making massive profits from selling us the fossil fuels that are poisoning the planet!

Activist (2) You've got governments who don't give a shit about climate change because they're only elected for 5 years – and nothing really bad is going to happen in five years.

Activist (1) And the governments don't want to touch the fossil fuel industry because a good chunk of their tax revenue comes from them.

Activist (3) And you've got a \$600 Billion dollar a year Advertising industry that is suckering people into consuming far more than they could possibly need

Activist (2) And a lot of those people say they're concerned about climate change but advertisers are still able to persuade them to go on long-haul flights, buy SUVs and eat meat like it's going out of fashion.

Activist (1) I tell you, kids: we're screwed!

Youth 6 What does your banner say?

Activist (3) *(showing them)* "**There is no planet B**"

Activist (2) *(showing them)* "**People not Profit**"

Activist (1) *(showing them)* "**Make Tea Not War!**"

The young people laugh!

Youth 3 Why Tea?

Activist (3) Because fair trade tea is a sustainable crop – and it's far better to sort out our problems over a cup of tea than to go to war over them!

Activist (1) And – you see – you laughed! It's good to weave a little levity into each demonstration.

Activist (2) It stops us taking ourselves too seriously.

Youth 4 So – what have you achieved?

Activist (3) Not much.

Activist (1) We've been arrested a few times!

Activist (2) We've had a few headlines!

Activist (3) People are definitely more aware of the climate emergency than they were before we started.

Youth 5 Yes – but have they changed their behaviours?

Activist (1) Perhaps a little

Activist (2) But you see – we have no POWER: we cannot legislate.

Activist (3) Protests have a long history of failure:

Activist (1) 20 million people on the streets around the world in 2003 didn't stop the Iraq War!

Activist (2) All the Aldermaston marches didn't abolish nuclear weapons

Activist (3) And millions of people marching didn't get a People's vote on Brexit even though polls told that most people wanted one!

Youth 1 But the suffragette's got women the vote

Youth 2 Protest pretty much stopped the Vietnam War

Youth 3 - and didn't protests stop Margaret Thatcher's Poll Tax?!

Activist (2) Yes – but it didn't stop her closing all the mines...

Youth 4 That had to be done to prevent climate change

Activist (2) Yeah – but it was hardly a “just and fair transition...”

Activist (1) Face it: the media present us as left-wing loonies

Activist (3) – little different from the Trump Supporters that invaded the Capitol;

Activist (2) You should go talk to the media.

Activist (1) They have their fingers on the pulse of what people are feeling.

Activist (2) They can get into the nation’s heads every night with information;

Activist (3) That’s real power!

Youth 5 So – you think the Media are more powerful than you are?

Activist (1,2,3) Definitely!

Activist (3) You’re welcome to come on our demos – we need all the warm bodies we can get.

Activist (1) But – if you’re really after changing the world – talk to the Media. **BLACK OUT**

Entr’acte: **Song: It’s a story!** *The 3 x Activists work the phones on stage handing the phone to Youth 1 – who talks intently – while the others wait. S/he gives them the thumbs up – and they break into the song as the set is changed into a Media News Room shown on the screen behind them. The Big Desk is placed Stage Left:*

Song: It’s a story!

[\[click here for Score\]](#) [\[click here for Song - with vocals\]](#) [\[click here for Song - instrumental\]](#)

Soloist & Chorus It’s a story! We really gotta story!
 Headline Story, definitely front page news -
 Newsnight, satellite, print it right,
 Broad side, nationwide, any side!
 Front page, centre fold, get it sold!
 Extra, extra - read all about it!
 Headlines, headlines! - no doubt about it!
 Extra, extra - don't go home without it!
 Front Page!
 Build it high!
 Print it bold!
 Reach the sky!
 Make 'em shout!
 Make 'em cry!

"PEACE CHILD MEETS THE MEDIA!!"

A media executive in a bright orange shirt comes forward and shakes the hands of the students and the activists.

Media Exec. Glad to meet you! Now – as I told you – my time is precious, but so is your future. So how can we use the one to protect the other?

Youth 5 How much of your income do you get from your subscribers and how much from your advertisers?

Media Exec. That’s an interesting question: It varies – but generally, it’s about 50 : 50.

Youth 6 But for the free newspapers and commercial television, it’s 100% from advertising?

Media Exec. Right – and if you’re the BBC or a public service broadcaster, it’s 100% from taxes.

Youth 7 So – the news you choose is pretty much always influenced by the message your advertisers want to get across to the public?

Media Exec. Not really: I doubt my journalists give much thought to the advertisers when they’re writing their pieces: they want to tell the truth – get the facts straight. Make sure we don’t get sued!

Youth 8 So – why didn't you publish the UN's State of the Planet Report last month?

Media Exec. I didn't know there was one!

Youth 1 Every newspaper in the world – every media outlet got the Press Release, but less than 1% chose to publish anything about it.....

Media Exec. I have no idea – but I suspect that it didn't tell us anything that we didn't know already.

Youth 2 Is that so?! Well – it told us a whole lot that we didn't know and that your media outlets have failed to tell us.

Media Exec. Like what?

Youth 3 That your generation has run up a vast planetary overdraft that our generation has no chance of paying off.

Youth 4 That you have recklessly used up the resources of our planet in a way that will leave us, and our children and grand-children short of food, water, and the very basics that we need to live.

Youth 5 That you have allowed the human population to let rip – with massive inequalities between the rich and the poor, between north and south, male and female –

Youth 6 - and that you have casually let the Keeling Curve of Carbon Emissions rocket up to 420 parts per million that condemns us to live on a planet that's burned to a crisp by the end of this century.

Media Exec. That's terrible.

Youth 7 At least a billion people of our generation will have their lives cut short because of climate change

Media Exec. So – what do you expect me to do about it?

Youth 8 Have the decency to tell us!

Youth 1 Report endlessly and noisily on what we have to do to turn this situation around!

Youth 2 Update us every day – every week – at least every year – on how bad it is!

Youth 3 And stop filling our heads with mindless chatter about who's gotten murdered –

Youth 4 - who's in and who's out in government?

Youth 5 What film star's wearing what at an Awards Ceremony.

Youth 6 Which football club manager is next for the chop....

Media Exec. People are interested in that stuff. It's what sells newspapers – gets people to turn on their tellies!

Youth 7 I know – "If it bleeds, lead!" Well sir, our planet's bleeding – and we'd like you to take a lead on helping us to turn it around.

Media Exec. Just me?!

Youth 8 Your whole industry! Why can't you see that there's no more important news on the planet than the fact that, by the end of July, we have used up all the resources that the planet creates in a year. So – from August to December – we're living on borrowed resources.

Youth 1 We can do that for a while – but not for ever! This constant search to grow our economies and consume, consume, consume is going to destroy us.

Youth 2 And we feel that a big part of the solution is for you – and your advertisers – to start changing the news you give us.

Media Exec. We do stories on climate change all the time. It is a No.1 public concern right now.

Youth 3 But you massage their concern and at the same time as you allow your advertisers to encourage them to consumer more and more stuff!

Youth 4 There are hard solutions out there

Youth 5 – and you should be promoting them!

Youth 6 Helping people to take the difficult choices we're all going to have to make!

Media Exec. That's not my job!

Youth 7 So – what is your job?

Media Exec. To sell newspapers....

Youth 8 That's pathetic.

Media Exec. But it's the truth! Look – if you think that I, and my fellow newspaper editors can really change the world, you are just plain crazy. We feed on the actions of other people. We are locusts – sucking up the luscious tidbits of news from individuals and events around the world. We don't CREATE the news – we REPORT it. We have no POWER to change anything: we're bystanders – observers – interested parties. If you want to find out where the power lies – go talk to the military! The only real power comes out of the barrel of a gun.

Youth 1 I don't believe that.

Media Exec. Talk to them. It's been true these last 10,000 years! **BLACK OUT**

Entr'acte: [Song: It's a Military Industrial Complex](#). *The soloists and small chorus come forward to sing:*

[Song: It's a Military Industrial Complex](#)

[\[click here for Score\]](#) [\[click here for Song - with vocals\]](#)

Soloist 1 It's a military industrial complex,
Isn't it sad, the world is quite mad!
A fashionable national contest,
The biggest the best, The East and the West!

Soloist 2 Indestructible immovable object
The ego at large, a tragical farce!
Uncontrollable horrible shambles –
Such a sorrowful sight, everyone's right!

Soloists & Chorus Oh! what a hopeless case it is, No one really cares.
Oh! what a crazy world this is – No one can win this race! –
(because) The bigger they build
The faster they go
The greater the bang
Spells the end of man – !

The kids clear the media Newsroom. Regimental Flags drop from the ceiling, or appear on the video screen. The Big Desk is moved back to Stage Right, perhaps with a different, bigger chair. As the song ends, the General, in full military uniform, festooned with medals, walks on briskly and shakes hands with the youth:

General Welcome young men! – and women. I've read about your little investigation – how we can all help defend your future?! It's an interesting question – not one to which I've given much thought before. But I'm happy to give you my thoughts on the matter....

Youth 7 Can we ask you some questions first?

General Of course!

Youth 8 We've been learning about the Military Industrial Complex.

General Ah yes: "Humanity hung upon a Cross of Iron!"

Youth 6 It's a great business model, isn't it?

Youth 5 "Scare the people of each nation into thinking that villains are going to come conquer and kill them all, and so get them to spend fortunes on defending themselves against a non-existent threat."

General I don't think that you'll find many agreeing with you that the threat from Russia, China or the Taliban are "non-existent." And you've seen the threat from terrorism....

Youth 4 And you think that your tanks and your guns are keeping us safe from all that?

General I do, yes!

Youth 3 It's funny – my Gran lives in Wales in a town with a big castle and she tells how, in the old days, soldiers used to march round the castle walls to protect them all from marauding English barbarians – or whoever. Then we had national armies that fought hundred years wars across continents and built up great empires across the world. But now – it's the whole planet that's in danger! So who's going to protect the planet against us?!

General Now look! No one's doing more to protect the environment than the military! We've got tanks that run on natural gas, green boilers in all our barracks....

Youth 1 But none of that is really going to protect the planet! None of it will protect our future!

Youth 2 We've mounted a full-scale war against the natural resources of the planet – determined to squeeze the last drop of energy and resources out of it so that we can live in the lap of luxury.

Youth 3 The planet has no way of fighting back.

Youth 4 How can you help?

General I'm not sure that I can. I take my orders from the British Government – not the Planet!

Youth 5 But surely it's your job to tell the government where the biggest dangers lie?

Youth 6 And if that's from human greed and over-consumption, shouldn't you be encouraging the government to fight that – rather than some Chinese invasion force that might suddenly appear off Land's End?

General I'm not sure they'd listen to me....

Youth 7 Look, sir! You've persuaded successive governments to spend billions of pounds protecting us from enemies - whether real or imagined. Surely you can see why you must now ask the government to use you – and your wonderful soldiers – to protect us from the threat we're posing to the planet and our future.

General That's not my job!

Youth 8 That's what the last guy said to us!

Youth 1 So who's job is it?

General The government's. You need to ask them. Not me. They'd laugh at me if I even tried. I hear where you're coming from. And I have children of my own – about your age. And I worry for their future for all the reasons you've given me. So – go talk to the Cabinet Office. And tell them I sent you!

BLACK OUT

Entr'acte: [Song: Please Listen to Me](#). *The soloists and small chorus come forward to sing:*

[Song: Please Listen to Me](#)

[\[click here for Video\]](#) [\[click here for Score\]](#) [\[click here for Song - with vocals\]](#)

Soloist Please listen to me! Heed the words that I say
 We live in one world so our home is the same
 The same sun is our fire, the same clouds give us rain
 So whatever you desire our future's the same

The Big Desk is taken off stage to be replaced by anonymous couches and sofas. And the potted plant. An Anodyne waiting room slide appears on the screen. The young people sit waiting – looking bored.

Scene SEVEN – Cabinet Office:

Youth 6 Two hours!

Youth 7 How much longer do we wait?

Youth 1 Until they come. They're busy people, I guess!

Youth 2 Too busy to save our planet....

A nervous, elderly Member of Parliament (MP) in a suit hurries in from Stage Left. The kids stand to greet him/her – but s/he doesn't offer to shake their hands.

MP Are you the youth climate delegation? *(they nod)* How can I help?

Youth 1 Pass laws that ensure we have a planet left to live on by the time we're your age! *(s/he gapes)*

Youth 2 Shall we go in?

MP No, no! Let's talk here: it's a bit complicated with passes, security and so on. *(s/he fingers a security pass)*
No government has done more to tackle climate change than this one! For a start, we're introducing a comprehensive programme of climate change education that will be the best in the world.

Youth 7 Bit late for us!

Youth 8 We're just about to leave school.

Youth 1 What about some legislation that completely bans the production, sale and use of Fossil Fuels from – say – 2030?

MP Well – we're banning the manufacture of cars with internal combustion engines from 2035!

Youth 3 That's about 10% of emissions.

Youth 4 What about trucks?

Youth 5 Merchant ships?

Youth 6 Airplanes?

MP I don't think you'll find an airplane that flies without fossil fuels.

Youth 1 The industry would pretty soon create one if you made fossil fuel ones illegal!

Youth 2 What about home heating? There are plenty of ways to heat buildings that don't involve fossil fuels. In Scandinavia, you can't build a new house without a ground or air-source heat pump. Why haven't you legislated for that here?

MP Because we can't move that fast in this country. Baby steps.... That's what works here!

Youth 3 But the scale of the Climate Emergency REQUIRES that you take big strides! Don't you see that?

MP Doesn't matter what I think. It's my constituents who vote for me to be here – and I take my cues from their priorities and time-scales. You saw what happened in France when the government got ahead of the people on climate issues?

Youth 4 The Yellow Vest movement?

MP Yes – and in Australia, the labour party lost an election because people didn't like their extreme green policies.

Youth 5 I thought you were supposed to provide leadership?

MP Only if people will follow.

Youth 6 I thought the point of leadership was to make people WANT to follow?!

MP *(shrugs)* What do I know?

Youth 7 You must know that burning fossil fuels and excessive consumption by a growing human population is bringing on a perfect storm that will make it impossible for this planet to support life – and that we are the Generation that HAS to turn it around in our lifetimes.

Youth 8 You are in a position to pass legislation that will force we the peoples, business, the big institutions – EVERYONE – to live within planetary boundaries so that our children and grand-children have a fighting chance of having a planet on which to live a life that's halfway decent.

Youth 1 The question is: why haven't you done it?
 MP Because you the people – the business – the institutions haven't asked us to!
 Youth 2 You haven't tried hard enough to make us WANT to ask you!
 MP Probably because you – and the businesses – are doing just fine doing what we're all doing now.
 Youth 3 Until it isn't fine!
 Youth 4 And by then it's too late!
 Youth 5 You really don't want to lead on this stuff, do you?
 MP It's not my job!
 Youth 6 So – who's job is it?!
 MP You people! You vote for us!
 Youth 7 We didn't! We don't get to vote until we're 18!
 MP Your parents then! Or Business! The private sector: they pay the most taxes. They have the biggest research departments. They are in it for the long-term where we're only in power until the next election. Where Business leads, governments follow! Go talk to them!

BLACK OUT

Entr'acte: *Music!*

Song: Inventions.

[\[click here for Score\]](#)

Chorus Make a wheel, then spinning it round
 It may carry the world
 Make a fire – yes building it high till
 It burns to the ground
 Make a blade and call it a spade
 To dig through the earth
 Creatures of Invention – yes we are Man!
 Heading for destruction with our own hands
 Nothing can stop us
 We'll make our own star dust
 Nothing can stop us...

As the chorus starts to sing, the screen fills with images of manufacturing – steel mills, open cast mining, robot-driven car production lines etc. The Big Desk comes back, Stage Left, and th Business Leader (BizLead) comes forward watching approvingly. S/he meets the youth standing in front of the screen as the song ends:

Scene EIGHT – Business and Industry:

BizLead Correction: We are NOT “Heading for destruction with our own hands....” Any business that sows the seeds of its own demise is very unlikely to find investors these days. Not because we're all green business fanatics like me – but because they won't be profitable for very long. And if you don't make profit, you won't survive as a business....

Youth 1 So Green Business is the only game in town now?

BizLead It's not a game! – but yes! ESG investments are the fastest-growing ones at the moment.

Youth 2 ESG?

BizLead Environmental, Social and Governance. Basic ethical investment. Always surprises me that anyone would want to invest unethically – but many still do, even though the returns are not impressive.

Youth 3 So you think Business can lead the Green Transition?

BizLead Business is leading the Green Transition. We built and operated the Brown Economy. We are building, and will operate, the Green Economy. No one else can.

Youth 4 So why didn't you do it already?

BizLead How long have you got?! Business doesn't operate in isolation: we have to obey government regulations, meet the whims and desires of our customers, keep our prices competitive and fulfil our commitments to our investors and shareholders. Getting all of them to come on board with the urgency of making a green transition was a long job.

Youth 5 But which is the most important of those?

Youth 6 Not all business leaders are like you – driving the Green Transition: what would it take to make them?

BizLead Good question. Government regulation, I guess. We all tend to do what we're told by government as falling foul of the law is expensive and none of us want to end up in jail. But they're all important.

Youth 7 So – what more government regulations do we need?

Youth 8 And will they be stringent enough to get everyone to obey them?

BizLead Businesses – and shareholders – can be very bad at not obeying laws until they absolutely have to. That's why Governments have to be extremely clever, careful and imaginative. Sadly, most of the time – they are not.

Youth 1 Governments? Imaginative?! Dream on –

BizLead They can be! The Green New Deal with its Border Adjustment Mechanisms is imaginative!

Youth 2 So – what can we do to get them to be more imaginative?

BizLead Feed them better ideas; vote in clever people who support the planet-saving ideas. NEVER vote for the dunderheads who support the Fossil Fuelled Brown economy.

Youth 3 So – as far as you're concerned – there's not a problem?

Youth 4 Business is all ready to operate in a green economy –

Youth 5 - and everything would be just fine if governments would level up the playing field with some robust legislation?!

BizLead Hell no!! Everything is very far from fine! I have kids too – and I'm more aware than any of you of the mess we're leaving you to sort out! Our generation has been recklessly greedy and outrageously selfish! And Business is massively guilty of feeding that greed and selfishness. But Business is not in the business of regulating greed and selfishness. That's the job of government. And, personally, I'm pushing governments all the time to do more to regulate business to create a green economy.

Youth 6 Thank you!

Youth 7 You could self-regulate.

BizLead I could – but would anyone else? For if I was the only one – I'd most likely go out of business....

Youth 8 So what do we need to do?

BizLead I think you're wasting your time with governments: they're even more in thrall to their voters than we are to our customers. Have you talked to the United Nations?

Youth 3 Not yet.

BizLead They have more experience of getting governments to do what they really don't want to do than anyone else. I'm sorry I can't be more help but Business doesn't make the rules. Governments do!

BLACK OUT

Entr'acte: *Music. A soloist and small chorus come forward to sing: [Song: Child for a Day](#) as the large blue UN logo fades up on the screen at the back. Images of diplomats at meetings in the General Assembly Chamber, the Security Council – at briefings and the big COP meetings. We see predominantly old faces of diplomats at podiums and at desks behind their country names – negotiating, talking, talking, talking.....*

Song: Child for a Day

[\[click here for Video\]](#) [\[click here for Score\]](#) [\[click here for Song - with vocals\]](#) [\[click here for Song - instrumental\]](#)

Soloist: I was a child who ran full of laughter,
I was a child who lived for a day
My eyes full of sunshine
My heart full of smiles,
I was a child for a day -

Soloist & Chorus: We were the children who sang in the morning
We were the children who laughed at the sun
Who listened to those,
Who spoke with their wisdom
We were the ones we would say

We're getting older as time goes by
A little older every day
We were the children - of yesterday!

Scene NINE – The United Nations:

The Face of a UN Diplomat comes up on the screen – talking to the youth via skype. [You can record your own version of this scene – or use this one, which will be available on the www.peacechildthemusical.com website:

Diplomat Can you hear me?

All Yes!

Diplomat Good. So – how can I help?

Youth 1 So we know that the UN was set up in the name of “We the peoples...” and that you have been leading on the Climate Emergency for decades. Now that a big majority of We the Peoples really want more action to resolve the Climate Emergency and several of your member state governments are refusing to take that action, what more can you do to deliver for “We the Peoples....?”

Diplomat The truth is – not a lot. You the peoples don’t pay our bills – your governments do so they get to tell us what to do.

Youth 2 Can’t you at least name and shame those governments that are holding things up?

Youth 3 They are actually murdering our future

Youth 4 Murdering us – and our children!

Youth 5 Surely you can name the murderers?

Diplomat Here at the UN, we’ve learned that you cannot get people to agree with you by insulting them. Back when we created the Montreal Protocol to protect the Ozone Layer, we were able to legislate to punish those companies that continued to use damaging gasses. We cannot do that any more: we cannot pass laws, we cannot raise taxes, we can only use soldiers if member governments choose to lend them to us! We can only persuade, cajole, pester and gather facts to support our arguments.

Youth 6 So – you have no power?

Diplomat No hard power, no. But plenty of soft power – and persuasive power. Look at this picture of our Secretary General – up to his knees in the sea on what was once dry land in the Pacific Island of Tuvalu, now threatened with disappearing because of climate change.

Youth 7 So – what can we the peoples – especially we the Young peoples – do to protect our future?

Diplomat Many things – particularly now as we have a Secretary General who feels young people are so important. He gave a full day of the last Climate Summit to them in Glasgow last year. What you have to understand is that there are basically 3 x UNs:

1. We the Secretariat: the Staff – we have incredible freedom to develop and propose ideas to our Member governments, talking to people like you as I am now;
2. The member states: the governments who set up and own the organisation;

3. Civil Society – all of you! the Non-Government Organisations and community groups who meet and lobby here at our UN offices. You can be part of that!

Youth 8 Can you point at a single instance where UN3 has persuade UN2 to do something they didn't want to do?

Diplomat It doesn't work like that: we try not to fight like rats in a sack here. UN3 proposes an idea to UN1 – and we try to work by consensus and diplomacy to get UN2 to agree. Collaboration and consensus is what works, we find!

Youth 1 But where's leadership in all that? If a car's heading over a cliff edge and going to kill all the passengers – someone's got to grab the wheel and cry: "This way!"?

Diplomat Yes.

Youth 2 Well – surely we're in that position now?!

Diplomat I would agree but –

Youth 3 "It's not your job to do anything about that...."?

Diplomat Exactly. It's way above my pay grade!

Youth 4 You have no power.

Diplomat Right.

Pause – silence. Then one of the Youth screams in frustration. Others join him.her.

Youth 5 *(screams)* Aaa-aaa-argh!! Aaa-aaa-argh!! Aaa-aaa-argh!!

Youth 6 & 7 *(joining)* Aaa-aaa-argh!! Aaa-aaa-argh!! Aaa-aaa-argh!!

As the Youth start screaming primal screams, louder and louder, the Advertising Executive, the Activists, the Media Executive, the General, the MP and the Business Leader [known collectively as "The Interlocutors"] come back on stage. They repeat the same line, over and over in different ways as if trying to persuade themselves:

Advertiser *(repeats)* The planet doesn't pay my bills – it doesn't put food on my children's table!

Activist (1) *(repeats)* We have no POWER!

Activist (2) *(repeats)* We cannot legislate.

Activist (3) *(repeats)* Protests have a long history of failure

Media Exec. *(repeats)* That's not my job!

General *(repeats)* That's not my job! I take my orders from the British Government – not the Planet!

MP *(repeats)* It's not my job! What do I know?

BizLead *(repeats)* I could self-regulate – but would anyone else? I'd go out of business....

Diplomat *(On the Screen - repeats)* No Hard power - No Hard power - No Hard power -

The primal screams continue as the interlocutors keep parroting why they cannot do anything. Into this cacophony walks the MC, sssh-ing them. As they quieten down, s/he addresses the audience. House lights come up

MC They're OK: they're just acting. Over-acting perhaps! But they know the end of the story. We know that it all turned out OK in the end. You don't – so why aren't you screaming with them?! Why are you just sitting there, po-faced, while the planet is crumbling around you?! Don't you get that it's hopeless, don't you? Don't you? *(continues until the audience respond, "YES!" But – if some one says, "No! – it's all fine! The government's got it all sorted..." – the MC and some of the Youth stop primal screaming and start a direct dialogue with that member of the audience, encouraging others to join in. Otherwise – the MC continues easing into the World Café / Forum Theatre dialogues thus):*

Audience *(loudly)* YES!!

MC *(walking out into the audience)* So what are you going to do about it? Aren't you ashamed to bring your children on to this shrivelled, dried-out husk of a planet? My Daddy always told me that the only

purpose in life was to leave the planet a better place than you found it. And you're leaving it in a worse state! MUCH Worse! You're basically killing it. Aren't you ashamed? Mortified?!!

Youth 1 *(Following the MC into the audience)* What you gonna do about it?

Youth 2 *(joining)* We really really want to know?!

The screaming stops – the UN Diplomat on the screen is switched off and the Forum Slide comes up with its question: “What are YOU going to do?” The Youth and interlocutors join the audience at their tables and start engaging in one-on-one and group dialogues with them. They talk softly so that the MC can be heard.

MC That's why we set you up at tables! It's not Dinner Theatre! We're not going to serve you a 3-course banquet – but we can bring you a glass of wine – or coffee, tea, water, soft drinks. And, if you need a loo, this is the time to go as we're not having an interval. But mainly – we want you to talk to us: we really want to hear your ideas from back in 2022! How do you think you're going to get yourselves out of this mess you've gotten yourselves into?? Maybe you'll have some of the same ideas as those that actually saved you! Maybe history will be made tonight! But talk to us – please! That's what we're here for – to learn from you what it was really like back then, so that we don't have to repeat the same mistakes that you, or your governments and institutions, clearly made back then.

Scene TEN – The World Café:

For about 10-15-20 minutes, the cast chat to the audience, gathering their ideas, taking notes on the question:

“WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THE MESS WE FIND OURSELVES IN?”

It's up to each cast member how far they want to drop the mask – and admit that they are from 2022 as well. But it works if they maintain the fiction that they are from 2075 and we know the problems will be solved – we've just got to work out how? BUT – they cannot give away the last scenes of the story: they must question / probe / challenge the audience's ideas because – who knows? – there will likely be audience members who come up with better ideas than the one scripted here. In which case, casts should feel free to improvise the audience's solutions – not the one scripted here. But we would counsel against this – until you have done several performances of your scripted – or hopefully re-scripted – version.

The best you can do is to weave some of the lines you've heard from the audience into Scene ELEVEN – using the Base Script template set out that follows.

The MC wanders amongst the audience, listening in on the conversations. Some of the young cast members talk alone, some in pairs or threesomes with the audience. All, we hope, have animated, spirited dialogues about what they've learned from the play so far – and what they think must happen to bring us back to the happy ending we started with in 2075.

We ease back into the play by the song, either sung live, or via the Video on the screen at the back of stage:

[Song: We want this world to survive for ever](#)

[\[click here for Video\]](#) [\[click here for Score\]](#) [\[click here for Song - with vocals\]](#) [\[click here for Song - instrumental\]](#)

Soloist(*sings softly*) All the time through the day and through the night
I think about my life in this world
So many times I've tried to find
A way to live my life - A way to ease my mind

I know this world could die forever
And people are the reason why
Children and parents, lovers and poets
We just can't hear our planet cry!

Small Chorus (*sings softly*) We want this world to survive forever
And all the people
Join their hands together
In a bond of love, kindness and friendship
We can make peace with the earth

*During this first part of the song, the Cast gather up their notes – and start heading back to the stage. **The House lights slowly go down.** By the end, they're all together on stage, youth and interlocutors, singing the final chorus:*

Soloist (*sings*) So many people have died in wars
And we want that no one else should suffer - not again
We mustn't forget that many are poor
And half of our children lack even food!

We know this world is a wonderful place
It's our home - where we live and where we grow!
I want to believe that this world can be
Peaceful, free - and happy home for all

Full Cast (*sings*) We want this world to survive forever
And all the people join their hands together
In a bond of love kindness and friendship
We can make peace with the earth.

Let's join our hands together
Let's make Peace throughout our World!

THE HOUSE LIGHTS ARE FINALLY EXTINGUISHED

Scene ELEVEN – The Global Strike:

The MC returns to the stage as the song ends and the cast forms a circle around him/her:

MC So – what have we learned?

The Youth and Interlocutors consult their notes and relay key findings – words, phrases, appeals, ideas – that they've heard from the audience. The MC improvises a reaction, possibly along the lines: "You're going to have to do a whole lot more than that – it's far worse than you think..." Or "It's bad – but not THAT bad! You don't have to go THAT far..." S/he attempts to summarise any consensus thinking s/he sees emerging from the comments. If you want, you can get a cast member to type up key phrases on the video screen at back of stage.

Because the Peace Child play is often performed by faith communities – in Churches, Church Schools, Quaker Meeting Houses, Synagogues, Temples, buildings dedicated to different faiths, we invite people of all faiths and of none to consider adding input from a sector NOT visited by the youth in Part ONE: a Faith leader. In this Base Script, we use the MC. But it can be A N other character s/he introduces. Or you can leave it out completely & skip straight to "Make your mind up time!" We urge you to make the choice with the young members of your cast!

MC (*after summarising the audience points*) So who or what are we missing here?

Youth 5 You know who I think we should be hearing from - ?

MC Who?

Youth 5 ... No – it's silly... Sorry!

MC No come on! Tell us! Sometimes the silliest ideas have a seed of truth that grows into a solution!

Youth 5 Well – I think the voice that's missing in all this is the voice of the Planet itself.

Silence

Youth 5 Don't laugh!

MC I don't hear anybody laughing. For you're absolutely right: what we're missing here is the Voice of Mother Earth – Nature! – The Planet itself. Because I'm a person of faith, I'd call it the Voice of God. We often ask: "What would Jesus do?" Perhaps we should ask: "What would God have us do?"

Youth 5 What would the Planet have us do?

MC Exactly

Youth 1 But – how can we possibly know?

Youth 2 We can't!

Youth 3 So – it's not rational!

MC Neither is faith – but 80% of the human family still live by it. Atheists are still very much a minority.

Youth 4 So what would you say God would do?

MC Have Faith!! Don't give up! Believe in the power of people and the planet to sort this out.

Youth 5 I think the Planet would just say: "Stop hurting me!"

Youth 6 Yeah! I'd be pretty pissed if I was the Planet – or God: "I give you all this great beautiful gift of nature's bounty to enjoy and live on – and you just waste it - polluting everything with your smoke and rubbish.... Clean up your act or I'm going to make you extinct!"

MC That's the biggest danger, isn't it? That the next great extinction will be us?! But I don't believe that God put us on earth to wipe us off it. That's the essence of Faith. It's not in some imaginary God. It's Faith in life. In this planet – in the earth beneath our feet – in the inherent goodness of the people we find around us. *(Music starts)* If we cling to that Faith – I know we can solve these problems.....

[Song: I Believe](#)

[\[click here for Video\]](#) [\[click here for Score\]](#) [\[click here for Song - with vocals\]](#)

MC 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!

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

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!

Cast 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 -

MC I believe
Cast - Yes we believe
MC I believe
Cast - Yes we believe
ALL We believe in this His land!

Youth 1 So – It's "Make your mind up time!" What are we going to DO?

Youth 2 We've learned we can't blame one single sector.

Youth 3 We can't blame God or the Planet?

Youth 4 Blame's no part of the solution: we're all complicit!

Youth 5 What's "Complicit"?

Youth 6 It means: we're all equally responsible!

Youth 5 "Complicit." I like that! I'm "Complicit!"

Youth 7 *(to the MC)* – Are you complicit?

MC Of course I am! Probably more than any of you!

Youth 8 (to the Interlocutors) – Are you complicit?

Interlocutors (All together - ashamed) – Yes!

Youth 1 (to the audience) – What about you guys? Would you agree that you’re complicit? (pushes them until s/he gets a hesitant “YES!”)

Youth 2 You can really agree on the proposition that we’re all equally responsible for the mess we’re in?

Audience YES!!

ALL Cast Louder!

Audience (Hollering!) YES!!

Youth 1 Thank you! So – we’re now going to do what people down the centuries have done when faced with leaders determined to do the WRONG thing: we’re going to withdraw our labour. We’re going to say: **“NO! – we’re not going to be complicit in the crime you are committing against Mother Earth – against our children, our grand-children and all future generations.”**

So –

- Until you stop what you’re doing and deposit legal instruments at the United Nations committing your nation to Net Zero targets by – say – 2030; – and –
- Until your business writes letters to all its shareholders explaining that all its products and processes will be 100% net zero from – say – 2030; – and –
- Until your schools put Ecological literacy and Planetary Regeneration at the heart of every curriculum – and –
- You introduce Personal Carbon Budgets for every human being on the planet -

We are -

- Not going to work for you – and –
- Not going to pay taxes to your governments or go to your schools or universities – and –
- Not going to obey your laws or buy your goods or do anything you tell us.

Because, as Martin Luther King said: “We all have a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws” – and laws and subsidies don’t come much more unjust than those that deny us the right to a future!

Youth 2 Do you understand what we’re saying here?

Youth 3 Do you all know about Personal Carbon Budgets?

Interlocs (The interlocutors – and audience – look blank) No!

Youth 4 But – it’s the basis of everyone’s Tax code!!

Youth 5 It is now! It wasn’t back then! You’ll have to explain it to them....

Youth 6 Me?!

Youth 1 OK – I’ll do it: to keep the planet safe, we can only emit a certain amount of carbon. BUT – because the average American emits 200 times more carbon than the average Ethiopian, Americans – and Europeans, the Japanese – All the rich people have to buy Personal Carbon credits from the poor people! That way – we solve the problem of climate change and reduce rampant inequalities across the planet.

Youth 8 Simple, isn’t it?

Youth 1 Well – it was to us! And it is to everybody now – but back then, they thought it the work of the Devil. But it’s fair, isn’t it?

Youth 2 It surely is NOT fair for one set of people to emit 200 times more carbon than another?

Youth 3 That’s what we’ve got to stop!

Youth 4 We’re deadly serious.

Youth 5 We’re none of us going back to work until we have stopped it.

Youth 6 This isn’t just kids – it’s all of us!

Youth 7 We're all COMPLICIT!

Youth 8 So - Are you with us?

All *(severally – coming down to join the audience at their tables)* Please stand up if you're with us.

The Global Strike slide comes up on the Screen at the Back – and the cast move amongst the audience – urging each of them to stand up for the Future. As the MC speaks, they stay with the audience, watching as countries start to join – and the Global Strike slide dissolves into the Map of the world slowly going red.



“WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UN GLOBAL STRIKE FOR THE FUTURE”

PLEASE STAND – IF YOU'D JOIN A GLOBAL STRIKE TO SAVE YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE –

MC It took a while, but the power of social media and the recognition that this was all of us pulling together for LIFE – for saving the planet's resources for future generations – meant that everyone eventually got involved.



Music starts – and the upbeat mood continues as more and more countries join – more and more of the audience stand – urged by the cast who all sing the chorus from down with the audience – building to a joyous climax.

[Song: World - Part II](#)

[\[click here for Video\]](#) [\[click here for Score\]](#) [\[click here for Song - with vocals\]](#) [\[click here for Song - instrumental\]](#)

Cast *(all together in a great shout!)*

Can't you see the tide is changing?
Don't you see the people rising?
Children coming out from under
Slowly rising with the thunder

Listen to the striking people
Demanding LIFE and emphasising
Human rights – the road to follow
Leading to a great tomorrow

Don't you see the people changing?
The Natural World regenerating?
Conservation has been crowned
Toxic Greed and Madness drowned!

World – look at what we can be!
Look at what we've achieved
Look at what we can do!
Life! – look at how we will live!
Look at how love will rule
Look at the Peace we've made!

Gone, gone are all those painful days
Gone are all the hate-filled ways
Love and peace are here to stay
And all life is growing
Our world is shining – today!



Onstage, the Interlocutors are huddled downstage Left – persuading the reluctant MP to listen. Finally, s/he agrees – and they all high five each other. The Media Executive in his orange shirt comes forward as their spokesman. The kids applaud – and encourage the audience to do so as well. The Media Executive holds up his hand for silence:

Media Exec. This is a truly momentous day for Humanity – a day which, had we gone on as we were, could have taken us 20 – 30 – even 50 years to get to. Now – after the intervention of these courageous young people, I am pleased to say that we in the private sector, our friends in the education / academic and scientific research sector and all our friends in the civil society, peace, human rights and other sectoral movements around the world – have come together. And – by superhuman lobbying and negotiation, we’ve been able to persuade almost all the UN’s Member State Governments to make the transition to a 100% Net Zero GREEN Economy by 2030 – AT THE LATEST!!

Whoops and cheers from the Cast(- and, we hope, from the audience!) + boos from some of the Interlocutors. The Advertiser holds up his hand again:

Media Exec. Now – we know there are some dissenting voices. There are even some who think that Climate Change is a good thing and that we should let it rip. But – I tell you guys: you’re on the wrong side of History. Fossil Fuels would have run out anyway before the end of the next century – and then you would have HAD to do what we’re asking you to do now.

Youth 1 We’re just asking you to do it a little earlier so we don’t fry the planet. It’s called “Common Sense”....

Youth 2 It’s also called “Democracy.” When a majority wants something done, even if you don’t like it , you have to let it go. Move on and if it was a mistake, future generations can correct it.

Youth 3 But this isn’t a mistake. I look forward to bringing up my kids and grand-kids in a clean, green world powered for free from the sun, the wind and the waves!

Youth 4 No longer will we cough and splutter by breathing air polluted by smoke from chimneys and fossil fuel driven cars and trucks!

Youth 5 No longer will we have to worry that, just by being here, we’re causing our planet Pain!

Youth 6 No longer will we seek to dominate Nature; rather we shall seek to live in harmony with Nature – as we seek to live in love and harmony will all living beings with whom we share this lovely planet.

Youth 7 And no longer will we seek to satisfy every longing through retail therapy or consumption or excess. Greed and Gluttony will become to us distant memories. Like slavery, torture and nuclear weapons, they are buried on the ash heap of history.

Youth 8 And we will learn to celebrate this day – the UN’s Birthday, October 24th – every year from now until the end of time, to remind ourselves to keep these promises.....

Entr’acte: *Music. The children come forward to sing: [Song: If you Close your Eyes](#). The opening slide comes back on the Video Screen. The Youth clear the stage as the children sing.*



UNITED NATIONS DAY FESTIVAL

24TH OCTOBER 2075

[Song: If you Close your Eyes](#)

[\[click here for Score\]](#) [\[click here for Song - instrumental\]](#)

Children’s Chorus Now if you close your eyes
You can be what you want

And if you close your eyes
You can feel deep in your soul.
Don't you see, it's your destiny.
Don't you see it was meant to be.

It's happening everywhere
People waking up
Together facing a great new dawn
Reaching out for love

Do you believe in miracles
Have faith in things unseen
Take a good look around you now
No! No it's not a dream!

So open up your eyes and fly
Beyond the skies
And open up your mind
You can see beyond your dreams
Now open up your heart
And behold – a brand new YOU!!

Scene TWELVE – Peace Day 2075:

The MC comes forward, congratulating the actors.

MC Well done, team. *(to the children)* I think they deserve a round of applause, don't you?

They clap – which, hopefully, the audience joins in with.

MC Any questions?

Child 1 I still don't quite understand why the Personal Carbon Budgets were so important?

Child 2 They hardly matter nowadays.

MC That's because hardly any one uses carbon any more. We know it poisons the planet – and we've learned we cannot do that. You wouldn't put poison in your body, would you?! So – why would anyone put poison into the planet?

Child 3 They must have been really stupid back then?

Child 4 How could anyone have been that crazy?

Child 5 Not just anyone: ALL of them!

Child 6 Right! Everyone was doing it!

MC Well – now they know! *(pointing to the audience)*

Child 7 These people do! But – is that enough?

MC It is if they go back and tell the others.

Child 8 Will you?

Expect a few mumbles – or silence. The MC improvises a response to how ever they react, along these lines:

MC Thank you! Because the rules of time travel demand that you go back. Many time travellers, seeing the clean green world we live in now, beg to be allowed to stay here. But that's not how it works. You have to struggle, as we did, to get yourselves here. Do you think you can do that?!

Hopefully, a few more enthusiastic mumbles. The rest of the Youth Cast come forward, interacting with the audience, working up the people they talked to in the World Café

Youth 1 You can do better than that.

Youth 2 C'mon! You surely can't be happy living this shitty lie?

Youth 3 Are you?

Youth 4 I wouldn't be! Those screams were real for me!

Youth 5 Me too!

Youth 6 Not just me! The whole planet was screaming through me!

Youth 7 "GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER!!"

Youth 8 "How can you be so stupid??!!"

Youth 1 Please – tell me you get it now!?

Activist (1) You have to!

Activist (2) That's what I learned! We have to work together!

Activist (3) I never believed that I would be working with Advertising executives, or Business Leaders! But I love them now! We're good friends, aren't we –

BizLead I made you God Father to my daughter....

Youth 2 There you go! Love and Harmony – NOT Blame and Domination....

MC That – and a recognition that you don't have to wait until your 18th Birthday to make a real difference in the world.

Youth 3 *(to the MC)* Respect Bro'! You probably made a bigger difference before your 18th Birthday than you ever have since?!

MC Absolutely true in my case! That's why I listen to you young people!

Child 1 Will you all do that for us?

Waits for the audience to respond. The cast are now spread around the auditorium – They encourage the individual audience members sitting close to them.

Cast *(severally)* C'mon – you can do better than that! It's your future too! Support us! Please etc....

MC You will! That's what will save you!

The Audience finally stand and clap – say YES! – show their support in some way!

Child 1 *(responding)* Thank you! Let's Sing!

MC Come on – all of you! Let's Sing! Let's celebrate this clean, green wonderful world we're living in now – the world in which you will soon be joining us!

Child 1 Go for it!

Music starts – the cast stand amongst the audience. They hand out song sheets and encourage them to sing too:

Song: SING!

[\[click here for Score\]](#) [\[click here for Song - with vocals\]](#) [\[click here for Song - instrumental\]](#)

Cast *(with the audience!)* Sing! I do wish the world would sing!
 I do wish the world would say
 How they love to live and play
 How they need each other's

 Peace! – that is all we want to have
 That is all we want to share,
 Let us live our lives in peace,
 Oh let us give this life a chance to –

 Love! – love is all I need,
 Love is all I want,
 Love is everywhere –

Peace! – peace is all I want,
Peace is all I need,
Peace – everywhere

Love! – it will help us all to sing, It will teach us all to dance,
I do wish the world would sing,
I do wish the world would –

Say! – how they love to live in Peace How they love to sing and dance,
All we need is one more chance,
Won't you give us one more chance to – *(repeat)*

Some of the Cast stay in the audience – singing the Choir ONE part with them. The rest of cast go back on stage singing the Choir TWO part with the on-stage Chorus and soloists. It all builds to a big climax and tableau:

Choir ONE

Come into my Joy!
Come into my Pain!
Come – you be a friend of mine
I'll be the same!

Peace – peace is all I want,
Peace is all I need,
Peace – everywhere!

Choir TWO

Love – Love is all I need,
Love is all I want,
Love is everywhere

Come into my joy!
Come into my pain!
Come – you be a friend of mine,

Choirs ONE & TWO *(together!)*

I'll be the same!

THE END