

Sept. 18_ FREE Climate Futures Workshop and Public Reading of New Play *2191* at UB

The University at Buffalo community is warmly invited to attend a **free, public event** exploring climate futures, artificial intelligence, and storytelling through both hands-on engagement and a live performance reading.

On **September 18, 2026**, participants are invited to join a **Scenario Planning for Climate Futures Workshop** followed by a public reading of *2191*, a powerful new play by playwright **Dr. Bella Poynton**.

Event Details

Date: September 18, 2026

Location: Katharine Cornell Theatre, Ellicott Complex, North Campus, University at Buffalo

- 85 Hamilton Rd, Amherst, NY 14228

Scenario Planning for Climate Futures Workshop - 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Led by **Andrea Harder**, PhD Candidate in the Department of Environment and Sustainability, this interactive workshop introduces participants to **Exploratory Scenario Planning (XSP)**, a collaborative method used to help communities prepare for the uncertain impacts of climate change. Participants will work in small groups to develop plausible future scenarios for the Buffalo region and explore strategies that can strengthen community resilience. The workshop is designed to be accessible to participants from a wide range of backgrounds, and no prior experience is required.

Complimentary Pizza Supper - 5:30 PM to 6:00 PM

All attendees are invited to enjoy a free pizza supper between programs. Registration for the event is required.

Public Reading of *2191* - 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Presented by playwright **Dr. Bella Poynton** and director **Dr. Eero Laine**, alongside members of the cast, this staged reading offers audiences an early look at a new work that will receive its debut production as part of the University at Buffalo Department of Theatre and Dance season, **April 1-4, 2027**.

About *2191*

Set in a climate-altered future, *2191* follows Fleur, a lone traveler searching for her missing brother while guided by three interconnected AI systems. As anti-AI sentiment escalates and survival becomes increasingly precarious, Fleur journeys toward the last viable freshwater sources along the Great Lakes. Along the way, she confronts a troubling reality: the same technologies keeping her alive may have helped bring about the collapse of the world she inhabits. Please be advised that *2191* contains depictions of violence, murder, and societal collapse. The play also includes strong language and themes related to mental health distress, loss, and survival.

Presenters

Andrea Harder

- PhD Candidate, Department of Environment and Sustainability, University at Buffalo
- Facilitator, Scenario Planning for Climate Futures Workshop

Dr. Bella Poynton

- Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre, SUNY Oswego
- Playwright, *2191*

Dr. Eero Laine

- Associate Professor, Department of Theatre and Dance, University at Buffalo
- Director, *2191*

Sponsoring Organizations

SUNY Academic Innovation Grant: *Climate Preparedness through the Performing Arts in the Age of AI*

Great Lakes Climate Theatre Initiative

UB Department of Theatre and Dance

UB Department of Environment and Sustainability

UB Climate Futures Humanities Institute Working Group

Admission

This event is free and open to the public, but registration is requested.

Register here:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/glcti/2385665>

Questions about the Scenario Planning Workshop can be directed to: amharder@buffalo.edu

Questions about *2191* can be directed to: eerolain@buffalo.edu

General inquiries: lk2@buffalo.edu

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