

# Toward a Climate Haven



**What:** *Toward a Climate Haven* Public Program; Free Admission

**Where:** University at Buffalo Center for the Arts Drama Theatre

**When:** May 11, 2024 from 4pm-5pm

## About the Program

*Toward a Climate Haven* is a project blending sustainability science with performance art to address Western New York's role as a potential climate refuge amid its own climate uncertainties. This program is brought to you by the Department of Environment and Sustainability and the Department of Theatre and Dance.

The **one-hour May 11** program includes:

- An overview of the “Erie County Community Climate Action Plan” from Sustainability Coordinator Tracy Skalski.
- A reading of climate narratives from the *Imagining Futures Workshop* presented by Kacey Stewart and Tori Lannon with Lindsay Martinez, with a certificate ceremony to follow.
- A new play, *An Unlikely Refuge*\* by Bella Poynton, directed by Eero Laine, premieres with a workshop production featuring actors Connor Graham, P.K. Fortson, Lily Jones, and Reumann.  
\**An Unlikely Refuge* was commissioned by the *Toward a Climate Haven* research team and is made possible by the [SPARC](#) (Seed Projects in Arts and Sciences Research and Creative Activities) program in the UB College of Arts and Sciences.
- A Q & A with the *Toward a Climate Haven* researchers and the *An Unlikely Refuge* creative team.

## Who

The ***Toward a Climate Haven*** research team includes Professor Tim Chevral, Assistant Professor Susan Clark, and Postdoctoral Associate Kacey Stewart from the Department of Environment and Sustainability, and Professor Lynne Koscielniak and Associate Professor Eero Laine from the Department of Theatre and Dance.

## ***An Unlikely Refuge* Creative Team**

Playwright: Bella Poynton

Director: Eero Laine

Set and Lighting Designer: Lynne Koscielniak

Costume Designer: Catherine F. Norgren

Sound and Projection Designer: Nicholas Quinn

Company and Stage Manager: Ally Hasselback

Technical Director: Jon Shimon

Assistant Stage Manager: Faith Marsala\*

Associate Set Designer, Charge Scenic Artist, and Props Manager: Jennifer Lynn Carter

Associate Lighting Designer, Programmer, Board Op: Ethan Borrok\*

Assistant to the Costume Designer/Wardrobe Supervisor: Moth Medina\*

Associate Sound and Projection Designer and Board Op: Noah Beckwith\*

Dresser: Lisa Gallagher\*

Fly Captain: Ashtyn Rozenberg\*

Fly/Deck Crew Member: Elle Dixon\*

Props Run Crew: Chris Ochman\*

\* Student theatre design/tech/management collaborators work across areas including, but not limited to, design studio work, fabrication processes, and run crew.

Technical Support: Tom Burke, Cindy Darling, Rick Haug, and additional contributions from the CFA Technical Staff  
Environment and Sustainability Dramaturgs: Holly Buck, Tim Chevral, Susan Clark, Nicholas Rajkovich, and Kacey Stewart

***An Unlikely Refuge Cast*** (in order of appearance)

Refugee 1: Connor Graham

Refugee 2: Lily Jones

Riverkeeper/Watercarrier: P.K. Fortson

Snow Traveler/Gardener/Woman: Reumann

Understudy: Naomi Graham

**Looking Ahead**

*Toward a Climate Haven: Preparing for Climate Change in the Great Lakes Region by Combining Performance and Science* aims to foster public engagement and planning through activities, theatrical works, and publications, focusing on creating a socially just and ecologically sustainable community in Buffalo, a projected "climate haven" for climate migrants. This May 11, 2024 program is a first offering and a chance to workshop *An Unlikely Refuge* which will be further developed and included in a fall 2024 CAS Event.