



# The Artist and the Earth: Our Role in Confronting Climate Change

February 8, 2021 | 7:00PM  
Held online via Zoom



HB Studio presents

# HB Public Conversation The Artist and the Earth: Our Role in Confronting Climate Change

Artists and climate activists Tim Guinee and Amanda Quaid host a presentation and discussion on the climate crisis amid the pandemic and the artist's role in confronting it.

**February 8, 2021**

**7:00 PM**

with:

Tim Guinee

Amanda Quaid

Edith Meeks, Executive & Artistic Director

Lauren Ritter, Production Manager

Lorraine de Silva, Zoom Tech



**NYC** Cultural  
Affairs



Support for HB Studio's online programs is provided by the Noel Coward Foundation

This program is supported in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and many generous supporters.



*"Dazzled by our own creations, we have forgotten that we are wholly embedded in a much older, more powerful world whose constancy we take for granted... Averse to even the smallest changes, we have now set the stage for environmental deviations that will be larger and less predictable than any we have faced before."*

—Marcia Bjornerud, *Timefulness* © 2018, Princeton University Press

Dear Friends,

It is February, and we are approaching a full year of living day to day with a global pandemic. It has revealed in stark terms deep flaws in our social structures; and as well, the fragility of our relationship to this earth. As busy self-interested humans, we have placed ourselves at the center of the drama, at the center of the earth's narrative. The pandemic exposes the holes in our thinking, as does the deepening crisis of climate change.

The pandemic has had a huge impact on the community of artists, on our lives and practices, our employment and our work. Can we take the magnitude of this lived experience we are all sharing, as an indication of the effects we will continue to experience as a consequence of climate change? And acknowledge too how differently those impacts are distributed across boundaries of race, class, geography?

Even amidst the horror and the loss, this year we have found moments of joy and possibility. So when we are able to return to work, to working in theaters and rehearsal spaces – what then? Are we returning to the same goals and practices, or what do we imagine artistic practice can be, should be? What's different now? What should we be doing differently?

We cannot afford to turn away from the magnitude of the climate emergency. I think there are a lot of us, and we are rather expressive, not to mention resilient and adaptable, so if we are well informed and engaged, and we use the skills and tools we have as artists to grasp the situation and to talk about it, we can help build momentum and support for the hard, determined, creative, collaborative work that so urgently needs to be done.

Our guests tonight, Tim Guinee and Amanda Quaid, have made an ardent commitment through The Climate Reality Project and through Tim's group, The Climate Actors, to raise awareness about the evolving crisis. We are grateful that they are here to talk with us about a way forward tonight, and we are grateful that you have joined us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edith Meeks', with a stylized, flowing script.

Edith Meeks  
Executive & Artistic Director



### **Tim Guinee**

Tim Guinee is the founder of the Climate Actors and a leader in former Vice President Al Gore's Climate Reality Project. He has given climate change presentations all over the United States as well as in Canada and North Africa. He enjoys giving talks to oppositional and underserved audiences including to such diverse groups as conservative fire departments, Houston oil industry executives, and maximum security inmates. He serves on the leadership council of Riverkeeper, the board of the Ashokan Center (New York's oldest center for environmental education), the board of Green Product Placement and the advisory board of the Climate Institute. Professionally, he is an actor and director. He has appeared in over 200 movies (including SWEET LAND - the first carbon neutral independent feature film), mini-series and episodes of television and another couple hundred plays.



### **Amanda Quaid**

Amanda Quaid's New York credits include: Broadway: EQUUS. Off-Broadway: PERICLES (Public Theater, Actors Equity Bayfield Award for outstanding performance in Shakespeare), LUCK OF THE IRISH (Lincoln Center, Lucille Lortel nomination), THE (CURIOUS CASE OF THE) WATSON INTELLIGENCE (Playwrights Horizons, world premiere), COCK (US premiere), THE SEAGULL (Culture Project, dir. Max Stafford-Clark), THE ILLUSION (Signature, dir. Michael Mayer), A PUBLIC READING OF AN UNPRODUCED SCREENPLAY ABOUT THE DEATH

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OF WALT DISNEY (Soho Rep, world premiere), GALILEO opposite F. Murray Abraham (CSC), HAPPY HOUR (Atlantic, world premiere by Ethan Coen), THE WITCH OF EDMONTON (Red Bull), and three plays at Irish Rep, most recently THE WEIR. Regional: ENGAGEMENTS (Barrington Stage, world premiere), TIME AND THE CONWAYS (Old Globe), Vivie in MRS. WARREN'S PROFESSION (Shakespeare Theatre), Rosalind in AS YOU LIKE IT (Folger), Juliet in ROMEO AND JULIET (Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival). Film/ TV:I'M DYING UP HERE (Showtime), MASTERS OF SEX (Showtime), ENGLISH (also writer/director), NON-STOP, BLUE BLOODS, LAW & ORDER: SVU. Raised in Greenwich Village, Amanda began her acting training at HB Studio at age 16 with Edward Morehouse. She received her BA in English from Vassar College.