

Shapeshifter Productions, a dynamic UK performing arts charity, has been changing people's lives through music and the arts since 2007. We are collaborating with Gaia's Company to present the 'Gaia and the Globe' project, a three year exciting and vital theatre/music/education programme based on the science of Gaia and it's cultural implications which aims to bring the Gaia world view to the widest possible audience.

In 1988 James Lovelock, the British scientist and originator of Gaia Theory, the science which explains how the natural systems on the planet function and have evolved, wrote this in the introduction to his second book, 'The Ages of Gaia': *"In Gaia we are just another species, neither the owners nor the stewards of this planet. Our future depends much more upon a right relationship with Gaia than with the never-ending drama of human interest."* (p14). If humanity is to thrive as a species, says Lovelock, there is a clear choice between two ways of behaving which are based on radically different world views.

Most recently, the '*never-ending drama of human interest*' has brought us the war in Ukraine, the climate crisis, the anthropocene, increasing poverty and inequality, persecution of minorities, misogyny, homophobia, the refugee crisis, and the social problems related to the covid pandemic, not to mention bio-diversity loss and environmental degradation on a global scale. The patterns, dynamics and characteristics of Gaian systems provide an all-inclusive referential framework for the various initiatives being undertaken to tackle these problems. However, most ordinary people have not come across the Gaia world view and are not aware that there is a unifying scientific vision which can inspire our transition towards a '*right relationship with Gaia*'.

At the heart of the project is a play with songs called 'Gaia and the Globe', written and composed by Peter Horton, of Gaia's Company, which is a multi-layered, interactive theatre and music event. Based firmly on the work of both Lovelock and his main collaborator, the microbiologist Lynn Margulis, it is a vibrant and entertaining celebration of James Lovelock's original Gaia vision and explores the basic shift in perception which is implicit in Gaia Theory. The wider project includes community events and interactive workshops in schools.

'Gaia and the Globe' is an all encompassing experience using science, education and the arts to challenge, inform and transform. We are preparing for the launch of the project in September, having received Arts Council England funding for a ten day R&D session, hosted by the Global Systems Institute at Exeter University. We have also submitted an ACE NPO application which includes 'Gaia and the Globe' as a three year project aiming to link people, partners and communities nationwide, culminating by Year 3 as a global project touring independently in an immersive performance and educational installation.

The latest IPCC report tells us that 'it's now or never' if we are to tackle climate change and that we will have to 'make drastic changes to how we live our lives'. 'The 'Gaia and the Globe' project is at the forefront of explaining how we might create a more inclusive, equitable, exciting and fulfilling way of organising our lives by understanding how the planetary system really works.

If you feel that it is vital that more people know about the exciting possibilities which are encompassed in the Gaia world view and would like to contribute to the funding of the project, or would like further information, please contact:

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