

Lilli Geissendorfer appointed as Theatre Green Book Director

Theatre Green Book UK, the grassroots initiative that sets common standards for sustainable theatre across all areas of theatre practice and operation, is delighted to announce that Lilli Geissendorfer will take on the newly created role of Director.

Thanks to funding from Arts Council England, along with support from The Foyle Foundation, Lilli has been engaged as the Director to build on the success of the Theatre Green Book and take it on the next stage of its development. The funding will also enable Theatre Green Book bring together the growing number of European and international Theatre Green Book networks in spring 2025 to share experience, knowledge and best practice.

Following the launch of the second edition of the Theatre Green Book in June, Lilli will be responsible for increasing the use of the Theatre Green Book over the next year, developing a sustainable business model for its future growth and expanding the Theatre Green Book network as an active community, encompassing theatre, dance and opera of all types, at all scales, in all parts of the UK.

The climate crisis has been a golden thread throughout Lilli's career - from putting on a 'theatre by bike' festival at Arcola in 2006, to embedding carbon reporting in Arts Council England funding agreements in 2012, to six years as Director of Jerwood Arts (now Jerwood Foundation) where she funded artist-led projects speaking to and/or about climate change. She was most recently Deputy Director of the Creative Policy and Evidence Centre (Creative PEC).

Lilli Geissendorfer says, I have been so inspired by the extraordinary work happening across theatre and performing arts to reckon with the climate crisis over recent years. Joining Theatre Green Book at this moment I'm full of excitement and determination, and look forward to collaborating widely to put net zero in sight.

Jon Morgan, Director of Theatres Trust, which acts as secretariat for the Theatre Green Book and is a member of the Steering Group says, *The Steering Group is delighted to have Lilli on board. She is just the right person to build on the achievements of the Theatre Green Book so far and drive the project forward to the next level.*

Lilli will take on the role from September 2024 on a part-time basis. One of her first public duties as the Theatre Green Book Director will be to speak at Theatres Trust's Conference 24: Making Theatres Thrive on 8 October at The Lowry, Salford.

Notes to Editors

Theatre Green Book

Theatre Green Book UK Theatre Green Book UK has brought together theatre operators, theatre-makers and sustainability experts to create a common standard for making theatre sustainably. It sets standards for making productions sustainably, for making theatre buildings sustainable, and for improving operations like catering and front of house. It is a free resource for everyone in the UK theatre sector. It has already been widely adopted across the sector, being used by all the major UK subsidised theatres, all the UK's national theatres, all UK opera houses, and won the Stage Award for Innovation in 2022. A second edition was launched in June 2024 alongside an improved website and online tools.

As well as funding from Arts Council England and the Foyle Foundation the Theatre Green Book is supported by grants and donations from the Steel Charitable Trust, the Frederick Mulder Trust and Unusual Rigging.

Theatre Green Book UK is led by a steering group comprising The National Theatre and National Theatre of Scotland, with membership organisations Association of British Theatre Technicians (ABTT), and Society of London Theatre/UK Theatre, authors Paddy Dillon and Lisa Burger (Renew Culture), sustainability specialists, Buro Happold, and Theatres Trust, the national advisory body for theatres, which is also acting as Secretariat for the project.

<https://theatregreenbook.com/>

Lilli Geissendorfer

Climate crisis has been a golden thread through Lilli's career - from putting on a 'theatre by bike' festival at Arcola in 2006, to embedding carbon reporting in Arts Council England funding agreements in 2012 and working closely with Julie's Bicycle, to six years as Director of Jerwood Arts where she funded many artist-led projects speaking to and/or about climate change in a multiplicity of ways.

She was most recently Deputy Director of the Creative Policy and Evidence Centre (Creative PEC), overseeing the growth of the core team from eight to 18 including new Policy and Research Units, and supporting the move to a new operating and strategic model led by Newcastle University with the Royal Society of the Arts. She successfully introduced the first four [State of the Nations research reports](#), facilitated partnerships across academia and government, and worked closely with the Global Creative Economy Council.

Previously, she was Director of Jerwood Arts (now Jerwood Foundation), a leading independent funder, where she channelled £10 million of funding to over 1000 early-career artists, makers, curators and producers between 2018-2023 and significantly grew its reach and partnerships across the UK. She led a national exhibitions programme of new work including [Jerwood Collaborate!](#), featuring Array Collective, Turner Prize-winners 2021, and launched [Jerwood Survey](#), now in its third edition. With a strong focus on improving socio-economic diversity and inclusion, she created almost 100 year-long jobs through [Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries](#), and took an innovative approach to inclusive funding processes, piloting random selection with the [1:1FUND](#).

As a producer and entrepreneur, Lilli co-founded HighTide in 2007, now an NPO, and has made shows for theatres including Arcola (*Monsters* by Niklas Radstrom, dir. Chris Haydon) and Bush (*Eigengrau* by Penelope Skinner, Dir. Polly Findlay). She spent five years at the Almeida, where she transferred numerous productions to the West End and Broadway including *Ghosts*, *Charles III*, *1984*, *Chimerica*, *Ink* and *Mary Stuart*. As a researcher and relationship manager, she spent two years at Arts Council England, where she introduced environmental sustainability reporting for NPOs in 2012, and has worked at think tanks Demos and The Young Foundation. She has been a Clore Emerging Leader, and a Salzburg Global Seminar Next Generation Cultural Fellow.

She is currently a trustee of Fuel Theatre and Project Europa, an Advisor to the national movement What Next? for culture, a mentor with Arts Emergency and really wants to start a podcast to go where Front Row can't.

Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. From 2023 to 2026 we will invest over £467 million of public money from Government and an estimated £250 million from The National Lottery each year to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.

Foyle Foundation

The Foyle Foundation is an independent grantmaking trust that distributes grants to UK charities. Up until December 2023, the Foundation has disbursed £146.6m in grants. The Foyle Foundation will complete its grant giving programme in 2025, marking 25 years of giving to the fields of the arts, learning, community small grants and state school libraries.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

Isobel Jaffray, Chloé Nelkin Consulting
E: isobel@chloenelkinconsulting.com, M: 07772 643 959
W: www.chloenelkinconsulting.com