



FUTURE NARRATIVES for Planet Earth

HET NIEUWSTEDELIJK IS LOOKING FOR A NEW PLAY Open Call to write a future-narrative for Earth

THE CONTEXT

Our world faces enormous challenges. How should we organise society? Our relationships? Our relationship to nature and the ecosystem of which we are just a small part. What narratives do we need to bring forward to be able to talk about the future of the planet? Which voices are missing from the conversation and need to be heard? What future can we dream of? Can we imagine? Because in the future, everything is still possible. We just have to realise it.

HET NIEUWSTEDELIJK AND PARTNERS

Het nieuwstedelijk is the city theatre of Leuven, Hasselt and Genk (Belgium). It is an artist-run theatre company that helps shape the city and society of tomorrow. We tell stories about life here and now. We embody and debate them, with an extra focus on new writing and audio work. From the city, we address the rest of the world.

The artistic team consists of Stijn Devillé, Adriaan Van Aken, Sara Vertongen, Christophe Aussems, Prince K. Appiah and Els Theunis.

<https://www.nieuwstedelijk.be/international-page>
<https://www.nieuwstedelijk.be>

Het nieuwstedelijk is part of 'Future Narratives for Planet Earth' - the European network of theatre houses working together to develop new narratives about the relationship between humans and nature. Within this project, seven new plays will be realised, to be performed in their home countries, within the network and during the five-day international conference and festival at the Dramatiker:innenfestival in Graz in 2026.

"Future Narratives for Planet Earth" aims to draw on the broad experience of this network of cultural associations, theatres and NGOs in the field of socially engaged art and artistic projects around climate change, by connecting their expertise at an international level. The main aim of the project is to rethink the future as a space full of possibilities.

The partners are uniT (Graz, Austria), Theater Bellevue (Amsterdam, Netherlands), Qendra e Arteve Vizuele Multimedia (Prishtina, Kosovo), Cesie (Palermo, Sicily), Hessisches Landestheater (Marburg, Germany), Mhtconsult (Copenhagen, Denmark) and Het nieuwstedelijk (Leuven, Hasselt, Genk, Belgium)

www.narrativesforearth.eu

Het nieuwstedelijk attaches great importance to new playwriting and is founder of the international Shakespeare is dead festival for contemporary playwriting (Leuven/Amsterdam).

www.shakespeareisdead.com



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HET NIEUWSTEDELIJK

THE CALL

Het nieuwstedelijk is looking for an author to write a new evening-length play as part of Future Narratives for Planet Earth. The form is free.

The play will be directed by Christophe Aussems and performed by a maximum of 4 actors and 2 musicians.

The premiere is scheduled for the autumn of 2025.

CONDITIONS

- You are a professional playwright based in Europe
- You have written at least 2 plays staged by professional theatre companies.
- Your text is new work written for this commission
- It is a full-length play
- for up to 4 players
- You submit your text in English, Dutch, French or German.
- You are available to co-attend the Future Narratives substantive conference in Copenhagen between 10 and 16 February 2025.

PROCEDURE & TIMELINE

FIRST ROUND

DEADLINE 22 SEPTEMBER 2024

- Describe your idea for this new play in one (A4) page.
- Include a motivation as to why you should be our author
- Also include 2 scenes: these may consist of new writing, or scenes from previous plays.

From these submissions, the artistic team of Het nieuwstedelijk will choose three authors who will advance to the second round.

SECOND ROUND

DEADLINE 27 OCTOBER 2024

You will further develop your idea into a synopsis, a treatment and some concrete scenes that could be part of your play. For this second round, you will receive a fee of 1,000 euros.

FINAL DECISION & FEE

On 15 November, we will decide and communicate who our author will be. Following this, we will hold regular consultations with the chosen author on the further development of their proposal.

For writing the play, we provide a fee equivalent to up to 4 months of full-time work. Performance rights for touring performances will be reimbursed separately.

COMPLETION & PREMIERE

- Your piece should be ready by early June 2025.
- Premiere and tour from October 2025.
- The play will be performed in our home cities of Leuven, Hasselt, Genk, but also tour throughout the rest of Flanders and within the European Future Narratives network

Please send your text material, along with a short CV to future@nieuwstedelijk.be by 22 September 2024.



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