

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 27 November 2019

CHRIS THORPE ANNOUNCED AS RECIPIENT OF THE OBERON BOOKS ROYAL COURT THEATRE CLIMATE COMMISSION



Image: Vicky Featherstone, Chris Thorpe, Lucy Davies and Chris Campbell. Photo by Ali Wright

The Royal Court Theatre and Oberon Books announce Chris Thorpe as recipient of the Oberon Books Royal Court Theatre Climate Commission, a new environmental initiative in playwriting.

The Oberon Books Royal Court Theatre Climate Commission is given to support a playwright to explore fresh ideas and links between the political present and the problems facing our environment today.

Playwright Chris Thorpe most recently collaborated with the Royal Court Theatre with his short film *Climate Change: what do you want me to say?* which was produced with the Financial Times. His play *Victory Condition* was produced at the Royal Court in 2017 and published by Oberon Books.



Commenting on receiving the commission playwright Chris Thorpe said;

"I'm blown away to be part of this. Blown away like a hospital roof in the path of an increasingly unpredictable storm system. I'm honoured to be given the opportunity by Oberon Books and the Royal Court to grapple with the enormity of this situation, help us act in the face of it, and find new ways to deal with it, individually and collectively. We might well be fucked anyway, but it feels like something useful to do while we wait."

Chris Campbell, Editorial Director, Oberon Books further added;

"You could almost say it's not the most important thing to write about but the only thing worth writing about. Oberon Books are completely delighted to offer this newly created commission to one of the most exciting and radical theatre makers working today. Chris Thorpe will astound us – of that I'm quite certain."

Ends:-

For more information please contact Anoushka Warden
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For images see

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/f4sa1pyiaqi3xu/AAA180ZSd56Be3QUAH7t5zj2a?dl=0>

Notes to Editors:

Chris Thorpe Biography

As writer, for the Royal Court: **Climate Change: what do you want me to say?** (short film with **Financial Times**), **Victory Condition**, **The Milk of Human Kindness** (& **LIFT**).

As writer, other theatre includes: **Status** (Rachel Chavkin/China Plate); **The Mysteries** (Royal Exchange, Manchester); **The Shape of the Pain** [co-writer] (China Plate); **Am I Dead Yet?** (Unlimited/UK & International tour); **The Iphigenia Quartet: Chorus** (Gate); **Your Best Guess** (Almada Festival, Lisbon); **Confirmation** (Warwick Arts Centre/China Plate); **Beowulf** (Unicorn); **There Has Possibly Been An Incident** (Royal Exchange, Manchester/Soho/Edinburgh Festival Fringe/Theatertreffen, Berlin); **The Oh Fuck Moment**, **I Wish I Was Lonely** (Hannah Jane Walker/Edinburgh Festival Fringe/Forest Fringe); **What I Heard about the World** (Third Angel); **Overdrama** (mala voadora, Lisbon).

Chris is an Associate Artist at the Royal Exchange, Manchester. He is also an Artistic Associate of live art/theatre company Third Angel.

Titles published by Oberon Books include **The Mysteries**; **Status**; **The Shape of the Pain** (co-developed with Rachel Bagshaw); **Victory Condition**; **Confirmation**; **There Has Possibly Been an Incident**.



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Oberon Books

Oberon Books is the UK's most exciting independent publisher specialising in drama and the performing arts. With a reputation for publishing some of the most diverse and forward-thinking drama happening right now, Oberon leads the way in championing new writing; providing a platform for the best emerging playwrights and theatre companies, and supporting fringe and off-west end theatres.

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