



Learning@TheGrange collaborates with WWF on *Future Visions* project

- providing young people with a creative platform to theatrically showcase their aspirations for a sustainable future -

The Grange Festival's education department is collaborating with the WWF on its groundbreaking *Future Visions* project. Building on its track record of working with young people to artistically challenge contemporary subjects, the imaginative format of this latest project will showcase a vision of the future in which the environmental crisis has been overcome and humans live in harmony with nature. The aim is to generate conversations amongst young people and harness creativity to map out a path to a positive future and their role in shaping it.

Learning@TheGrange will work with 200-250 young people (aged 7-23 years) from schools and organisations across Hampshire to explore different landscapes on Earth. The project will commence with a presentation from WWF experts highlighting the uniqueness of different global habitats and providing a factual base supported by scientific evidence. Through interactive workshops led by Learning@TheGrange's team of creative professionals, the students will respond to the issues and challenges identified by writing text, composing music and choreographing dance to create an original piece which represents their vision of the future. The outcome will be a collection of short films representing the voice of young people and which imaginatively illustrate the kind of future they want. Throughout 2021, the 'Super year of Nature', the films will be shown at several international climate change conferences, including COP26.

In addition to this, instrumentalists from Hampshire County Youth Orchestra will compose an orchestral piece in response to their chosen habitat under the direction of leading British composer Jonathan Dove, and the finished piece will be choreographed by Wessex Dance who will respond to both the music and the subject matter.

At a time when arts education is suffering, Learning@TheGrange hopes to leverage this project to demonstrate the value of creativity and originality, two of the World Economic Forum's top 15 skills required for the future workplace. The project will be taking place from the end of April to mid-June 2021, Covid restrictions permitting, and each group's work will be filmed and edited into short films by Peanut&Crumb, with footage provided by Silverback Films for the *Future Visions* project.

The creative team workshop leaders are directors Hazel Gould, Karen Gillingham, and Robert Gildon, and composers John Barber, Jessica Maryon Davies, Peter Letanka, and Jonathan Dove.

Susan Hamilton, Director of Learning@TheGrange commented: "We know that we must act now to tackle the environmental crisis the world is facing. And it is young people who will be the true stewards of our planet in years to come. *Future Visions* aims to give young people a voice to express their vision for their future. A project link between an arts organisation and a leading conservation institution might not be obvious. Through creative activity, we hope to encourage young people to think outside the box, open their minds and broaden their perspectives – important life skills."

Matt Lawsen-Daw, Education Manager, WWF-UK commented: "WWF is delighted to be working with Learning@TheGrange on this dynamic and creative journey. The current environmental crisis means that we must make changes to the way we live, but moving away from one reality means creating a new one. The world of the future will be shaped by the imagination, creativity and passion of the next generation, and it is a challenge

that should be approached with hope and not fear. Projects such as this are essential to inspire young people to dream of a better future, express it to inspire others, and then seek to make their dream a reality.”

[Website](#) - [YouTube](#) – [Facebook](#) – [Twitter](#) – [Instagram](#)



[Watch the film for the project here](#)

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About The Grange Festival

Based at The Grange in Hampshire, The Grange Festival was founded in 2016 and launched in June 2017, with Michael Chance as its Artistic Director. The festival’s artistic vision recognises the fundamental importance of storytelling to opera, pursued through a rich combination of musical, visual and dramatic arts. The Grange, one of the most celebrated neo-classical mansions in Britain, is located in Hampshire and owned by the family of Mark Baring, Lord Ashburton.

The Grange Festival will return in June 2021 where they will present spoken theatre for the first time with Sir John Tomlinson and Thomas Allen performing in a new production of Shakespeare’s *King Lear* directed by Keith Warner (14, 15 & 17 July). Also on the programme is Paul Curran’s heralded production of Britten’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (from 24 June), and a new production of Rossini’s *La Cenerentola* directed by Stephen Barlow (from 25 June). Francesco Cilluffo returns to conduct a new production of Puccini’s *Manon Lescaut* directed by Stephen Lawless (from 26 June), and Guy Unsworth will direct concert performances of the festival’s first musical, Lerner & Loewe’s *My Fair Lady* (8, 16 & 18 July). For more information on the cast and performance dates, please visit the website.

www.thegrangefestival.co.uk

About Learning@TheGrange

Learning@TheGrange was formed in 2018 to complement the artistic excellence of the Grange Festival’s main programme by offering engagement with the local community to develop skills in creative thinking.

Its mission is:

- To offer a creative opportunity to schools above and beyond our national curriculum at a time when arts subjects are undervalued and are being reduced.
- To give our local community unconventional projects, to enable participants to look at their lives in a different way and develop authentic and innovative self-expression.
- To explore the importance of creativity and mental wellbeing both for our everyday lives and for society in general.
- To provide an opportunity for fun, enjoyment and engagement.

Previous projects:

- *LikeUnlike* (July 2019) examined the impact of social media on our everyday lives with 70 teenagers.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvwR4wk4eIM&feature=youtu.be>
- *Out of Darkness* – a project during Spring Lockdown 2020
<https://vimeo.com/438161532>

About WWF

WWF is the world's leading independent conservation organisation. Our mission is to create a world where people and wildlife can thrive together.

'We seek to save a planet, a world of life. Reconciling the needs of human beings and the needs of others that share the Earth, we seek to practice conservation that is humane in the broadest sense. We seek to instill in people everywhere a discriminating, yet unabashed, reverence for nature and to balance that reverence with a profound belief in human possibilities. From the smallest community to the largest multinational organization, we seek to inspire others who can advance the cause of conservation.

We seek to be the voice for those creatures who have no voice. We speak for their future. We seek to apply the wealth of our talents, knowledge, and passion to making the world wealthier in life, in spirit, and in living wonder of nature'

www.wwf.org.uk