

BUTLER UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE
A SENIOR THESIS PRODUCTION

G A I A

an eco-theatre project

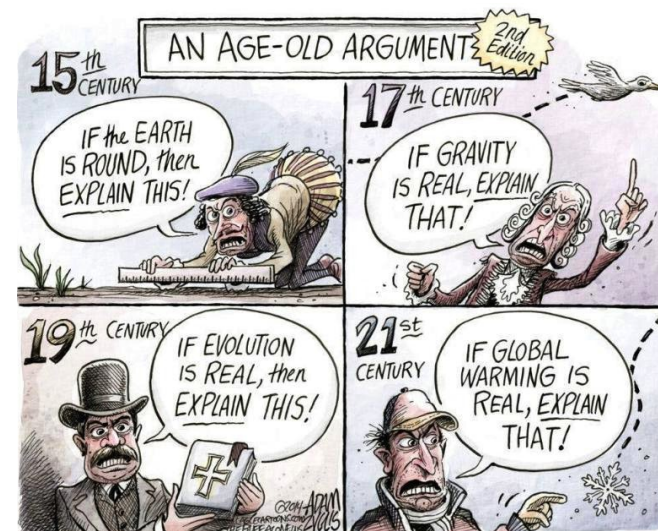
CONCEIVED AND DIRECTED BY
JULIA LEVINE

CREATED IN COLLABORATION
WITH THE ENSEMBLE

LILLY HALL 328
SEPTEMBER 27-28, 2014

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

G A I A originated from a series of questions: How do we – humans – impact the natural environment? How do we react to changes in our ecosystems? What do our actions, in relation to the natural environment, say about what it means to be human? I turned to the Indianapolis community, posing these broad questions to address issues on a local scale. In an increasingly inter-connected world, seemingly simple issues – what we have for dinner, how we get to work, what powers our lights – are like microcosms for global issues. Answers to the world's problems are not spelled out in black and white – shades of gray arise when we examine the globalization of political, economic, social, and ecological systems. Through a collaborative process of play-making, the ensemble and I discussed global and local issues, but more importantly, we shared our experiences, challenging and enriching each other's perspectives. In examining local actions in the categories of food, transportation, and energy, we built a series of scenes exploring what sustains us, where we are in relation to others, and what this means for our future. There is not one answer to every question, there are multiple sides to every story, and solutions for some aren't necessarily solutions for all. We seek to challenge ourselves, and by extension our audience, to see beyond what is printed and spoken, to be aware of the gray areas, to not accept the status quo, and to enrich our knowledge through continued exploration of diverse perspectives.



The Ensemble:
Alexander Borrello
Nick Gehrich
Abby Gilster
Sonia Goldberg
Megan Hosack

Stage Manager: Nicole Bailey
Lighting Designer: Claire Kedjidjian
Costume Designer: Alannah Walterhouse
Makeup/Hair Designer: Casey Lowenthal
Light Board Operator: Ariel Laukins
Sound Board Operator: Marc Morey
Lighting Crew: Bram Sheckels

This production would not be possible without the guidance and support of
the Butler Theatre Faculty and Staff:

Academic/Thesis Advisor: William Fisher
Butler Summer Institute Mentor: Dr. Owen Schaub
Diane Timmerman
Glen Thoreson
Cathy Sipe
LaKisha Cooper
Wendy Meaden
Dr. Elaina Artemiev
Rob Koharchik

And with support from the Center for Higher Achievement and Scholarly
Enhancement:

Director of Undergraduate Research: Dr. Rusty Jones
Honors Program Coordinator: Dr. Jason Lantzer

Text sampled from:

Edward Abbey, essayist/novelist
George Carlin, comedian
Woody Guthrie, singer/songwriter
Charles L. Mee, playwright
The Earth Charter, of the Earth Charter Commission

Special Thanks:

Rhett Dial
Jim Poyser & Youth Power Indiana
Alex Zaslav
Veronica, Perry, and Elysia
Mom, Dad, and Ben

Gaia | 'gīā|

- In Greek mythology, the Earth personified as a goddess
- A concept published by James Lovelock in the 1970s, which theorizes that the Earth is an inter-connected organism with self-sustaining conditions for life on this planet

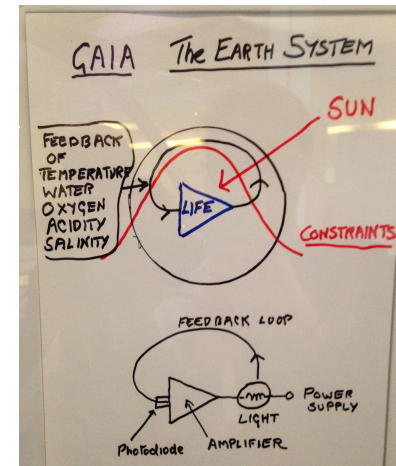


Diagram of Gaia Theory by James Lovelock
From the London Science Museum