

## Cabaret stars take on climate change

Can a group of performers solve the problems of the world? Rosy Moorhead investigates

### THEATRE

**W**HO would you turn to for advice on averting the end of the world? A Korean burlesque comedienne who's also the Alternative Miss World? A drag queen with a penchant for gardening? Or an experimental video artiste who has investigated Elvis impersonation? Yep, me too.

Which is lucky really, as these are just the people who will be offering their thoughts on the subject in *I Love You But We Only Have 14 Minutes To Save The Earth*, a collusion of cabaret, live art and film conceived by performer, director and producer Nathan Evans, which arrives at the Dugdale Centre this month.

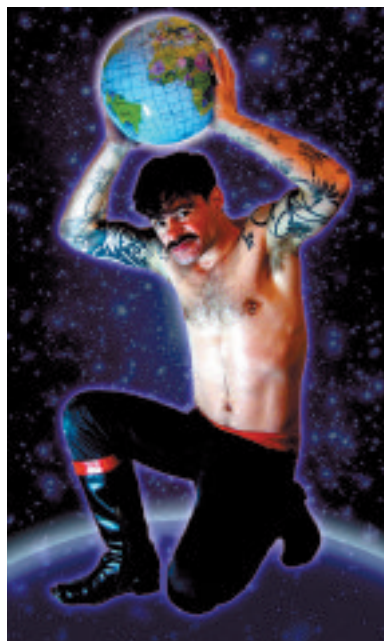
"Each performer has 14 minutes to tell us how they would save the earth," Nathan explains. "It's entertaining, very funny but also quite serious."

Nathan got the idea for the show from the TED Talks – Technology, Entertainment, Design, a website providing 18-minute talks by industry experts – and Flash Gordon.



Eco worrier: Timberlina  
PICTURES: JUSTIN DAVID

"I wanted to do something similar but with performance rather than talks," says Nathan. "And then Dale Arden's voice popped into my head hollering, 'Flash, I love you but we only have 14 hours to save the earth!' and I had it. I don't really know how



Director and performer Nathan Evans

I made the link to Flash Gordon – some weird processes of synapses in my brain."

The show features performances from Avant Guardian Angel, David Hoyle, the reigning Alternative Miss World, Fancy Chance, and Eco Worrier Extraordinaire, Timberlina. It serves up serious subjects SUCH as ecology, spirituality and politics, injected with a shot of anarchic humour and a dash of radical glamour.

Nathan worked with each of the performers to create their slot. "Initially I chose people I'd been involved with in the

wonderful world of cabaret and artists I wanted to work more with," says Nathan. "I thought someone like Fancy Chance had huge potential and I wanted to stretch her a little bit. And she had a fascinating history, which I wanted to bring in."

Fancy Chance is a burlesque comedienne, who made her way to the UK via Korea and the USA and has starred in shows and festivals all over Europe and the States. Her show focuses on her background and career. She was an orphan, found in a box and brought up in America. She now lives in the UK.

Timberlina's piece focuses on environmental issues and is based around audience interactive. "He's what I call the entree," says Nathan "and David Hoyle's piece is more spiritually focused on transcending the earthly plane, if you like."

As well as these three main performers, there are also two films from theatrical radical Bette Bourne and experimental video artiste Kate Pelling. Bette Bourne was the pioneering leader of the Blue Lips cabaret group in the 1980s and his piece focuses on the Cuban Missile Crisis. "His solution to the end of the world would be to have lots of sex," says Nathan, "but he doesn't put it as politely as that."

"Because of the performers we've got, it has an appeal to a queer and a cabaret clientele but we're interested in expanding beyond that," says Nathan, "we want to bring it to a wider audience."

● **I Love You But We Only Have 14 Minutes To Save The Earth is at the Dugdale Centre, London Road, Enfield on Saturday, September 22 at 8pm.**  
Details: 020 8807 6680,  
[www.dugdalecentre.co.uk](http://www.dugdalecentre.co.uk)

● For a Q&A with Justin David who took these pictures see opposite:  
[enfieldindependent.co.uk/leisure](http://enfieldindependent.co.uk/leisure)

## Africa calling



LONDON-born, Nigeria-raised artist Michael Echekeba's work is inspired by his travels around the world, satirizing the society he now lives in and the one he left behind, while at the same time sharing the positive and entertaining experience of Nigerian culture.

Working mainly in acrylic on canvas and mixed media, his images are full of intricate strokes and contrasting colours, full of energy, vibrancy and lyricism.

His paintings can be found in the homes of the ex-Prime Minister of Malaysia, the King of Swaziland and the President of Mozambique but, failing a royal invitation, can be viewed too at the Bernie Grant Arts Centre until September 24.

● Details: 020 8365 5450

## Bandstand fundraiser

MORE than 1,200 people attended this year's Bandstand Marathon at Hilly Fields Park, raising some £600 for the charity Bridge of Hope, which supports orphans and abandoned children in Rukungiri, West Uganda.

Bands and buskers filled the line-up on Sunday at the sun-drenched bandstand, with clowning for kids too.

"It was such a great day with families and children out enjoying the music in the sunshine," says Tony Claydon, event programmer from The Friends of Hilly Fields campaign group. "It was like a little bit of old England."

● Details: [www.hillyfields.info](http://www.hillyfields.info)

## Library hosts new Drop-in sessions

A grant from Enfield Council's new ward-based residents priority fund is being used to launch new advice sessions in one of the borough's most deprived areas.

The outreach project is being provided by Enfield Citizens Advice Bureau.

The free, impartial, independent drop-in sessions will be held at Enfield Highway Library on Monday mornings, and are open to people who live in the 156 streets that make up the Enfield Highway Ward.

"One of our trained advisers will be providing advice for residents on a very wide range of issues, such as benefits, debt, housing, relationship, immigration, services and consumer," said ECAB chief executive Sonia Kotecha.

"It is restricted to people who live in the ward and we hope to be able to access many more clients, particularly those who find it difficult to commute to the bureau or cannot access us on the telephone."

The new sessions will begin on Monday, September 3 and you can get more information about them from the bureau by calling 020 8375 4178.



Are you behind with your rent? Struggling with your bills? Finding it difficult to manage your money?

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For more info, please contact Enfield Citizens Advice Bureau: 020 8375 4197, [info@enfieldcab.org.uk](mailto:info@enfieldcab.org.uk)

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## ENTERTAINMENT

## freetime

# Q&A Justin David

HIGH melodrama, an electric atmosphere and the magnetism of the city after midnight powers the work of photographer and writer Justin David. For his latest exhibition *Night Work*, at Jacksons Lane until November 30, he has worked with a colourful collection of performers to create invented film-stills and fictional portraits. We talk to Justin about the call of the night...

## Why did you decide to turn your lens on these 'nocturnal creatures'?

"I've lived my life a slave to the day job. However, my imagination is always drawn to the night and it is always a great relief when I can escape into it and be among these alternative characters who share my obsession for creativity."

## What fascinates you about their world?

"World? Or worlds? I'm just fascinated. That's it. I feel like I'm zooming around and there's so much to see. So many

amazing creatures.

"If I'm to be truly honest, I'm envious. For as long as I can remember, I have lived a double life. I didn't fit in at school – being one thing but pretending to be another."



David Hoyle

"Before I came out as a gay man there was so much I kept from my family – the secrets, the letters and phone calls. And then even after that, when I thought I could start being myself I was faced with the world of work – something most people must feel. You have to be responsible, toe the party line, keep up an appearance, while elsewhere, across a threshold, after hours, something else is happening."

"I've always had a foot in two worlds. Crossing that threshold is magical. Perhaps I'm finally becoming one of them – a creature of the night."

## How long do the images take to create?

"It's hard to say. When I have an idea for a picture there is a lot of talk beforehand with the model. Phone calls, emails... like



Jonathan Kemp

I said, total collaboration. The stories are drawn out of the subject. Sometimes it's complete improvisation. No one knows what's going to happen until we get on the set."

"We shoot until we're tired and can do no more. I'm obsessive about the process, so even after I know I have the shot, I carry on for a while, just to be sure."

## What equipment do you use and how do you use it?

"I'm not a technician. It's not really about the equipment. It's about what happens in front of the lens. Only in recent years did I actually spend some money on proper equipment. I carry portable lights and a tripod and reflectors."

"The night shots in the street are mainly taken using available light. It's all mend-and-make-do with me. When I shot Fancy Chance in her Miss World costume I had my boyfriend holding a big torchlight at her, so that it would look as if she'd been caught by car headlights."



Nathan Evans

The pictures pose a lot of questions – is this sense of intrigue a common aspect in your work?

"I don't know. I really hope so. I like the idea of them being like film-stills. There's the sense of something going on before the shutter opens and something happening after the picture's taken. There is definitely a before and after."

"We're intruding on a private moment. So there's an emotional engagement with the subject. Though, the photos also look deliberately staged. They are fictions."

"It's a little bit like the way, in his theatre, Bertolt Brecht left some of the machinery in view of the audience to remind them that what they were seeing was not real, deliberately designed like that to make you stop and contemplate."

● Details: [www.justindavid.co.uk](http://www.justindavid.co.uk)

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