

4CORNERS ENTERTAINMENT
Proudly Presents the World Premiere of

SWIMMING WITH THE POLAR BEARS
A survival story.

Written and Performed by
MEL ENGLAND

Music by
THOMAS SILCOTT

Stills and Video by
TRISTAN BAYER

Directed by **JILL ANDRÉ**

3 BENEFIT PERFORMANCES ONLY!!!
APRIL 20 – APRIL 22, 2009 AT THE BLEECKER STREET
THEATRE

TICKETS ON SALE NOW TELECHARGE.COM

4CORNERS ENTERTAINMENT is pleased to announce the world premiere production of ***SWIMMING WITH THE POLAR BEARS***, directed by **Jill André**. ***SWIMMING WITH THE POLAR BEARS*** will play three benefit performances only at Off-Broadway's Bleecker Street Theatre (45 Bleecker Street). In accordance with Mel's survival story and his strong dedication to the continued existence of the planet, all profits from this production will be donated to the Climate Project.

Jenny Clad, Executive Director of The Climate Project says, "The Climate Project and *Swimming with Polar Bears* share a common goal - raising awareness of climate change. *Swimming with Polar Bears* will shine the spotlight on the urgency of this global issue in its own unique way. We are delighted to be a beneficiary of the production and to share the stage with such a creative endeavor by having one of our TCP presenters on hand to deliver Mr. Gore's slide show message."

Swimming with the Polar Bears is a funny, poignant, and devastatingly personal look at the dangers of global warming. Actor **Mel England** returns to the autobiographical one-man arena, with director **Jill André**, to explore the parallels between contemporary life, ancient Eskimo mythology, and the tragic

loss of endangered species.

In the tradition of Spaulding Grey, **England** takes an introspective examination of his battles with extinction – from surviving childhood abuse to overcoming Cancer – as a backdrop for larger questions of how we all can survive on our precious planet. A 20-year AIDS survivor, **England** struggles against the odds—to understand our own denial, grasp justifications, and ultimately accept responsibility to save oneself.

England takes us on a fantastical journey bringing ***Polar Bears*** to life -- with video and images by National Geographic's **Tristan Bayer** and original music by **Thomas Silcott** – and, in the end, we find we are all ***Swimming with the Polar Bears***.

CJ THOM is the stage manager.

SWIMMING WITH THE POLAR BEARS plays the following schedule:

Monday, April 20 at 8 p.m. pre-show presentation from The Climate Project and post-show talk-back

Tuesday, April 21 at 8 p.m. pre-show presentation from The Climate Project and post-show talk-back

Wednesday, April 22 at 8 p.m. EARTH DAY CELEBRATION with The Climate Project

Tickets are \$30 and are now available online at <http://www.telecharge.com> by calling (212) 239-6200. Tickets may also be purchased in-person at the Theatre's Box Office, 1/2 hour prior to the performance

75 minutes, no intermission

<http://www.swimmingwiththepolarbears.com>

Swimming with the Polar Bears is officially sponsored by, American Stationery (www.americanstationery.com), Kampfire PR (www.kampfirefilmspr.com) and Indie Rentals (www.indierentals.com).

BIOGRAPHIES

JILL ANDRÉ (*Director*) is a Director and Actress. As an actress she has an impressive set of film credits including *Ghosts of Mississippi*, *Lost in America*, *Twin Falls*, *Idaho*, *Return of the Living Dead III*, *True Vinyl*, *Milo*, *Land of Mile and Money*, *And the Band Played On*. On Broadway she appeared in *Children of a Lesser God*, *The Trip Back Down* and *The Great White Hope*. TV credits include "The Practice", "Grounded for Life", "NYPD Blue", and "The Addams Family". As a Director her credits include *Bus Stop*, *Bodies Unbound*, *Last*

Summer At Bluefish Cove, Navajo Memoirs and *Three Weeks After Paradise* (NY, LA, Edinburgh & Kansas).

TRISTAN BAYER - EARTHNATIVE (*Background Projections / Cinematographer*) experienced his first overseas wildlife film production when he was one year old. His parents traveled with him on location to East Africa, making a film on elephant poaching. As Tristan grew older, he would take the opportunity to travel and work as a crew member making nature films for television with his father, the world-renowned wildlife cinematographer, Wolfgang Bayer. At age 19, Tristan was hosting wildlife documentaries, which aired on Turner, Fox, and National Geographic. At 29 Tristan was nominated for an Emmy in cinematography for his work on the Animal Planet series, "Caught in the Moment", which he created and hosted. Since 1996, Tristan has spent six seasons living on the tundra filming polar bears as they journey north, awaiting the sea ice to freeze and allow the world's largest land carnivores to begin their annual seal hunt -- after fasting for more than half a year. The father/son team captured these wild polar bears on 35mm film and digital video near the Hudson Bay in Canada during their expeditions as part of an upcoming feature film project. Tristan is currently directing a short film on *Ocean Acidification* 'the other carbon problem' for the NRDC (<http://www.nrdc.org>) and will be narrated by Sigorney Weaver. EARTHNATIVE is a film production company founded by Tristan Bayer to bring awareness of global issues to the masses through multimedia campaigns. For more go to (<http://www.earthnative.com>)

MEL ENGLAND (*Playwright/Actor*) is no stranger to one-man land: he starred in the NY premiere of Israel Horowitz's *One-Man* play about September 11th *3 Weeks After Paradise* at the Cherry Lane (also Los Angeles premiere), and his own one-man show *Navajo Memoirs* was seen at the NY Fringe and Los Angeles. Off-Broadway he's appeared in Pearl Theatre's *Hecuba*, and he's the recipient of the NY Fringe Festival's "Best Acting Ensemble Award" for *Lucky Man*, and "Best Play of the Year" in Denver for the Regional Premiere of *A Shayna Maidel*. He's been a proud part of several original New York productions, including *Midsummer Night's Dream* in Washington Square, "Honeysuckles", developed for television by FOX, and *King of Connecticut* with Phillip Seymour Hoffman. On the big screen, he starred opposite legendary character actor Sid Haig in *Little Big Top*, starred in *Highlights* (nominated for the Moviefone Film Fest's dramatic competition) and in the dark comedy *Persona Au Gratin*.

THOMAS SILCOTT (MUSIC) Thomas hails from Boston, MA. He graduated from NYU Tisch Graduate Acting School. Since, he has performed in *To Kill A Mocking Bird* at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, *Broken Jug* at Lincoln Center in New York and a national and international Broadway tour of *Bring in Da Noise/Bring in Da Funk*. While on the east coast, Tom has also appeared in *Hamlet* and *As You Like It* at The Colorado Shakespeare festival and *Raisin In The Sun* at the Salem Theatre Festival. Tom has performed in *Othello* at Kingsmen Shakespeare Co. and *Twain and Friends* with the Interact Theatre Co. Tom's television and film credits include *God's and Generals*, *The Others*, *Get Real*, "Entourage",

“Stand Off”, “Desperate Housewives”, “Girl”.

4CORNERS ENTERTAINMENT (Producer) is a production/management company formed by partners Jess Petelle and Paul Davidovac. The company was born of the desire to create a collaborative environment to further develop artists and projects in Theater, Film, Television, and New Media.

THE CLIMATE PROJECT (TCP) is a nonprofit organization based in Nashville, Tennessee, which began operations in June 2006 with the mission of increasing public awareness of the climate crisis at a grassroots level in the United States and abroad. It consists of a professional staff and diverse group of more than 2,600 volunteers throughout the world who have been trained by Al Gore himself to present a version of the slide show featured in the Academy Award-winning film *An Inconvenient Truth*. In 2009, TCP expanded its mission with a new commitment to advocacy and activism to combat the climate crisis.

#