

# Stroud Life

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## New play poses questions about changing climate

STROUD Theatre Company brings its latest original production to The Space on Saturday.

The Higher Ground, written by Mike Akers, is a for all the family that poses thought provoking questions about the world, climate change, displacement and our interdependence.

Creative director Chris Garner, who moved to Stroud in 1999 and started the Stroud Theatre Company with designer Sue Condie in 2000, said: "After last year's floods, Mike and I interviewed various young people in schools and groups. We heard their stories and we tied them in with global flooding issues.

"In the play there are two stories going on at the same time. Two of the characters are myth-makers – a master and apprentice – and the younger of them is trying to get to a point where he can begin to create a story of hope.

"Running parallel is the story of a young girl who is a flood refugee.

"She is washed up on our shores and meets a local boy. Together they get caught up in the floods of last year."

All four parts are played by professional actors Gerard Cooke and Georgina Stamp. They will be accompanied by local musician Simon McCorry on cello, whistle and percussion.

The play will be another feather in the cap of the Stroud Theatre Company, who have a firm following in the local area.

Chris explained why working and living in Stroud is so special: "The great thing about the area is that it's very arts-orientated and crammed full of artists of all kinds.

"It's an inspirational place for that reason and it's also very beautiful."

The Higher Ground will be at The Space on Saturday at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £5 and £3 for young people 16 and under.

To reserve tickets telephone 07950 833190 – please leave your name, contact telephone number and/or e-mail address and number of tickets required.