

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### Media Contacts:

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## **LOCAL CLIMATE CHANGE FOCUS OF FIU STUDENTS & FACULTY THEATRE PERFORMANCE**

*April 4 and 7 performances of “A Sea Change” features virtual reality, dance, science, and journalism to tell stories of global change and South Florida sea level rise*

MIAMI – More than a dozen Florida International University students and faculty members – from dance, theatre, environmental science, journalism, and music – are taking to the stage to tell stories of climate change, with a focus on sea level rise in South Florida.

The performance also features guest Xavier Cortada, a renowned artist, and music by Orlando Garcia and Kathryn Longo.

For Phillip M. Church, Associate Professor of Theatre and the director of “A Sea Change,” the issue of climate change and rising sea levels is far too disquieting for voices not to unite to be heard.

“At FIU a lot is already underway through research and science to discover the facts and develop future solutions,” Church said. “Now, we need effective avenues through which that research can be expressed in meaningful and visceral ways. For centuries, art – whether it be fine art or performing art – has been a significant agent for change. Art is needed now more than ever to deliver an impact that very often facts alone cannot do.”

“A Sea Change,” which features virtual reality, data visualization, art, and dance, is the culmination of a year-long process of students and faculty working together to tell stories about climate change based on environmental research, much of which was conducted by South Florida scientists.

“I think that people don’t understand the severity of the issue of climate change,” said Lisbette Castillo, an FIU journalism major who contributed to the performance. “This project will enable audiences to look into the future and see what Florida will look like in a few years.”

The 90-minute performance at FIU’s Modesto A. Maidique Campus at 7:30 p.m. on April 4 and at the Mary Anne Wolfe Theatre at FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus in North Miami at 7:30 p.m. on April 7, is free and open to the public.

“We hope to attract audiences throughout South Florida communities to see the variety of forms of expression related to sea level rise and climate change,” said Robert Gutsche, Jr., Assistant Professor of Journalism and Media at FIU, who produced the performance. “We are at a critical time in our own lives, with environments changing right below our feet. How do we best tell those stories, and what do we do about them?”

Partners and performers include FIU’s School of Architecture, School of Music, School of Environment, Arts and Society, School of Computing and Information Sciences, Department of Physics, Department of History, Library Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Center, Biological Studies, Miami Beach Urban Studios, Sea Level Solutions Center, Office of University Sustainability, MAST@FIU BBC, and Caveman Productions LLC. The event is sponsored by FIU’s student chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

“It was exciting to work on this project with such a diverse group of people,” said Cindy Castro, an FIU digital media studies major. “Now it will be interesting to see how our audiences will react. I hope we’re effectively able to submerge the audience in the experience.”

For more information, visit [eyesontherise.org/aseachange](http://eyesontherise.org/aseachange). To reserve tickets, call 305-348-0496.

**WHAT:** “A Sea Change: A Multi-Disciplinary Collaboration in Response to a Global Threat” theatre performance

**WHERE & WHEN:**

7:30 p.m., Wertheim Performing Arts Center, FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus, 10910 SW 17<sup>th</sup> St., Miami

7:30 p.m., Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre, FIU Biscayne Bay Campus, 3000 NE 151<sup>st</sup> St., North Miami

**WHO:** Open to the Public

**COST:** Free

**HOW:** To reserve tickets, call 305-348-0496. For more information, visit [eyesontherise.org/aseachange](http://eyesontherise.org/aseachange).