# Flora Wilson Brown's play blends motherhood and climate anxiety across three eras



Flora Wilson Brown's *The Beautiful Future Is Coming* offers a poignant exploration of motherhood and climate anxiety, weaving together narratives set in three distinct time periods—London in 2027, New York in 1856, and Svalbard in 2100. Each storyline intersects around the challenges and emotional weight of bringing a child into a world grappling with environmental collapse. The play invites audiences to reflect on the implications of these narratives, particularly how historic gender discrimination in science, as exemplified by Eunice Foote’s overlooked discovery of the greenhouse effect, resonates with current debates about climate change.

Directed by Nancy Medina, the production presents a seamless transition between epochs, enhanced by Aldo Vázquez's innovative set design featuring sliding storm-dappled panels. In the roles of Eunice, Claire, and Ana, Phoebe Thomas, Nina Singh, and Rosie Dwyer deliver compelling performances, effectively marking the emotional and social contexts of their characters. Michael Salami as Dan rounds out the cast with a character that resonates through the play’s thematic concerns, adding depth to the discussions of love, duty, and ecological dread.

The narrative boldly explores each scenario's dramatic proposition, presenting distinct yet overlapping threads that address the urgency of present-day climate issues. However, the decision to condense these rich narratives into a single act does create some limitations. The resolutions of each thread, while imbued with a sense of optimism, sometimes feel overly simplistic, potentially undermining the emotional stakes established throughout the piece.

Brown's approach to storytelling is particularly notable. In her reflections on the play, she articulates the necessity of maintaining hope amidst societal despair. This sentiment echoes current discourse on climate activism, where pessimism can lead to paralysis, whereas a vision of hope can stimulate action. The play's optimistic threads are thus seen as a radical stance; it dares to envision futures where humanity triumphs, albeit without fully resolving the existential anxieties that the climate crisis evokes.

Critics have praised the production for its ability to blend humour with gravity, making a potentially heavy subject matter accessible and engaging without veering into didactic territory. Reviews from its recent premiere at Jermyn Street Theatre highlighted its nuanced portrayal of characters and the human experience at the core of environmental crises. The effective use of lighting and sound design adds layers to the narrative, creating an atmosphere that transports audiences through time and emotional states.

Ultimately, *The Beautiful Future Is Coming* serves as a reminder of the interconnectedness of past, present, and future challenges concerning climate change and human relationships. By intertwining the stories of its characters, the play highlights the pressing need to address the climate crisis while questioning what it means to nurture life in a world under threat.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2025/may/25/the-beautiful-future-is-coming-review-bristol-old-vic), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2025/may/25/the-beautiful-future-is-coming-review-bristol-old-vic), [[5]](https://www.broadwayworld.com/westend/article/Review-THE-BEAUTIFUL-FUTURE-IS-COMING-Jermyn-Street-Theatre-20240201)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2025/may/25/the-beautiful-future-is-coming-review-bristol-old-vic), [[3]](https://www.nickhernbooks.co.uk/the-beautiful-future-is-coming), [[4]](https://www.broadwayworld.com/uk-regional/article/Cast-Set-For-New-Production-THE-BEAUTIFUL-FUTURE-IS-COMING-at-Bristol-Old-Vic-20250402)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2025/may/25/the-beautiful-future-is-coming-review-bristol-old-vic), [[6]](https://www.londonpubtheatres.com/review-the-beautiful-future-is-coming-by-flora-wilson-brown-at-jermyn-street-footprints-festival-30-january-5-february-2024), [[7]](https://www.thereviewshub.com/the-beautiful-future-is-coming-jermyn-street-theatre-london/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2025/may/25/the-beautiful-future-is-coming-review-bristol-old-vic> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2025/may/25/the-beautiful-future-is-coming-review-bristol-old-vic> - A review of Flora Wilson Brown's play 'The Beautiful Future Is Coming' at Bristol Old Vic, spanning 250 years to explore motherhood and climate anxiety. Directed by Nancy Medina, the play features Phoebe Thomas, Nina Singh, Rosie Dwyer, and Michael Salami, with set design by Aldo Vázquez and lighting by Ryan Day.
3. <https://www.nickhernbooks.co.uk/the-beautiful-future-is-coming> - Information about Flora Wilson Brown's play 'The Beautiful Future Is Coming', published by Nick Hern Books. The play covers 250 years of climate crisis, focusing on holding onto hope and humanity against all odds. It was premiered at Jermyn Street Theatre in 2024 and is scheduled for performance at Bristol Old Vic in 2025.
4. <https://www.broadwayworld.com/uk-regional/article/Cast-Set-For-New-Production-THE-BEAUTIFUL-FUTURE-IS-COMING-at-Bristol-Old-Vic-20250402> - Announcement of the cast for the new production of 'The Beautiful Future Is Coming' at Bristol Old Vic, directed by Nancy Medina. The play is described as a fast-paced, funny, and inventive look at 250 years of real and imagined history through the eyes of three couples, focusing on the climate crisis and holding onto hope and humanity.
5. <https://www.broadwayworld.com/westend/article/Review-THE-BEAUTIFUL-FUTURE-IS-COMING-Jermyn-Street-Theatre-20240201> - Review of 'The Beautiful Future Is Coming' at Jermyn Street Theatre, highlighting its exploration of the human experience amidst the climate crisis. The play is praised for its interweaving narratives across different time periods and its focus on the human side of the story, avoiding preachiness while addressing powerful issues.
6. <https://www.londonpubtheatres.com/review-the-beautiful-future-is-coming-by-flora-wilson-brown-at-jermyn-street-footprints-festival-30-january-5-february-2024> - Review of 'The Beautiful Future Is Coming' at Jermyn Street Theatre, noting its balanced approach to the climate situation with hope. The play is commended for its touching and compelling dialogue, seamless direction, and effective lighting and sound design, creating a sense of immediacy and fluidity between narratives.
7. <https://www.thereviewshub.com/the-beautiful-future-is-coming-jermyn-street-theatre-london/> - Review of 'The Beautiful Future Is Coming' at Jermyn Street Theatre, highlighting its fresh and often funny look at the impacts of climate change. The play is praised for its bold and effective dramatization, with a versatile cast and taut direction, making it a gripping piece of theatre deserving a wider audience.