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Release

## Climate Artists Receive International Acclaim With Over 100 Film Festival Awards

The Black Chapel Collective, an Essex-based collaboration of talented creatives, has taken its place among global climate change activists, receiving international praise at some of the world's most prestigious film festivals. The latest award-winning offering from the group of musicians, video artists, film makers, DJs, rappers, dancers, and poets is 'Connect' – a powerful, multi-media response to climate change. 'Connect' has been welcomed by the creative industry, taking home prestigious titles, including 'Best Environmentalist Film' from the 2021 New York Tri State International Film Awards, as well as winning at the Buddha International Film Festival, Cult Critic Movie Awards, Rome Music Video Awards and Royal Society of Television and Motion Pictures Awards.

Originally created as part of the Essex 2020 celebration of science and creativity, Connect began as an immersive, live-art performance by local musicians. The Black Chapel Collective's now award-winning project uses music, visuals, speech samples, poetry, and dance to create an inspiring, multi-media response to the planet's most pressing problem, climate change. As creative individuals all reacting to climate change on a personal level, the multi-sensory aspect of Connect interweaves these personal reflections to form a unified response, highlighting the common bond between all life on earth.

The project rapidly evolved from its local, community-focused beginnings to the global stage, when live performances were put on pause during 2020. In response to another pressing issue facing the planet, coronavirus, the group recorded the live performance and created a film. Since then, Connect has become an international success, receiving unprecedented acclaim from over 50 awards at film festivals around the world.

Steve Mortimer, a member of the Black Chapel Collective and director of Connect, commented: "On our current path, we are at a huge crossroads and the decisions we make now will determine the future of the planet and everything living on it. We have 10 years and counting before we do irreparable damage, and we need to do something now.

"Connect is our response to the climate emergency and our way of trying to inspire other people into action. As a collective of artists, we truly believe that creativity, imagination and education are the key areas that will help us to reset. We need to reconnect with ourselves, our community and the planet to have a truly sustainable future, and that's what Connect is all about.

"We certainly didn't anticipate the international success the film has had, but we were sure of the importance of sharing our message with as many people as possible. We're really excited about all the attention we've received, and hopefully this means people are waking up to climate change and are ready to do something about it."

As well as being selected for over 100 International awards within one year of launching, Connect has received critical acclaim from many respected figures in the industry. Mercury Prize winner Talvin Singh OBE, commented: "Great work The Black Chapel Collective are doing at this challenging time in the world."

The Black Chapel Collective is setting its sights on the music industry as well, releasing recordings of songs performed as part of Connect. So far, the group has released a selection of singles and has plans to release a full album in the future.



The film of Connect is available to watch [here](#).

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## Notes To Editors

The Black Chapel Collective is an Essex-based group of electronic artists, DJs, musicians, poets and rappers creatively exploring climate change with the award-winning 'Connect' Project.

Originally planned as a live experience working with local musicians in 2020, the project had to adapt numerous times due to the pandemic. Using a grant from Chelmsford City Council, the live show was recorded at Hot Box in Essex and became the now critically acclaimed, award-winning film.

Since its release, the film has been selected for or won over 50 awards at film festivals around the world. The awards include 'Best Environmentalist Film' at the New York Tri State International Film Awards, 'Best Film on Environment' at the Grassroots International Film Festival, and both 'Best Film on Nature, Wildlife, Environment' and 'Best Film on Religion' at the Royal Society of Television & Motion Picture Awards.

Co-written and performed with some of the most talented musicians in and around Essex, including, Rachel Brooks, Lucia Holm from Sunscreen, Ce Ce Xavier, SafeNath, and Kelli-Marie Sellwood, Connect has become a vehicle for the voices of local musicians, reflecting the impact of climate change on their lives and inspiring others to act.