



DRAMATEN

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## Writing school for young adults

15 March - 31 May 2025 | Stockholm, Sweden

### DANIEL BOYACIOGLU

*is a multidisciplinary poet and artist, playwright and actor who gained early success when, at the age of 19 and 20, he became Swedish champion in Poetry Slam two years in a row. He has since published seven collections of poetry, a textbook, seven music albums, set up ten theatre performances and an opera for the Royal Swedish Opera. He is a diligently engaged writing teacher and lecturer, this writing residency given now for the first time on behalf of Dramaten, he has several times conducted before.*

### LINN RABE

*has a PhD in environmental science from Södertörn's University. She works as researcher at the Swedish Defence Research Agency, focusing on civil preparedness and has participated in a multidisciplinary research project on municipalities risk communication. Many years of experience working with climate change and climate adaptation within civil society organizations. Linn made a lecture on the most likely scenario for human civilization collapse: environmental collapse. The lecture explored the effect of crossing the nine planetary boundaries and contemporary trends, with a focus on climate change. In the lecture Linn linked the IPCC timelines to her own, her daughter and mother's timeline to illustrate the rapidness of the climate change.*

## NATASJA BÖRJESON

*holds a PhD in Environmental Science and works as a researcher in Regulatory Toxicology at Stockholm University. Here she focuses on questions such as circular non-toxic economy, chemical risk management and collaborative governance. Natasja has extensive experience working in transdisciplinary contexts. Natasja gave a lecture on the possibility of society having surpassed the carrying capacity of chemicals and plastics and what this could entail for us as humans and the society and nature at large. Moreover, the lecture discussed why and how society is producing more chemical and plastic risks than it can manage.*

## THE RESIDENCY

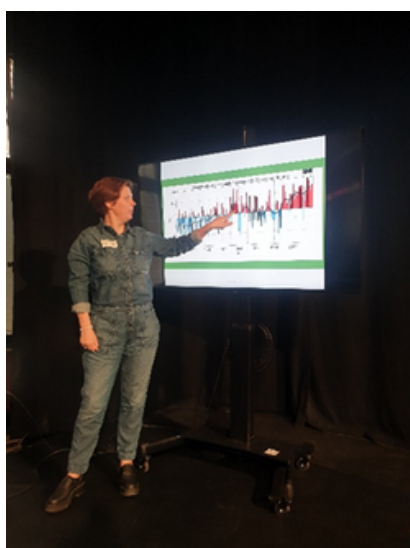
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*The aim of the writing residency was to give a semi-large group (15-20) of young adults (18-28 years) a broad orientation in all the possibilities that the writing life offers. Through weekly and varied writing exercises, they received a broad training in the various disciplines or genres of writing and thereby also came closer to their own expression. The training consisted of carrying out the writing exercises themselves and engaging with the other participants' text presentations. The latter was intended to provide participants with a greater understanding of the exercises. Each week, participants also met guest lecturers from different disciplines to gain insight into the various ways of practising writing. The training took place in a theatre, but with no exclusive focus on drama. The idea was that you become a better playwright by practising poetry, and a better poet by writing song lyrics. Therefore, the course is multidisciplinary, while the theatre is repeatedly described as an important place in which to perform urgent and artistic text. This enables engagement with young adults who don't have a direct connection to theatre or drama, thereby lowering the threshold for them.*

*The writing exercises connected to the academic lectures involved practising the translation of academic knowledge and ideas into artistic texts. Participants attended two lectures on environmental threats to human life on Earth, and then created texts based on them. In one exercise, participants were tasked with investigating how to convey a slow pace in text, given that changes to the conditions for human life on Earth can be described as slow or gradual. In the second exercise, they were asked to write quickly, given that climate threats are acute, and development is proceeding at a fast pace. We thought that, as with love, it is true to say that the climate makes time feel both faster and slower at the same time. The purpose of the exercises was to bridge the natural distance between academia, art, and activism. They do not need to speak the same language or have the same tasks, but they can explore each other's practices.*

*The writing school ended with a public reading of selected texts.*

*Bringing young people closer to the arts and the practice of writing has many benefits for democracy. Access to one's own language, i.e. one's own form of expression and an understanding of the various aesthetic movements that characterise contemporary literature, enables individuals to see themselves as natural participants in the arts. This strengthened self-confidence also has a positive impact in other areas. With a stronger voice, you get closer to seeing social issues as your own. With this approach, we can more easily reach more and other young adults than those who normally experience a closeness to the arena of art and who can be said to be close to the infrastructure of democracy.*



#### UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) LINKED TO THE WORKSHOP

