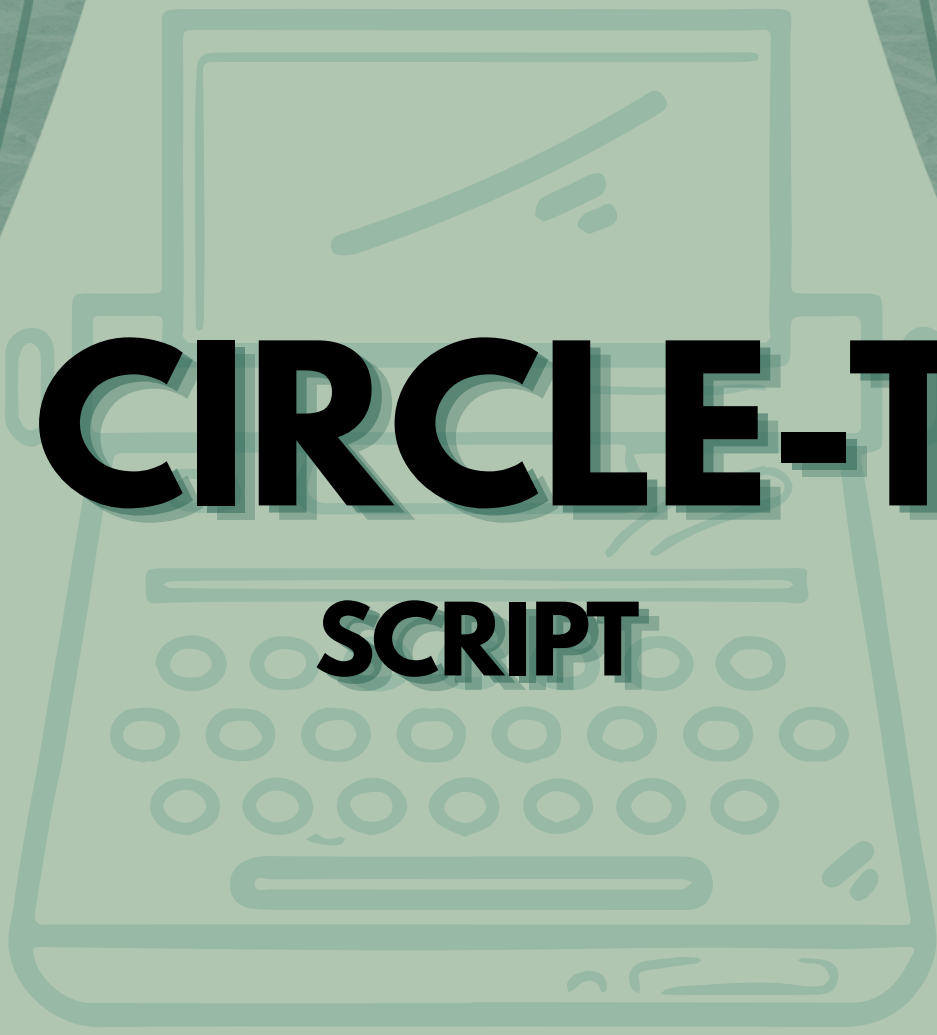


A faint, light green illustration of a vintage typewriter serves as the background for the central text. The typewriter has a sheet of paper with a diagonal line and some scribbles on it. The keyboard is visible with several keys highlighted. The entire scene is framed by stylized green curtains on the left and right sides.

CIRCLE-T

SCRIPT

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

Project code: 2024-1-IE01- KA220-YOU- 000251167

STASIS

Written By Violet Thomson.

Developed in collaboration with young people from Droichead Youth Theatre (Ireland), Challedu (Greece) and Vastztatovnia (Poland)



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SUMMARY

In a potential future, everything becomes synthetic. Twins Cassie and Andy begin to question their perfect, clinical world, in which everything is provided, nature has been ended, and creativity no longer needs to exist.

This cautionary tale explores the challenges of climate change, the impact of technology on nature, and the complications that arise from trying to keep teenagers from growing up.

Written by Violet Thomson in partnership with Droichead Youth Theatre, Varzstatovnia, Challedu and the Gaiety School of Acting.

STASIS is part of the European CIRCLE-T sustainability in theatre initiative, funded through the Erasmus Plus programme and Leargas.

NOTE ON DESIGN & AESTHETICS

STATIS uses the aesthetics and ethos of SolarPunk to explore a world post-climate disaster putting itself back together again, a world where gods and monster, created and mythical, exist to create a dialogue with nature and represent different cultural attitudes.

What is SolarPunk?

Solarpunk is a literary, artistic, and social movement, closely related to the hopepunk movement, that envisions and works toward actualizing a sustainable future interconnected with nature and community. The "solar" represents solar energy as a renewable energy source and an optimistic vision of the future that rejects climate doomerism, while the "punk" refers to do it yourself and the countercultural, post-capitalist, and sometimes decolonial aspects of creating such a future.

This is intended as a basis for creative design but the young people have freedom to amend the text to their local context.

Dramatis Personae

This plays has been designed for around 20 young people with a gender-blind/race-blind ethos. Cast size has been designed to be flexible.

THE HUMANS

FERN	Leader of the people, an old man, grandfather to Console
MAGGIE	Assistant to Fern, an old woman, aunt to Frizzo
BONNIE	A kind but odd older woman, aunt to Cassie and Andy
CASSIE	A young person, has visions, twin of Andy
ANDY	A young person, has visions, twin of Cassie
CONSOLE	A young person, full of hope and peace, girlfriend of Pixx
PIXX	A young person, angry and cynical, boyfriend of Console
FRIZZO	A young person, catty and unsure, pines for Berlin
BERLIN	A young person, arrogant and assumes leadership, wants Console

THE GODS & MONSTERS

CONSEQUENCES	A God above all Gods
GROWTH	A God of everything the grows and progresses
DECAY	A God of all undoing
MUSHY, ABASNAIL, FROGBERT	Small god-like creatures made by Growth
VARIOUS MONSTERS	Terrifying creatures made by Decay

Terms & Summary

TERMS

THE STASIS	A state of permanent unchanging that our story takes place in
STASIS DAY	The yearly celebration of the start of the Stasis
THE CONSTRUCTOR	A machine that fulfills all necessity, therefore bringing about the Stasis

SCENE BY SCENE SUMMARY

ACT 1	
SCENE 1	Fern and Maggie are discussing the upcoming stasis day plans and that the young people are asking suspicious questions about their ages. Fern allays her worries with a suggestion that this won't be a problem after Stasis Day.
SCENE 2	The young people (Berlin, Pixx, Frizzo, Console) are discussing their unchanging lives and the upcoming Stasis Day. They head off in search of the twins (Cassie and Andy), Frizzo holds Berlin back and says that it is obvious that he has a crush on Console, his best friend's, Pixx, girlfriend.
SCENE 3	The God Consequences chants/sings of their torment under the Stasis and how something must be done to end it.
SCENE 4	Bonnie is wandering the stage pulling bits from The Constructor when interrupted by the twins who are concerned by her behaviour. The Young people join them and Bonnie leaves. The young people then depart for the Stasis Day celebration.

SCENE 5	All our gathered for the Stasis Day celebration and the ceremonial telling of the origin of The Constructor. After the young people talk about the performance and head off for cake, Andy and Cassie remark that they forget their birthday every year and put a tally on the constructor (there are far too many). The young people return to apologise and wish them a happy birthday. Fern returns and explains that every year the people's memories have to be slightly reset so that they believe less time has passed than actually has, they plead with him not to reset them but he does so anyway. Consequences appear and wakes Cassie and Andy. Revealing that they have created Growth and Decay to bring about the end of the Stasis. Cassie only sees growth and Andy only sees decay.
SCENE 6	Young people are hanging out, when Bonnie appears with what she has made from parts of the Constructor, she is pursued by Fern and Maggie who insist that she turns it over to them. She does so and the adults depart. Cassie and Andy appear and are looking for Fern.
SCENE 7	Fern and Maggie are dealing with Bonnie when the rest burst in and Cassie and Andy explain what they have seen. No one believes them.

ACT 2	
SCENE 1	Consequences appear to Cassie & Andy again and reveal to them the full nature of Growth and Decay. Bonnie finds the twins unconscious and consoles them.
SCENE 2	Fern and Maggie are discussing the problem of the twin's revelations, when Berlin, summoned by Fern, appears. Fern tells Berlin to pretend to believe Andy and encourage anyone who supports him so that when they do something rash it can be turned against them.
SCENE 3	Console and Cassie are talking about the beauty of flowers. Console is excited about the possibility of their appearance. Berlin enters and sides with Andy and Pixx. Frizzo, Console and Cassie depart. Berlin, Andy and Pixx continue on with the conversation as the monster emerge to watch them.
SCENE 4	Console, Frizzo and Cassie discuss the horror of what Andy believes will happen and something of the horror of their own existence in the Stasis. They know (or have extremely strong suspicions) that they are being kept artificially young and are much older.
SCENE 5	Console goes to Bonnie for comfort about not being believed and her fear of what Andy saw. Tiny little Gods made by Growth appear and offer her a flower made of terra-mulch and unoplastics (Nature replacing materials.)
SCENE 6	Console and Pixx meet in the Constructor and Console ask Pixx why he believes Andy. Pixx outlines his sorrow that he and Console will never get to grow older and experience the milestones of adult life together. Frizzo interrupts them to tell them that Cassie has been given a flower.

SCENE 7	All the young people discuss the flower. Andy Pixx and Berlin still don't believe it as it is made out of artificial material and has not grown.
SCENE 8	Berlin tells Fern and Maggie about the flower. Fern dismisses it as artificial but urges Berlin to hurry up their plan.
SCENE 9	Consequences summons Growth and Decay telling them it is time to act.
SCENE 10	Berlin brings Andy and Pixx to the Constructor and says that they have to stage some damage to the constructor to get people to believe that Decay is coming (so people can prepare for it). Pixx agrees but Andy doesn't. Pixx and Berlin set about damaging the constructors but the monsters appear to actually destroy it. Berlin is trapped but Pixx sacrifices himself so that Berlin can get away. Pixx dies at the hands of the monsters. Fern leads everyone in expecting to catch vandals in the act but instead comes up with the corpses of both the constructor and Pixx. The small Gods of Growth appear and grow flowers off the body of Pixx and then from the destroyed Constructor. Now that Decay exists again the ancient Fern also passes away, passing the responsibility of growing and changing and dying on to the young people left behind.

ACT 1

SCENE 1

The stage is littered with faux earth. Above the stage is a great mask. This is Consequences, a God above all other Gods. Flowing from this mask is the all encompassing body of the God. This should act as a canopy above the stage and also the wings by which our actors will enter. This, however, goes unnoticed by the people who enter our stage.

Enter FERN and MAGGIE

MAGGIE: All set for Stasis day Fern,

FERN: Yes, Maggie, all set.

MAGGIE: It's a lovely day for it. An important day, celebrating the day when we stopped the activities of nature, when aging stopped, when we defeated death, ended all non human life, even the weather. The day the Constructor was created. An important day.

FERN: Yes Maggie, everyone knows it is an important day. What do you want?

MAGGIE: The young people are asking questions.

FERN: What kind of questions?

MAGGIE: Strange ones. They are getting suspicious about their age.

FERN: Suspicious, how so?

MAGGIE: Well they are what? Seventeen?

FERN: Yes of course.

MAGGIE: Well they are asking if they really are seventeen. If we have stopped aging, are they growing up Fern? They are asking how long they have been seventeen.

FERN: They are really seventeen trust me. The Constructor made them from the groups genetic material and we matched them to us based on genetic

closeness, seventeen years ago. Believe me I couldn't take anymore years of Console being seventeen.

MAGGIE: She likes that unmatched boy.

FERN: Yes, the wrong boy, as usual.

MAGGIE: As usual?

FERN: Do you remember being that age?

MAGGIE: Vaguely, it all feels so very far away. We have been old for a long time.

FERN: Yes.

MAGGIE: Hundreds of years, right?

FERN: A few.

MAGGIE: It's funny, it doesn't feel that way. I remember the last year very well but everything before that feels washed away.

FERN: Unsurprising, the mind is a limited storage device, must just be how it compensates.

MAGGIE: Yes, maybe. Our young people, they are wondering why they feel the same way.

FERN: Oh Maggie this is exhausting, you sound like Bonnie.

MAGGIE: She says strange things.

FERN: That is because she is strange.

MAGGIE: Well people are curious.

FERN: Please, there are still things to be prepared and get ready, I don't have time for this. Tomorrow, after the Stasis Day celebrations, we will talk then.

MAGGIE: So there, is something to talk about?

FERN: Stop. Tomorrow.

SCENE 2

Enter FRIZZ, BERLIN, PIXX and CONSOLE.

PIXX: Well, well, well, another fine day to wake up and smell the terra-crumb.

CONSOLE: It doesn't even have a smell.

PIXX: Nope, because that would mean degradation.

FRIZZO: I don't know why you said fine day, it's the same as any other day.

BERLIN: Old folks call it a turn of phrase. Apparently everyone used to talk like that. Now, it's just Pixx

PIXX: Now it's just me. I think it adds a little colour.

BERLIN: Agreed.

FRIZZO: But everyday is the same, same temp, same moisture, even same nutrition.

BERLIN: Yeah, but the way Pixx says it, makes it seem like a good day anyway.

CONSOLE: Ever the optimist.

PIXX: Ever the ironist.

BERLIN: Even if you don't mean it, it makes me feel better.

CONSOLE: You're wrong.

FRIZZO: Me?

CONSOLE: It's Stasis day. Which means, CAKE!!

FRIZZO: How did I forget Stasis Day cake? Aunt Maggie spent all day getting the Constructor to turn our nutrients into cake.

BERLIN: I love cake.

PIXX: Meh.

CONSOLE: Not even you can be cynical about cake..

PIXX: Yeah, cake is pretty great.

CONSOLE: My grandfather Fern has been busy rehearsing his speech.

FRIZZO: It is the same one every year?

CONSOLE: He still has to rehearse it to get it right.

PIXX: Must be nice, to be matched.

CONSOLE: It has its ups and downs.

FRIZZO: What's it like being unmatched?

BERLIN: Well seeing as Pixx and I didn't have similar enough genes to match with anyone in the group, we ended up growing up together.

PIXX: We've had each other.

BERLIN: We've had each other, like the twins.

FRIZZO: Speaking of, where are Cassie and Andy?

CONSOLE: They were with Bonnie over by the Constructor.

BERLIN: We should go get them. We need to get into costume for the Stasis story.

PIXX: Oh yes Mr Constructor.

BERLIN: It's a cool costume.

CONSOLE: We got to go get them.

All go to exit but FRIZZO stops BERLIN as PIXX and CONSOLE depart.

BERLIN: Hey!

FRIZZO: You like her, don't you?

BERLIN: What?

FRIZZO: I can tell by the way you look at her.

BERLIN: Pixx's is my friend, I wouldn't, and CONSOLE is my friend.

FRIZZO: That's not a no.

BERLIN: Does she know?

FRIZZO: No, of course not, they are too obsessed with each other.

BERLIN: What do I do?

FRIZZO: Nothing, but you've got to tone it down.

BERLIN: You're right. I need to grow out of it.

They exit.

SCENE 3

The light reveals the Constructor for the first time. The machine is vaguely alien and unknowable. The light pours out from the ground illuminating the great mask above. The face of Consequences.

The following can either be spoken or sung.

CONSEQUENCES: Paralysis, Paralysis
Is this now all that I can know?

I am not the God that made you
I did not make the Universe
My role and what it is I do
Is happen
I have made everything that had ever happened, happen

Consequences, consequences
After every action something must happen
Consequences, consequences,
Every clock that had ticked must tok
Every heart that beats must one day stop
Consequences, consequences,
What goes up, must come down
A sun that touches the sky must come to ground
Consequences, consequences,

But somehow now nothing changes,

Everything now remains the same,
No action, or reaction,
Nothing ever taking place

Well not nothing, there is little
And everyday I am less and less

Consequences, consequences
Consequences, consequences.

BONNIE is wandering the stage, picking up odds and ends, muttering to herself.

CASSIE and Andy enter, they watch unseen with slight concern.

ANDY: Hey Bonnie.

BONNIE: Hello Andrew, Andrea? I can never remember what your name is.

ANDY: That's alright.

CASSIE: What has you wandering the Constructor?

BONNIE: Bits & Bobs, odds & ends. Gathering as it were.

CASSIE: What for?

BONNIE: I'm making something.

CASSIE: But the Constructor makes everything that we need.

BONNIE: No, no it doesn't.

ANDY: What do you need? We will just ask it and the Constructor will make it.

BONNIE: But I don't know what I need yet, I just know that I need something beautiful. I will make it thank you very much.

CASSIE: Bonnie.....

In enters the rest of the pack of teenagers (CONSOLE, PIXX, BERLIN, Frizzo)

FRIZZO: Everyone is getting ready.

BERLIN: Fern is waiting to start.

PIX: He can wait a little.

BERLIN: He is our leader.

ANDY: Bonnie wandered in.

BERLIN: Well she can wander out.

CASSIE: She is not doing any harm. Do you need a minute Bonnie?

BONNIE: Got what I need I reckon.

Exit BONNIE.

PIXX: What was she doing?

ANDY: She said she is going to make something beautiful.

PIXX: What?

ANDY: I don't know.

FRIZZO: Are you going like that Cassie?

CASSIE: I was going to?

CONSOLE: She did my hair. Let her do yours.

FRIZZO: I did Pixx's too, I would have done Berlin's but he did it perfectly himself.

ANDY: You let her do your hair?

PIXX: She insisted.

CONSOLE: It looks nice.

PIXX: Thank you.

FRIZZO: See that's nice. Simple touches.

BERLIN: We are not really supposed to be in the Constructor.

PIXX: We are not *not* supposed to be.

CONSOLE: It's fine. My grandfather won't say anything as long as we don't touch anything.

BERLIN: Well why be near trouble.

CASSIE: We were just checking on Bonnie.

ANDY: We weren't going to be late.

BERLIN: If we leave now that can still be true. You don't want to be late, do you Console?

CONSOLE: No, I don't. Fine, let's go.

FRIZZO: Way to take charge Berlin.

Exiting:

PIXX: So boring.

ANDY: And yet we do it every year.

SCENE 4

All are gathered for the celebration. Mechanical displays and bunting. On a raised platform sits FERN. We are gathered for celebration. There is an option here to add more actors to perform as the Chorus, otherwise it should be read by the young characters.

FERN: Thank you all for coming.

MAGGIE: We do this every year Fern.

FERN: For this moment that we share. This story that we celebrated. The WHY of the path we are on.

MAGGIE: We all know it.

FERN: *(Muttered)* and perhaps one year I'll make it through it without being interrupted. *(full voice)* Is that everyone gathered?

BERLIN: Yes sir.

PIXX: Rounding us up were you?

FRIZZO: Shhhhh

FERN: Good. It is time. It is important that we celebrate this every year. The Day the The Constructor was activated. The Constructor, a machine that has fulfilled all of our needs and brought an end to the chaos of Nature. Let us begin the story.

(Here your chorus acts out the tale, with the teenagers playing the voiced characters. To be spoken or sung)

*Constructor: BERLIN
Nature: CONSOLE
Hunger: FRIZZO
Beasts: PIXX
Weather: CASSIE
Disease: ANDY*

FERN: We speak now of a dark time before the Constructor. When mankind was subject to the whims of that most dreaded mistress Nature.

Hunger: I am hunger, you will know me all your days
That rot inside your belly, I fade children away

Beasts: I am the beasts who stalk the night
The strength of your arm will never best my might

Weather: I am weather, every gale and thunderstorm
Scorching rays, freezing winds, natures very scorn

Disease: I am the disease that will claim your life
Your daughters, sons, husband, wife

FERN: The people lived in great fear of nature.
Of her ever changing mood and wrath.

Chorus: There is only so much more we can take.
We must save ourselves,
There must be something we can make.

FERN: And indeed there was. After the long march of history, and at the end of the progress of science, the Constructor was made.

Constructor: I am the Constructor and I will bring you peace,

I will put a bind on Nature, bring mankind release

For I can 'most anything
And need only make it once

A nutrition maker for all food,
A poison for the beast
A shield against all weather
A panacea for all disease

Chorus: We ended the use of nature
Eventually we wiped it out
And now we live in the joyful time
That the Stasis has brought about.

FERN: This was how the Stasis came to be.
All hail the Stasis.

All: All hail the Stasis.

MAGGIE: Not so painful this year.

FERN: Well at least you let me get through it.

MAGGIE: You are welcome.

FERN: Thank you.

Exit Adults

FRIZZO: Well that was fun.

BERLIN: Wasn't it!

PIXX: Was it?

CONSOLE: I think you look quite dashing as a beast.

BERLIN: But the Constructor is the lead. The beast only has one line.

FRIZZO: I think the gold looks resplendent. *(To BERLIN)*

ANDY: Does anyone else ever feel sorry for Nature?

BERLIN: Ridiculous!

CASSIE: Not really her fault.

FRIZZO: She made human life miserable.

CONSOLE: This outfit is wasted on a villain.

PIXX: We had to stop Nature, otherwise there would be no Stasis.

ANDY: I know. I just feel a little sorry for her every year.

CASSIE: I understand.

BERLIN: Well I don't. I, for one, am grateful for the Stasis.

PIXX: Can't argue with that.

BERLIN: Well on to the celebration.

Exit all but CASSIE & Andy

CASSIE: Another year, another Stasis festival.

ANDY: It's a wonder we keep counting the years when nothing ever changes.

CASSIE: Well it is our birthday.

ANDY: True, maybe that is still worth counting.

CASSIE: *(Produces a cupcake)* Happy Birthday brother.

ANDY: Happy Birthday Sister. They forget every year.

CASSIE: They forget every year.

CASSIE walks over to the Constructor and marks a notch on it. There are more than thirty.

The gang arrives back.

CONSOLE: We forgot!!

FRIZZO: But we remembered!

BERLIN: We're sorry.

PIXX: Our bad.

BERLIN: Happy birthday.

CONSOLE: You guys are eighteen!!

ANDY: Maybe.

CASSIE: It's a lot more than eighteen notches.

Re-enter FERN.

FERN: Cassie, Andy, happy birthday. I forget every year, well almost forget.

CASSIE: Thank you.

CONSOLE: Grandfather, we have some questions.

FERN: Yes, I've heard. It's understandable, you are young, curious.

CONSOLE: Can we ask them? Will you answer honestly?

FERN: It's Stasis day, why not?

PIXX: How long have we been seventeen?

FERN: A very long time.

BERLIN: Why?

FERN: The Stasis. It preserves the Stasis. All calculated by the Constructor. Biological and metabolic stability is one thing, but sociological? More difficult. A society needs its young apparently. Seventeen is the youngest age that you can be stabilised.

PIXX: So we have to be young forever?

FERN: Believe it or not, some people would be jealous.

FRIZZO: What about what we want? What if we want to grow up?

FERN: I understand the frustration, but there are sacrifices we all must make.

BERLIN: And what sacrifice are you making?

FERN: You don't think that I want to see you all grow up? Grow into yourselves and your lives? CONSOLE, you don't think I want to see you become an adult? Live your life? But it can't be done. The world was failing, the air becoming unbreathable, the ocean acidifying, everything full of plastics that broke apart but never broke down. Almost all life had already been wiped out. The Constructor, and its Stasis at the very least provided a way for human life to continue. The chemistry, physics and biology were not that difficult for the Constructor, keeping society stable? Much more difficult.

PIXX: But how?

FERN: *(Produces a device from his pocket)* A reset. Once a year, a reset.

CONSOLE: Our memories?

FERN: Not lost entirely, but clouded, confused, difficult to recall.

PIXX: But me and CONSOLE?

FERN: She chooses you almost every year.

BERLIN: Almost every year?

CASSIE: There has to be another way.

ANDY: You don't have to do this.

FERN: I wish that was true.

Fern presses the button. The young fall unconscious and reset.

FERN: I'm so sorry. Now, for the rest of them. *(He goes to exit)* Oh, Happy Seventeenth birthday.

*Great drums and music. A whole rush of noise. The light again appears on Consequences.
ANDY & CASSIE awaken in awe and horror.*

CONSEQUENCES: I cannot take it anymore,
This cannot stand.
The world must turn again.

If the sun will shine
Rain must fall
The world must again teem
With unfettered life
Things must again grow.
And in their time rot
The balance must be forgot
And a cycle must be wrought,

In front of ANDY steps Decay
In front of CASSIE steps GROWTH

I will endure your “Stasis” no longer
A time of great change is coming
You will know awe in the face of my power.
You will understand the cycle
The world is not made to succumb to your order.
Nature, will return.

SCENE 5

The Teenager, sans ANDY & CASSIE, are hanging out

PIXX: I am soooo full.

FRIZZO: I think I’m going to burst.

BERLIN: Cake is the best thing about Stasis Day.

PIXX: You okay Console?

CONSOLE: Why do you think I got cast as Nature?

PIXX: Well, its a great costume on you.

CONSOLE: But I am the villain.

FRIZZO: Oh I don’t think that he meant you are a villain.

CONSOLE: I didn’t have a line.

BERLIN: You didn’t need one, you are the beautiful leader.

CONSOLE: Silent, pretty and evil.

PIXX: I don't think that that is what your grandfather meant. Every part has to be played, and no actor is their part.

CONSOLE: You think?

PIXX: I do.

BERLIN: Being called beautiful and powerful are hardly insults.

FRIZZO: Hear, hear!! I think you're beautiful Berlin.

BERLIN: *(Awkwardly)* Thank you.

Silence

FRIZZO: You're welcome I guess.

BONNIE rushes in, she is hiding her art piece behind her back. She is pursued by FERN with MAGGIE on his heels.

MAGGIE: I told you, I told you. She has something.

FERN: Yes Maggie, thank you. Bonnie, give that to me.

BONNIE: No, it's mine, I made it.

FERN: Made? You made something? How dare you?

BONNIE: I'm not doing any harm. It's just for me.

MAGGIE: She is not allowed to make things.

FERN: I know Maggie, please. Bonnie, everything must be made by the Constructor.

BONNIE: But why?

All: *(Recited)* The Constructor will not make anything unnecessary and everything it makes will be permanent and enduring.

BONNIE: But it hasn't made anything in years.

FERN: Of course it hasn't! We have everything that we need. Nothing has to change anymore. Change is the agent of Nature; we have ended Nature. Everything is perfect now.

BONNIE: But -

FERN: - NO! I will not have this discussion on Stasis Day of all days. Give it to me.

BONNIE hands her artwork over.

FERN: What is this? What does it do?

BONNIE: Nothing. I just like like it.

MAGGIE: Give it here Fern, I'll return the parts to the Constructor.

FERN: Thank you Maggie. Bonnie, I'm very disappointed in you. Come with us. You'll have to show us where you found these tools.

Exit FERN, MAGGIE, BONNIE .

CONSOLE: That was terrible.

FRIZZO: Poor Bonnie.

BERLIN: Fern is right. She shouldn't go messing around in the Constructor.

PIXX: It's Stasis Day. He should have been nicer to her.

BERLIN: It's Stasis Day, *she* should have been respectful.

FRIZZO: Boys!!

Enter CASSIE & ANDY

CASSIE: Where is Fern.

BERLIN: He's dealing with Bonnie.

CONSOLE: Why? What's wrong?

PIXX: Is everything ok?

ANDY: We have to talk to him right away.

CONSOLE: He was on his way to the Constructor.

CASSIE: We must have just missed him.

ANDY: Come on.

Exit CASSIE & ANDY

FRIZZO: Well are we following them or what?

Exit All.

SCENE 6

FERN and MAGGIE are leading BONNIE to the Constructor.

FERN: Today of all days Bonnie. We have spoken about this creativity of yours before.

BONNIE: It's a human desire.

MAGGIE: Maybe before the Stasis it was.

In comes CASSIE & ANDY followed by the rest.

BONNIE: Hi darlings.

CASSIE: Hi Aunt Bonnie.

MAGGIE: Great, it's the brats.

FERN: Cassie, Andy what's wrong?

ANDY: We have seen something terrible.

CASSIE: After the performance, when everyone left-

ANDY: It's hard to explain-

CASSIE: It was like a vision-

ANDY: or a dream-

CASSIE: but we were awake-

ANDY: fully aware-

CASSIE: it was like this huge God, thing-

ANDY: it told us that it hates the Stasis-

CASSIE: it basically said that the Stasis is coming to an end-

FERN: What? What exactly did you see?

MAGGIE: The Stasis coming to an end?

ANDY: It was this huge, spirit, god, thing -

CASSIE: It was beautiful-

ANDY: It was horrifying-

FERN: Was this a person?

C&A: No.

FERN: Oh for God's sake. You are both a little old for imagination games.

MAGGIE: It's the whole family.

ANDY: We know what we saw.

FERN: I don't have time for this.

FERN & MAGGIE Exit

BONNIE: I believe you.

CASSIE: Thanks Aunt Bonnie.

BONNIE exits

BERLIN: Didn't get a big enough part in the Stasis day story eh?

ANDY: Shove it Berlin.

PIXX: You both saw it right?

CASSIE: Yes.

FRIZZO: Did anyone else?

ANDY: No it was just us

BERLIN: Hard to believe so.

CASSIE: You don't believe us?

CONSOLE: We want to, maybe it was just a twin thing?

PIXX: A flicker of the light, a weird noise you both interpreted the same way.

ANDY: They don't believe us.

PIXX: We want to.

BERLIN: It's hard to believe.

FRIZZO: Don't be mad at us.

CASSIE and ANDY exit.

CONSOLE: Well, happy Stasis Day.

ACT 2

SCENE 1

Enter CASSIE & ANDY

CASSIE: No one believes us.

ANDY: Would you?

CASSIE: Point taken. When it appeared I couldn't move. Could you?

ANDY: No, I could only watch and listen.

CASSIE: Do you believe what it told us?

ANDY: I kind of wish I didn't but I do. Is everyone right? Is it just our imaginations, is it all in our heads?

CASSIE: I kind of wish I did, but I don't.

Chorus: Consequences, consequences
Consequences, consequences

CASSIE: It's happening again.

ANDY: I can't hear anything.

CASSIE: You can't hear it?

ANDY: No?

CASSIE is paralyzed by the growing chant. Out steps GROWTH, our resplendent Goddess of all that grows.

CONSEQUENCES: This is my child, they are Growth
The relentlessness of live and its persistence.
Under their hand the world will live again
No surface will be free of an organism.

GROWTH steps out and summons several small creatures representing growth. These should be small handheld puppets representing things like; mushrooms, trees, twigs, mosses, lichen and small animals.

GROWTH: The world will again know the diversity of life.
 The world will know Growth again.

GROWTH exits pursued by a parade of these little Godlets.

CASSIE drops to the floor exhausted.

ANDY is paralysed once the chanting starts again.

Chorus: Consequences, consequences
 Consequences, consequences

DECAY steps out. DECAY should incite fear, a being made of every form of entropy. Sloughing flesh, ooze, mucus, shattering. Large and uncomfortable.

CONSEQUENCES: This is my child, they are Decay
 The relentlessness of death and entropy,
 Under their hand the world will die again,
 Nothing will resist destruction and rot.

DECAY summons monsters representative of processes of destruction: bones, rust, moth eaten, maggots, vulture, bacteria and virus shattering plastic.

DECAY exits pursued by their monsters. ANDY collapses.

BONNIE enters finding her niece and nephew unconscious.

BONNIE: Children!! Oh children, are you okay. Wake up.

CASSIE rouses.

CASSIE: Aunt Bonnie.

BONNIE: I've got you. Are you okay, what happened?

CASSIE: It was beautiful, so beautiful.

BONNIE: What was?

CASSIE: Growth. Growth is going to end the Stasis and the world will grow again.

BONNIE: But all non-human creatures were wiped out a long time ago.

CASSIE: But they will be back. They are all going to come back.

BONNIE: What did you see?

ANDY awakes with a scream.

ANDY: Terrible, terrible, it is all so terrible.

BONNIE: What is?

ANDY: Everything is going to be destroyed, everything is going to die.

BONNIE: What do you mean? Nothing that they Constructor makes can fail, and it's said that people won't die anymore. It's been more than fifty years since the last known death.

ANDY: Well it is back. Decay has come back and it is coming for everything. Everything will rot and die.

CASSIE: No, Growth is here, it's life that is coming back.

ANDY: How can you say that?

CASSIE: That is what I saw.

BONNIE: Calm down. Something important has obviously happened to you.

ANDY: Do you believe us?

BONNIE: Of course I do.

CASSIE: Me or him?

BONNIE: Both. Maybe you each saw something different?

ANDY: But last time we saw the same thing?

BONNIE: Last time? How long have you been seeing things?

CASSIE: It just started today.

BONNIE: You better come with me, tell me everything.

Exit BONNIE, CASSIE, ADNY.

SCENE 2

FERN is pacing with MAGGIE watching.

MAGGIE: Well? What are you going to do?

FERN: I'm thinking.

MAGGIE: You can't have those kids wandering around, telling everyone that the Stasis is going to end.

FERN: I know that Maggie.

MAGGIE: Their freak of an Auntie will probably tell them to spread it around. Imagine if people even thought that the Constructor could be destroyed.

FERN: Maggie, I will deal with it.

MAGGIE: How Fern?

Enter BERLIN.

BERLIN: You asked me to come?

FERN: Yes, thank you Berlin. I'd like to talk to you about Cassie and Andy's little outburst yesterday after the Stasis Day story. It has upset a lot of people.

BERLIN: I can understand why, it's not a day for silly ghost stories.

FERN: Exactly. People can get superstitious, silly, ridiculous. Especially when they're frightened.

MAGGIE: People love a bit of bad news. Everyone likes to think that they will live to see the apocalypse.

FERN: Maggie, no one is saying apocalypse, are they Berlin?

BERLIN: I haven't heard that word no. But Andy and Cassie have been saying that the end of the Stasis is coming. That's the same thing surely.

MAGGIE: How are they saying that this will happen.

BERLIN: Cassie says that animals, bacteria and plants and such are going to return. Andy says the opposite, that the Constructor and all its creations will fail and rot, he's been talking about death.

FERN: He's been talking about death? That's sure to get people riled up.

MAGGIE: And Cassie is taking about animals, what are we supposed to do? Share the world with them? Where are they going to go, in our streets, in our homes? Nonsense.

FERN: People used to eat them you know.

MAGGIE: And what's next people?

BERLIN: Am I here to report Cassie and Andy's crazy stories?

FERN: No, no you're not. Berlin, you have always been the most respectable of our young people.

BERLIN: After your own granddaughter?

FERN: I love my granddaughter, my point is that you've always held the same value in the Stasis as I do. I believe you are quite taken with her?

BERLIN: I am, sir.

FERN: Good, she's the right girl for a respectable young man such as yourself. However, back to my point. I can attest that while a few of the adults have expressed concern, and some even fear I want to know what the consensus of the young people is. They are often more prone to flights of fancy and rashness.

BERLIN: Well, none of us believed it.

FERN: Excellent!

BERLIN: Initially.

MAGGIE: Explain!

BERLIN: Well we have all been good friends. I think we all thought that they would drop it after a few days, but they haven't. While I don't believe that the stasis is coming to an end, it is hard to believe that they didn't experience something. I think that the rest of them have begun to believe them.

MAGGIE: How is that possible? One is saying black, the other white. One says up, and the other down. (*Mocking*) Cassie says that snowdrops and daisies and friendly little fuzzballs, while Andy is promising fire and brimstone, rot and destruction.

BERLIN: Well they think it is up to interpretation. Pixx thinks Andy is right about decay and that Cassie is wrong, Frizzo pretends she doesn't believe but listens to both of them, and CONSOLE believes Cassie and not Andy.

FERNI Why?

BERLIN: I think CONSOLE likes the stories about flowers, all their different colours and shapes, animals of all shapes and sizes. I think it's quite sweet.

MAGGIE: It's empty headed.

FERN: And Pixx believes Andy? Confirms his more morose disposition. That may actually be of use to us.

BERLIN: Sir?

FERN: I want you to, subtly, side with Pixx, hint that you may believe in Andy. Encourage Pixx a little.

BERLIN: Why? I don't follow?

MAGGIE: It is a dangerous thing to do to encourage ideas like that in young people.

FERN: Exactly, I am hoping to provoke a little rashness. Let's say we grow these beliefs in Andy and Pixx, imagine their fears, mounting and mounting, the paranoia of waiting for the hammer to fall, the growing anger of no one believing them, perhaps they might think people may need a little proof to join their cause. We encourage them to a violent action!

MAGGIE: Fern!

FERN: Of course we stop them in time, as we have foreknowledge of the act, courtesy of our ally Berlin here. We can then show that there is no decay coming, but, only the destructive acts of those who believe in such myths.

BERLIN: And then things will go back to normal?

FERN: Of course! With you as the hero who put an end to a very dangerous ideology.

BERLIN: What about the others?

FERN: Let Frizzo throw her lot where she may.

BERLIN: Cassie, and Console?

FERN: Oh yes, I am quaking at the possibility of a flower pushing through the footpath or a...a bird appears on my windowsill. Let my granddaughter have her pretty dreams. I'll be expecting a report on your progress Berlin.

BERLIN: Yes Fern, sir.

FERN: And Maggie, for once in your life keep your mouth shut.

MAGGIE: As if I don't have better things to do. I'm not the blabbermouth you think I am.

FERN: Maggie!!

MAGGIE: Yes, yes.

Exit All

SCENE 3

The young people are hanging out. CASSIE and CONSOLE on one side, ANDY and PIXX on the other. FRIZZO is in the middle pretending not to listen to either conversation, but is listening to both. BERLIN has not yet arrived.

CONSOLE: Tell me about the flowers again.

CASSIE: I've told you before.

CONSOLE: Please tell me again. I love them.

CASSIE: Well, they are usually small and close to the ground. Most wouldn't come higher than your shin. At the top of them are these beautiful repeating

shapes. Some are pointy, some are like ovals, some droop like a hood, every one is a little bit different.

CONSOLE: Every flower?

CASSIE: Every type of flower. Some grow alone, some in bunches, sometimes whole heaps of different ones grow together. They come in every colour. Yellows, blues, greens and reds and purples, even black and white.

CONSOLE: I've been wondering, what do they feel like?

CASSIE: Oh, they are almost always soft, sometimes they are a little rubbery.

CONSOLE: *(With wonder)* Soft.

FRIZZO: Rubbery?

CASSIE: Yeah. Rubber actually used to come from a plant, before unoplastics *(pronounced You-No-plastic)*

CONSOLE: Could you make something from flowers? Like a dress?

CASSIE: Not really, they are very delicate.

CONSOLE: What do you mean?

ANDY: She means rot, decay, fail, break apart.

PIXX: I just can't see it guys. Everything is inert, everything is polymerized, noble, and made out of unoplastics. Even the ground beneath our feet is just textured long chain carbons. There isn't anywhere for life to start. But could all this be destroyed? Yeah I could see that. A little quirk in chemistry or physics that we didn't understand when we made the world this way that means it will all come tumbling down. Why not? Why shouldn't it? What right did we have to turn the gift of this world into a sanitised playpen. Not that there is much playing to do.

CONSOLE: All there is to do is play.

PIXX: And that turns it into work. The labour of filling your time. We can't make anything better, or worse. Nothing matters because nothing changes.

CASSIE: People change.

PIXX: Do they? I think decay makes more sense is all.

ANDY: Well don't romanticize it. Decay means death. I can barely imagine it. We've never known anyone to die.

CONSOLE: My grandfather, his parents died. I know that, but I can't ever remember him telling me, or anybody saying it, I don't know where I picked it up from, but I know he had parents, and they died. Some of the older ones, they aren't like us, fished out of the gene pool and raised by the group and our genetic matches. They had just two people that made them from their own bodies, raised them, and then those people died. I can't imagine how that feels and I don't want to know.

CASSIE: Bonnie had parents too.

FRIZZO: And Maggie.

ANDY: Maybe that's why they are all so freaked out. They know what it means.

CONSOLE: It's nicer to think about flowers.

PIXX: They do sound nice.

Enter BERLIN

BERLIN: How is everyone doing? What's up?

FRIZZO: Oh we are just discussing the only thing that we have talked about for days. The end times. Where would you place your bet? Growth or Decay?

BERLIN: What's the consensus?

ANDY: Consensus?

FRIZZO: Oh live a little, make a call.

PIXX: He won't

BERLIN: I think, Decay.

FRIZZO: Ooooh, edgy.

ANDY: Really?

BERLIN: Yes. There isn't anything for life to spawn from, but I can see plenty around us that could be destroyed.

PIXX: That's what I said.

CONSOLE: We don't have proof of either. Growth is a nicer story.

CASSIE: It's not a story. I saw it. It's coming. "The world again will know the diversity of life".

ANDY: I know what I saw "The world will die again, nothing will resist destruction and rot."

BERLIN: I agree with Andy. If life appeared again we could get rid of it again, before it affected us. But there is nothing to stop, something we don't expect taking all this away from us.

FRIZZO: Is that the consensus of the adults?

BERLIN: No. They are enjoying the scary story of it all, but it's just a joke to them. It's a new story though, so it's captured a little imagination. It won't be new forever though. They'll get over it and move on.

PIXX: Just a scary story to you?

BERLIN: No.

ANDY: You think it will happen?

BERLIN: I do.

FRIZZO: I thought you'd side with the grown-ups.

CASSIE: I guess doom and gloom has a little more pull. Maybe that's just how people are.

BERLIN: I'm not saying that I don't think you saw something Cassie. I think you did. I know you all think that I am just like Fern, but that's not fair. Sure, I want to learn from him. He's a good leader. I want to be able to help people, it's hard to do that if they don't trust you, if they won't listen to you. No one outside this group are really listening to either one of you. You can't, won't, be able to help anyone while that remains the case.

FRIZZO: What do you suggest?

CASSIE: I don't want to listen to anymore of this fatalistic shit.

CONSOLE: Frizzo, are you coming?

FRIZZO: Eh, I guess so.

Exit CONSOLE, FRIZZO and CASSIE.

During what follows the monster created by decay should emerge and closely watched. They are unseen by our characters.

PIXX: So, what *are* you suggesting?

BERLIN: Andy, is it inevitable? Is there nothing that we can do? Is everything doomed?

ANDY: From what I saw, there is nothing we can do.

BERLIN: Oh.

ANDY: But even if that is true, I'd want to do something.

PIXX: Why?

ANDY: You have to try, don't you? It's hard to exist thinking you are someone who doesn't even try.

PIXX: You don't think that there is something about accepting it and fading away.

ANDY: Nope.

PIXX: So what is your suggestion?

ANDY: We need to tell everybody and make them believe us.

BERLIN: You've been doing that already. It hasn't got you anywhere. You and your sister have become a joke, like your aunt Bonnie. People believe what they see.

PIXX: So?

BERLIN: So, let's give them something to see.

SCENE 4

CASSIE, CONSOLE and FRIZZO

CASSIE: I can't believe them. The apocalypse crew.

CONSOLE: Yeah.

FRIZZO: The apocalypse crew sounds really cool though. You need to think of a lamer name.

CONSOLE: Are you angry with Andy?

CASSIE: No. I'm not. I just don't understand how he feels the way he does.

FRIZZO: The sad boys club?

CONSOLE: If you are sure that what you saw was growth and what he saw was decay, maybe you saw different things?

CASSIE: But we saw the same thing the first time.

FRIZZO: The mopey squad?

CASSIE: I think I only believed I saw what I saw the first time because Andy saw it too. It's harder to believe it if he didn't see it too.

CONSOLE: How are you feeling?

CASSIE: Lonely.

FRIZZO: The catastrophe clan? No that's cool again.

CONSOLE: Frizzo!?

FRIZZO: What? Oh, sorry.

CASSIE: It's sad? Isn't it? How quick people are to believe in disaster. People are quick to believe bad news.

CONSOLE: Maybe that's something human. An ancestral desire to avert disaster?

FRIZZO: Prepare for the worst.

CASSIE: I thought people would believe in what I had to say. What I saw. It filled me with such an unbelievably happy feeling. A warm glow that I still haven't shaken.

CONSOLE: Tell me more about it.

CASSIE: It was like a surprise party. When the lights come on, and everyone that you want to see is in one room and they are cheering for you. When you opened the door, to that dark room, you didn't think that it was missing light or all your friends, but then, you realise it was missing them all along. I've missed them ever since.

FRIZZO: Your friends?

CASSIE: The flowers, the trees, the animals, the fish, the birds, the fungi.

When she says fungi, the first of our little kami appear. A knee height toadstool creature. It is unseen. More emerge throughout the scene to the discretion and taste of the director.

CONSOLE: What are fungi? You didn't mention them before.

CASSIE: They are kinda like flowers. Most of them are like a tube with a big round top. They are about the same size as flowers. They grow out of everything else, once that thing dies.

FRIZZO: Dies?

CASSIE: Oh, yes. I suppose the life won't last forever, or at least the individuals won't.

FRIZZO: So death is back. You sound like Andy.

CASSIE: I didn't know until you asked. It came to me just now. No fungi without what's dead.

FRIZZO: So Andy is right? Even if you are right Andy is right? Does that mean us too? Are we going to die? Did you see that? Is that what you saw?

CASSIE: Hey I saw life. I saw beauty and wonder, diversity and splendor. Grass and trees and oceans and all full of movement and colour. I didn't see anything not moving.

FRIZZO: Did you see any people?

CONSOLE: Did you?

CASSIE: No.

FRIZZO: Well that's not very reassuring.

CASSIE: You just want to believe the worst too.

FRIZZO: Well if we are prepared for the worst, maybe we can do something about it.

CONSOLE: That's not why.

FRIZZO: What?

CONSOLE: You don't believe it because you're scared, or because you think it "makes sense". You believe it, because Berlin believes it.

FRIZZO: No I don't.

CONSOLE: Yes you do. The only one who doesn't know is him. We see it.

FRIZZO: What?

CONSOLE: That you're in love with him.

FRIZZO: A girl can make up her own mind.

CONSOLE: Sure.

CASSIE: Are you guys ok?

FRIZZO: Yeah. How are you feeling about Andy?

CASSIE: Fine. I'm fine. I'm more worried about what he's thinking about me. It's not that I don't believe him. I know that what he saw really frightened him. I'm not trying to be dismissive. I just didn't see it that way. Look out there, what do you see?

FRIZZO: Only what has only been there.

CONSOLE: Some hills, machine?

CASSIE: Black mounds of terra mulch and machines made by the Constructor to recycle the air and water and do the chemistry necessary to make our proteins, carbohydrates and fats. All that we have ever seen. For once I didn't see that. I can't even really tell you what I saw, I can't use words to get it from my mind to yours. I'm trying, but the words only go so far. It's a lonely feeling. I know what Andy's words say he saw, but all the same, I can't see it, and I know that that leaves him with a lonely feeling. Twins aren't usually left with a lonely feeling.

CONSOLE: How does it feel?

CASSIE: I wonder if it hurts more than lonely hurts everyone else? I suppose I can't know.

CONSOLE: I don't think anyone's lonely hurts anymore than anyone else's. The older people say that young people feel everything a bit more though.

FRIZZO: We've all been young for a long time. How much longer do you think that they will keep us young?

CONSOLE: I don't know.

CASSIE: Do you want to grow up?

FRIZZO: I do.

SCENE 5

BONNIE: Hello darling. Why the long face? Don't answer. Just sit right there. Are you thirsty?

CASSIE: No.

BONNIE: Have you eaten today?

CASSIE: Yes.

BONNIE: Well, it can't be that bad then can it.

CASSIE: Do I look that bad?

BONNIE: You look troubled.

CASSIE: Everyone hates us now.

BONNIE: Go on.

CASSIE: They think that me and Andy are looking for attention, or playing some game. I don't know why they think we'd lie about it. They laugh, and stare and talk behind their hands. They thought it was fun gossip for a week or so, but they are over it now.

BONNIE: Your friends?

CASSIE: No, the adults.

BONNIE: Your friends?

CASSIE: Console likes to hear me talk about what I saw but I don't really feel like she believes me. Mostly they are listening to Andy.

BONNIE: Why do you think that is?

CASSIE: Because Berlin does. He's decided that Andy might be telling the truth and keeps talking about how important it is to get more people believe him. Pixx and Andy have always been close so its natural that he believes him.

BONNIE: Well I believe you. I believe that growth will return.

CASSIE: Why?

BONNIE: Because it has already started.

CASSIE: What do you mean?

BONNIE: You can come out, it's alright.

The little creatures that secretly appeared in the last scene begin to emerge. They speak in grammelot.

CASSIE: What? What are they?

BONNIE: Well I don't know. They turned up yesterday, everytime I turn around there seems to be more of them.

CASSIE: Hello? Do they talk?

BONNIE: In a way.

CASSIE: Can you talk?

MUSHY: Ah po she tum ah mo lee toe

CASSIE: Is that your name?

MUSHY: Cran da so shim freetom

BONNIE: I can't make any sense of it either but they seem quite sincere.

FROGBERT: Tam toe free ti das?

ABASNAIL: Potu sham jur re pi pus.

MUSHY: Aco fre do.

BONNIE: They go on and on like that. They seem to understand each other well enough.

CASSIE: Where did they come from?

BONNIE: Who cares. You're missing the point Cassie.

CASSIE: What?

BONNIE: They're new. You were right, things are growing again.

Our three little creatures huddle together and mushy emerges with a flower which they present to CASSIE.

MUSHY: Goo win ku di duck.

SCENE 6

PIXX is wandering around the Constructor. CONSOLE surprises him.

CONSOLE: We are not supposed to be in the Constructor.

PIXX: What are you doing here then?

CONSOLE: Looking for you. You've been eying up the Constructor for days. When I couldn't find you, I knew you'd be here.

PIXX: Well, you found me. What's up?

CONSOLE: Why did you side with Berlin?

PIXX: I didn't Berlin sided with me. If you remember he was being all high and mighty and dismissive of what Andy, and Cassie, had to say, before he saw sense. I always believed Andy.

CONSOLE: So you think that the Stasis will come to an end.

PIXX: I do, and I don't think it will be all sunshine and roses. I've been thinking, if the Stasis is going to end, it will have to happen here. I mean, how do you stop the Stasis if you don't stop the Constructor, but if you take down the Constructor, bye bye Stasis.

CONSOLE: Grandfather says that it would take the death of the Sun to undo the Constructor.

PIXX: Yeah? Well maybe that's how it's all going to go down. The Sun goes supernova and that's the end of everything.

CONSOLE: That's not what Andy said he saw.

PIXX: I know, I'm just spitballing.

CONSOLE: Why are you enjoying it?

PIXX: What?

CONSOLE: You're enjoying it. The doom and gloom, the disaster. You're revelling in it.

PIXX: Don't you want the Stasis to end?

CONSOLE: Not particularly. I like the sound of Growth, but no, I'm not cheering it on.

PIXX: Well I am.

CONSOLE: Why?

PIXX: Because. Because I don't think we are supposed to be young this long. How long have we been in our adolescence? Twenty years? Twenty five? Longer?

CONSOLE: We aren't suppose to keep track.

PIxx: Yeah well Andy and Cassie do. They call it their birthday. Andy reckons he just turned thirty six, but he doesn't know how old he was when he started counting.

CONSOLE: Years, don't matter anymore.

PIXX: You are not listening. I've been looking into it. Adolescence is only suppose to last a few years, seven or eight year, ten at most.

CONSOLE: Well maybe we are aging slower, it's the Stasis. The older people have stopped aging altogether.

PIXX: And that's what I am worried about. We have stopped aging all together. Console, I wanna grow up, I wanna grow older, and I want to do that with you. Do you know that people used to make other people? With their bodies, I mean. Not by everyone feeding genetic data into the Constructor for it to decide who else the group might need to stay stable. Imagine that, You and me together making another person, a mix of pieces of us, all messed up together, all an accident.

CONSOLE: Maybe we will, in a couple more years.

PIXX: I don't think so. I think the Constructor took that from us when it made us. Look at your beautiful face. How many years have I been making you smile? And not a mark, no wrinkle, no smile line.

CONSOLE: You want me to have wrinkles?

PIXX: I want to know that I matter. I want to see it. I want to see the world change because I am a part of it. Even if Andy is wrong. I want people to think about that. I want them to think that it is possible again.

CONSOLE: But does that have to be about death and decay? It's called "growing" up after all.

PIXX: Because everything will have to fall apart. Without the Constructor I don't know how we are going to live, I don't know what's going to happen. We

need people to be ready for that. I know that adults don't believe us, but they will.

Enter FRIZZO.

FRIZZO: Quick, come quick.

CONSOLE: Is everything ok?

FRIZZO: Now, move, come.

PIXX: What's happened?

FRIZZO: It's started. Cassie's found something.

PIXX: What?

FRIZZO: A flower.

SCENE 7

CASSIE and BONNIE are admiring the flower, the little Kami are watching them. The moment someone else looks for them they disappear.

Enter PIXX and CONSOLE.

CASSIE: Hi guys. *(Hiding the flower behind her back)*

PIXX: Frizzo said that it's starting.

CONSOLE: That you found a flower?

CASSIE: Where is Frizzo?

PIXX: She's gone to get Andy and Berlin.

CONSOLE: Do you have it.

CASSIE: I do.

BONNIE: Stop messing with them. Show them.

CASSIE: I want to show everyone at the same time.

BONNIE: I don't think that they can wait.

CASSIE reveals the flower.

CASSIE: Is it like you imagined it?

CONSOLE: It's better.

PIXX: I've never seen anything like it.

CASSIE: That's kinda the point isn't it.

CONSOLE: I suppose so.

CASSIE: There will be so many more soon.

Enter Andy and Berlin with a breathless Frizzo.

CONSOLE: Guys look.

CASSIE: A flower.

PIXX: Growth is back.

BERLIN: Where did you get that?

CONSOLE: I guess you were wrong.

BERLIN: Where did that come from?

ANDY: Can I see the flower?

CASSIE: It's ok. *(She hands him the flower)*

ANDY: I'm sorry I didn't believe you. I didn't understand, what I saw-

CASSIE: It's ok. I'm not angry. What do you think?

ANDY: Wait. This is just reformed terra mulch and unoplastic.

CASSIE: It's a flower.

ANDY: Is it? Or is it just something that you and Bonnie made together?

CASSIE: No, of course not. They gave it to me.

ANDY: Who?

CASSIE: There were these little creatures, made from organic matter, real organic matter. They gave it to me.

ANDY: Well, were are they.

CASSIE: They were here. You don't believe me?

ANDY: I know what I saw. It's terrible, and we have to be ready.

CASSIE: You don't believe me.

ANDY: You don't believe me either.

BERLIN: Where did you get that? You have to tell me.

FRIZZO: Will you calm down.

BERLIN: We have to tell Fern, and Maggie, everybody.

BONNIE: They will know, in time. When the hills are carpeted with them.

BERLIN: This is a disaster.

PIXX: Berlin, we were wrong.

BERLIN: You don't understand. Where did that come from?

CASSIE: They gave it to me.

BERLIN: Who?

CASSIE: The little guys, the little dudes. They were right here.

BONNIE: I think they're shy.

BERLIN: I think that they are bullshit.

CASSIE: There were these little creatures, little living creatures.

ANDY: There is more life? More growth?

BONNIE: They are like growth's tiny little emissaries. You'll like them.

BERLIN: You're lying. You are making that up.

CASSIE: I'm not.

BERLIN: You made that. You and Bonnie. Your whole genetic line has been a problem. I don't know why the Constructor made you. All you are is trouble.

ANDY: Hey, don't talk to my sister like that.

BERLIN: Can't you see it? That's how they are going to get everyone to believe them.

CONSOLE: It's a flower Berlin, a real flower. She's not making anything up.

BERLIN: But where did it come from then. Oh some magical little creatures showed up, and gave me something that hasn't existed in hundreds of years. Where are these magical creatures? Oh, they're shy. They've disappeared. Well isn't that convenient. I'm telling Fern.

CONSOLE: Berlin.

BERLIN: He has to know.

BONNIE: Let him go, Fern will find out eventually, there is nothing he can do anyway.

BERLIN, ANDY and PIXX exit.

SCENE 8

FERN and MAGGIE.

MAGGIE: The kids are getting restless.

FERN: I know that, it's part of the plan.

MAGGIE: Pixx has been talking about growing up.

FERN: What?

MAGGIE: That's what people are saying.

FERN: Well he can talk all he wants. It's not happening.

MAGGIE: No?

FERN: It's hardly a Stasis if they grow up, is it?

MAGGIE: They must know that they aren't suppose to be that young forever.

FERN: And we aren't suppose to be this old. The Constructor knows what it is doing.

Enter BERLIN.

BERLIN: Fern, something has happened. I have to tell you.

MAGGIE: What?

FERN: You can talk, Maggie won't say anything, thankfully her gossip is a one way street.

MAGGIE: What has happened? He looks like he has seen a ghost.

BERLIN: A flower.

FERN: Nonsense.

BERLIN: I saw it.

FERN: The Constructor removed all evolving life two hundred years ago.

BERLIN: I know. I didn't say I saw a real one.

FERN: Go on.

BERLIN: I think Bonnie and Cassie must have made it. To get everyone to believe their story.

FERN: A tasteful bit of subterfuge, I would have thought that beyond them. Well, if that is our plan why wouldn't it be theirs?. How many people have seen it?

BERLIN: Just they young people, and Bonnie.

FERN: Easily dismissed, but it demands we accelerate our plans.

BERLIN: That's not all.

MAGGIE: Go on?

BERLIN: She says that the flower was given to her, by some little creatures.

FERN: What? Did you see them?

BERLIN: No, I think it is just a tall tale on top of another tall tale.

FERN: It has to be. There is no way they could make something as sophisticated as that. Faking a flower, for people who have never seen one before? That's trivial. If they had managed to make something that could move on on its own, I might actually have been worried.

BERLIN: So you are not worried.

FERN: Look, some people will be distracted by the little side show, sure, but they will see through it once a real threat emerges.

BERLIN: What's the plan?

FERN: I want you to attack the Constructor, tonight. We will be watching, catch you in the act. Show people what happens if they start believing in ghost stories. Get Pixx and Andy there to meet you if you can.

BERLIN: What will happen when we are caught?

FERN: I'll tell everyone that the only way we averted disaster was that you came and told me.

BERLIN: But the Constructor is indestructible.

FERN: We can muddy the waters a little on that. Not all of it is invincible, its strength is in its ability to replicate and repair. The fear of the attempt might be enough. Take something heavy, try smash what you can. Leave the rest to me.

BERLIN: Ok.

FERN: Go now. Speed is of the essence.

BERLIN exits.

MAGGIE: You are still going to make him the hero?

FERN: Of course not. He'll go down with the rest of them.

SCENE 9

GROWTH, Decay and CONSEQUENCES.

Chorus; Consequences, consequences,
Consequences, consequences.

CONSEQUENCES: The time has come, the moments rip
Both faces of mine will show tonight.

Growth you have already begun to wake again
The kingdom of life, over which you reign.

Soon there will not be a surface of the world that doesn't know your touch
Everything that walks, crawls and slithers will love you so much.

Decay my child you have been lying in wait
The time has come to embrace your fate.

Nothing will ever forgive you for what I have asked you to do,
But consequences must reign again, and this is something they have to
go through.

Chorus: Consequences, consequences,
Consequences, consequences.

SCENE 10

The Constructor at night. BERLIN followed by PIXX and ANDY.

BERLIN: Come on. In here.

PIXX: Didn't think that you were one to break the rules.

ANDY: We are we here, we should be celebrating, there is going to be growth
again. I'm wrong.

BERLIN: No, I don't think you are. If Cassie is right, what's not to say that you are right too Andy? I still think decay is coming.

ANDY: No.

PIXX: Maybe he has a point. How much growth could the planet take? It can't be infinite, not without Decay. Not without death.

ANDY: Maybe not, we don't know.

PIXX: I want to grow Andy, I want to grow up, I've been thinking about this a long time. If we are going to grow up, and then grow old, and then? Well, I think that has to all be a part of it.

BERLIN: Well I don't want to die. I'm not suggesting that we embrace this. I'm saying we have to be ready and prepared to stop it from happening.

ANDY: How?

BERLIN: First of all we need people to believe us, to acknowledge the possibility of the threat. No one is going to care if they don't believe.

ANDY: But you saw the flower, Cassie's flower, and you still don't believe.

BERLIN: I think that her and Bonnie are doing the same thing that I am talking about us doing now.

ANDY: What?

BERLIN: We stage something, something that will make everyone believe.

PIXX: You want to attack the Constructor.

BERLIN: It will always repair, remake itself. We destroy what we can. Blame it on this decay or monsters or whatever. Scare people a little. The Constructor will be ok. But people will be ready to defend it. It halt even the possibility of decay.

ANDY: I don't want to end up making something come true because I believed in it. What if we destroy something the Constructor can't fix.

BERLIN: Don't you see? We won't, we couldn't if we tried. We are stopping it from coming true.

PIXX: I'm out. Honestly, I'm ready for this all to come down. We might be alive, but I don't think that this is whatever living is supposed to be. The Stasis, suspended forever in a moment of time, of progress, of feeling, something in me just knows that that isn't human. You're my friends, I won't stop you if this is what you want to do, I won't say a word, but I won't help.

BERLIN: I think CONSOLE deserves better than someone who wants her dead.

PIXX: Andy?

ANDY: I don't like it, and I think it's kinda crazy, but I'm in. I don't see what else we can do.

A wretched tearing scream is heard and the lights drop low. The monsters start to emerge from the darkness.

BERLIN: What's going on?

ANDY: This is it, this is what I saw.

BERLIN: What are these things?

ANDY: Aspects of decay.

BERLIN: How are you doing this?

ANDY: I am not doing anything.

BERLIN: Have you cooked this up with Bonnie and Cassie?

ANDY: No.

PIXX: They are here for the Constructor.

The monsters begin to tear apart the edges of the Constructor, seeking its heart.

BERLIN: We have to stop it.

PIXX: We can't. It's time.

BERLIN: You are being insane.

ANDY: Berlin, there is nothing we can do. We have to get out of here.

BERLIN: We have to do something.

BERLIN stands at the centre of the Constructor and attempts to defend it as the monsters approach.

PIXX: Berlin, we have to run.

BERLIN: No!

ANDY: They will kill you.

BERLIN: The Stasis must be preserved.

The monsters have almost come upon BERLIN . We see his fear and horror. He cannot escape.

PIXX: Run you fool.

BERLIN: I can't. I can't get out.

PIXX charges in and is captured by the monsters but it gives BERLIN just enough time to get out. Once PIXX is dead, they finish the destruction of the Constructor and leave.

ANDY: Pixx!

BERLIN: Is he okay?

Enter FERN and MAGGIE, followed by everyone else.

FERN: See I told you. They have attempted to destroy *(He is stop in shock)*

MAGGIE: It's gone.

CASSIE: It happened. It really happened.

FRIZZO: The Constructor is gone.

CONSOLE: Pixx?

FERN: It's not possible. How did you do this?

BERLIN: We didn't.

CONSOLE: Pixx?

BONNIE: Are you okay?

ANDY: I'm fine but-

CONSOLE: PIXX?

ANDY: He's gone.

CONSOLE: What do you mean?

ANDY: Decay, it took him. That's his body, but he's gone.

FERN: A death.

MAGGIE: It's be so long. I've never seen one.

BERLIN: He saved me. They were coming for me, but he saved me, got me out, and they took him.

CONSOLE: What do I do? What happens now.

BONNIE: You cry. When you love someone, and they're gone. You cry. That's the beginning.

FERN: Death has returned.

CONSOLE: What happens to his body?

The kami emerge again.

MAGGIE: Oh my days.

FERN: They are real.

BONNIE: Hello my loves, what is it?

MUSHY: *(Pointing at PIXX in CONSOLE's arms)* Fush a crimo neemus.

FROGBERT: Beg ba tara

ABASNAIL: Wash a cuss co al desno.

BONNIE: *(To the kami)* Do what you think is best. Console, step away my love.

CONSOLE: What are they going to do.

BONNIE: I don't know.

CASSIE and Frizzo lead CONSOLE away from PIXX's body. The kami approach and bow. The grow a covering of flowers over the body.

CASSIE: The first field.

FRIZZO: He's growing.

The Kami turn their attention to the ruins of the Constructor and cover it with growth. The bow to everyone and depart.

MAGGIE: Growth is really back.

FERN: And so is death. I feel very old all of a sudden.

MAGGIE: We are going to die aren't we.

BONNIE: We are supposed to. We've had enough time. It's their time.

FERN collapses

CONSOLE: Fern!!

FERN: It's ok, it's ok.

CONSOLE: Please, please not you too.

FERN: I'm so sorry. I wish there was another way.

CONSOLE: Please.

FERN: There's nothing to be done. If there was I'd do it, well I did do it, for a very long time. Pixx's death was a tragedy, this one is just the natural course of things. I'm old, very old. Maggie, Bonnie, you should have a little more time.

BERLIN: You kept us safe all these years.

ANDY: I wish I had been wrong. I wish that only Growth was back.

FERN: That's the way of things. Before the Constructor, we had both, it was always both, in ever exchanging cycles. Growth and Decay, Decay and Growth. The Stasis was a circle, this is a spiral and it is up to you all whether it is a spiral up or down. Hey, hey, my darling. Death is a part of growing up. So grow, UP!

FERN passes away.

CONSOLE: He's really gone.

CASSIE: And growth is here.

ANDY: And decay.

BERLIN: It all came true, all of it.

FRIZZO: So what now? What happens next?

ANDY: I don't know.

CASSIE: Me either.

CONSOLE: I think that that's the point.