

Two Thespians Walk
into the Apocalypse:
Making Art
in a State of
Emergency



Join us for a spirited and gloriously unruly conversation between **Holly Hughes**—legendary provocateur of the Culture Wars and queer feminist performance icon—and **Katie Pearl**, acclaimed theatre-maker whose work wrestles (artfully) with the climate crisis. Together, they take on the unsayable: rape culture, ecological collapse, and the ever-growing list of words, topics, and truths deemed “too risky” for public discourse. Through a conversation that is equal parts critical inquiry and creative exchange, Hughes and Pearl reflect on strategies of resistance, the politics of representation, and the generative possibilities that emerge when artists address what dominant discourse attempts to silence.

  For background information, consult our website or call 217-333-6729.

Holly Hughes

Stamps School of Art & Design,
University of Michigan

Katie Pearl

Theater, Wesleyan University

Wednesday
January 28, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Knight Auditorium
Spurlock Museum
600 South Gregory, Urbana
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Hosted by:
School of Art + Design

In conjunction with:
College of Fine & Applied Arts
Creative Writing Program
Department of Dance
Department of English
Department of Gender &
Women's Studies
Department of Sociology
Department of Theatre
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Spurlock Museum
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