

POLEMIC  
GET A LICENCE!

CAST

LECTURER ANNOUNCER ACTORS

*the number of Actors is determined by the company*

*population statistics taken from*

*<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/world-population-by-year/>*

*sea level rise from Wikipedia*

*Amazon loss from <https://sentientmedia.org/amazon-deforestation/>  
other figures from reliable internet sources*

*Either the scene begins with a short film demonstrating with clear visuals and minimal commentary the rapid rise in global human population over the last ten thousand years and its implications for the planet and people in general (loss of wildlife habitat and natural resources, global warming, starvation, mass migration etc) or the film is a silent backdrop throughout the performance without being so obtrusive that it detracts from the argument.*

LECTURER In the beginning . . .

ACTOR The beginning of what?

LECTURER Whatever you like. The universe, the world, this play . . .

ACTOR Play?

LECTURER Play, event, scenario, happening . . . whatever you want to call it. In the beginning there was, there were . . .

ACTOR What?

ANNOUNCER *(almost sotto voce)* Two thousand years ago, one hundred and seventy million.

LECTURER People.