IGNITE CLIMATE SHORTS:

THE GERMINATES by Holly Louise Psaliou

Produced and Directed by Lucy Evans and Kate McAll

Characters:

Charlie - Leader and Founder of The Germinates; wonderfully flawed but has all the right intentions, and still in a grieving mind-set.

Alex - Determined; ex-friend to The Germinates before the group's inception, seeks redemption.

Jordan - The academic member of The Germinates; will use any opportunity to talk about the science behind the group's guerrilla gardening.

Taylor - The compassionate member of The Germinates, all for second chances.

Frankie - Biased and influential Radio DJ; uses their position to celebrate the Mayor's gentrification and redevelopment of the Southside of the city.

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OPENING CREDITS

SOUND: theme music plays under the opening credits

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SCENE 1. EXT. QUIET SUBURBAN STREET. DUSK.

SOUND: digging with shovels, breathing

JORDAN:	What shall we plant next, Charlie?
CHARLIE:	The silver birch would look great
JORDAN:	<i>(effort)</i> Here.
JORDAN:	Thanks. <i>(effort</i>). Ok, that's it. Let's put the soil back.
SOUND: distant police siren	
TAYLOR:	We've got company.
SOUND: tamping down soil; sirens get closer	
CHARLIE:	Quick, Taylor, grab that shovel Jordan, get that pot. We'll have to come back and water them later.
SOUND: the clang of shovels	dumped in a car's boot. Doors slamming. Car accelerates away.

SOUND: Music sting (leaving in a hurry)

SCENE 2. INT. OFFICE AT THE HOME OF THE MAYOR. DAY.

SOUND: Alex searches through the drawers.

ALEX	(rummaging) Arh. It's here somewhere.
TAYLOR:	Alex, are you absolutely sure he's not going to come back?
ALEX:	The concrete's being poured today.Dad likes to be on site for that.
TAYLOR:	So, he's not making you call him Mr Mayor at home then?
ALEX:	No, Taylor he isn't Ah, here it is. <i>(hands document to Taylor<u>).</u> Read that.</i>
SOUND: pages turning	
TAYLOR:	Green lit plans for the demolition of Earth Hill Avenue? That's where Charlie's nan used to live, with the beautiful back garden. He's gonna be gutted. Why are you showing me this, Alex? I didn't think you wanted to be involved.
ALEX:	Because next on the list is Meadow Fields, where the pear tree is. The one we tied a tyre swing to, remember?
Alex laughs, hopeful. It turns into a cough.	

Yeah, I just need my inhaler. ALEX:

SOUND: Alex uses inhaler

ALEX (CONT'D):	You know how much that tree means to me How much I miss you guys.
TAYLOR:	I miss you too. I can't speak on behalf of Charlie and Jordan. But this is gonna tear Charlie apart Thank you for showing it to me. Maybe the Northside hasn't corrupted you entirely.

SOUND: music sting for scene change

SCENE 3. EXT. SUBURBAN STREET. NIGHT.

SOUND: rain, digging

JORDAN: This maple's gonna look great here.

CHARLIE: Towards you a bit, Jordan. Yeah, that's better. Let's fill it in.

SOUND: they fill in the soil

TAYLOR:	How many did we plant tonight?
CHARLIE:	Fifteen maple, ten magnolia and four beech.
JORDAN:	Another successful mission, team.
TAYLOR:	(changing subject) What's the air temperature?

JORDAN:	(JORDAN PRESSES SOME BUTTONS ON HIS DEVICE. IT BEEPS). Too high. These Northsiders never learn. Trees keep cities cooler – they reflect more heat than dark pavements and roads. And they transpire the water!
CHARLIE:	Jordan. We do know! That's why we're here.
TAYLOR:	So, Charlie, what's next?
CHARLIE:	Tomorrow night we're hitting Fincers Street.
TAYLOR:	That's where the Mayor lives.
JORDAN:	Yeah - what if we bump into him, or Alex?
CHARLIE:	If that traitor knows any better, she'll stay well clear.
SOUND: floodwater rises	
CHARLIE (CONT'D):	Look! The storm drains are flooding again. Water's rising. What if it drowns the tree?
JORDAN:	Red maples are pretty tolerant of waterlogging. The more we plant, the more we reduce the flooding. (<u>WATER SPLASHING</u>). Ugh. That's another pair of trainers ruined. Look at this place. No gardens. Everyone has a driveway instead of a garden. Tarmac and concrete. No wonder the drains can't do their job.
SOUND: Taylor's phone rings	
CHARLIE:	Someone's keen to get hold of you today, Taylor. That's the

tenth time.

TAYLOR:	It's no one important.
CHARLIE:	Then let's get this finished and get out of here.
SCENE 4.	INT. RADIO STUDIO. DAY.
SOUND: radio jingle	
FRANKIE (RADIO DJ):	This is North-City FM, sponsored by North-Future Development. The evening news at six o' clock. The mayor has announced plans for another major redevelopment. The South Gardens will be turned into luxury offices and a car park And we have our first caller on the line for Frankie's Happy Hour. Who are you and how are you spending your happy evening?
CHARLIE:	My name doesn't matter. And I'm spending my evening angry. The Mayor signs plan after plan for his redevelopments and he passed a law to make guerrilla gardening illegal. But cutting down the trees not only releases carbon back into the atmosphere, it makes our soil less rich, and leads to soil erosion.
FRANKIE:	<i>(trying to calm things)</i> Okay, caller, there's no need to /
CHARLIE:	We are The Germinates. We're here to protect the environment and reclaim our spaces. If you're listening, Mayor, we're putting back what you ripped away. We're coming for you! That's why we're ready to plant /
SOUND: radio music comes in u	<i>under the DJ</i>
FRANKIE	(cuts him off) And now a weather alert. There are several flood warnings tonight and hundreds of people have been

(cuts him off) And now a weather alert. There are several flood warnings tonight and hundreds of people have been advised to evacuate. (fades) More heavy rain is expected tonight.

SOUND: radio jingle

SCENE 5. INT. HOUSE. NIGHT.

SOUND: rain on windows

JORDAN:	Why the hell did you call North-City FM, Charlie? We're trying to keep a low profile You made us sound like eco-terrorists.
CHARLIE:	That wasn't my intention, and you know it.
JORDAN:	Going public is not what The Germinates was set up for.
CHARLIE:	But we are the only guerrilla gardeners left.
JORDAN:	Did it not cross your mind this could have serious repercussions for all of us?
CHARLIE:	I'm the one putting myself on the line. Who set up this group? Me. Who buys all the equipment? Me. Who buys the trees? Me. The Mayor's destroyed the Northside and now he's doing the same to us. It's time we stepped up.
JORDAN:	(sighs). I'm going to bed.
CHARLIE:	What about tomorrow's plan, Jordan? Fincers Street?
JORDAN:	Forget it. I'm done.

SOUND: Jordan leaves

CHARLIE:	Fine. Me and Taylor can do it on our own.
TAYLOR	(sighs in exasperation, leaving)
SOUND: Taylor leaves	
CHARLIE (CONT'D):	Taylor, where you going? <i>(to self)</i> I guess I'll be going on my own then. (sighs)

SCENE 6. INT. CAR. NIGHT.

SOUND: Charlie clicks in his seatbelt. Turns the key, starts the engine. Two car doors open.

Taylor and Jordan get in.

JORDAN:	New rule from tonight. Here's a tenner each from us.
CHARLIE:	Jordan! What's triggered this?
JORDAN:	How you put yourself across on the radio wasn't great, but you showed real bravery doing it. The Mayor won't stop.
TAYLOR:	We've got to do more. We'll take photos tonight. Share what The Germinates is really about. Look, we brought these.
CHARLIE:	Wow! Two gorgeous flowering cherry trees.
JORDAN:	<i>Prunus</i> 'Accolade', to be exact. Sometimes you've just gotta pick a tree because it's pretty.

 CHARLIE:
 I'm speechless, no science spiel? And you're buying supplies now, too?

 JORDAN:
 You were right – people need to know about us.

 SOUND: Music sting

SCENE 7. EXT. SUBURBAN STREET. NIGHT.

SOUND: Charlie, Jordan and Taylor slam the car doors shut.

CHARLIE:	Here we are. Fincers Street. Let's get going. Wait a minute. Is that Alex over there?
TAYLOR:	It's not what you think.
CHARLIE:	What the hell is she doing here? Jordan, did you know about this?
JORDAN:	Please Charlie, just hear her out.
ALEX:	(approaching) Charlie, wait. I want to fix things, do something good.
CHARLIE:	You're a year too late Alex. Nine months ago, you were standing outside a new office block built on top of Jordan's dad's allotment holding a pair of scissors ready to cut the ribbon!
ALEX:	My dad made me. I didn't want to do it.

CHARLIE:	Let's just plant the cherry trees, take some photos and get out of here.	
ALEX:	Who do you think told Taylor your nan's garden is next? (<i>pause</i>) It was me. I showed him the blueprints for the Demolition, I to— (coughs)	
	Demontion, rto- (coughs)	
SOUND: a coughing fit overwhelms Alex; she uses her inhaler.		
CHARLIE:	<i>(tentative)</i> Are you okay?	
ALEX:	Air pollution here in the North is getting worse. People coughing is the new birds singing. Taylor's been telling me how trees remove particulates from the air, how much they help.	
	Let me in, please. (<i>Alex rummages in a bin bag – the plastic crinkles</i>) Will you accept these?	
CHARLIE:	(DELIGHTED) Petunias?	
ALEX:	Night sky. A purple cosmos with little stars. Your nan's favourite.	
JORDAN:	Well?	
TAYLOR:	What do you say, Charlie?	
CHARLIE:	Give her a shovel. Here, Alex, you can go first.	

SOUND: a cacophony of shovels; a friendship in the process of repair. Laughter.

FINAL CREDITS

SOUND: theme music plays under the closing credits

In The Germinates by Holly Louise Psaliou, Jordan was played by Alexandria McCauley, Charlie by Jerome Lance, Taylor by Peace Sogunro, Alex by Mia Catalina Gill, and radio DJ by Sebastian Isaac. Dramaturgy was by Atiha Sen Gupta, sound design by Ian Hunter and music by John Biddle.

It was a Fierce Green and Rhiannon Media co-production, produced and directed by Lucy Evans and Kate McAll.

IGNITE Climate Shorts are supported by the Royal Society of Chemistry. They were recorded at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama with a cast of their members and with technical stage management by Chris Laurich.

Visit FierceGreenProductions.co.uk for more information on the project and the science behind the dramas.

SOUND: music rises to a climax before quickly fading out.

<u>END.</u>