

A man with a beard and mustache, wearing a black t-shirt and a brown tool belt, is posing against a green background with a repeating geometric pattern. He is holding a red and black power drill in his right hand, raised above his head. In his left hand, he holds a hammer. He is sticking his tongue out playfully. The text 'CIRCA THEATRE 2025' is overlaid in the top right corner.

 CIRCA
THEATRE
2025

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– Return Season**

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ALL INFORMATION IN THIS BROCHURE IS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING BUT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



In 1987 the Theatre Artists Charitable Trust (TACT) was established to provide financial support to theatre artists to help them achieve a viable income and career as professional artists.

The support the artists receive through TACT from founding sponsor Chapman Tripp, Creative New Zealand and individual donors is vital to ensure we can continue to bring world class theatre to Wellington.

Any donation, big or small, makes a difference.

Simply visit circa.co.nz/support-us to donate.

Theatre Artists Charitable Trust is a charitable trust registered under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 (registration number CC28898).

Circa Theatre offers sincere thanks to the generous philanthropists and organisations who make it possible for us to help keep the theatre arts thriving for Wellington and New Zealand.

PRINCIPAL SPONSORS



CORE FUNDERS





HE WAKA EKE NOA

Circa Theatre recognises the mana whenua of the Wellington Region, Te Āti Awa, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika, and proudly upholds its partnership with Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

KIA ORA AND WELCOME TO CIRCA THEATRE'S 2025 SEASON

Circa Theatre is proud to present our 2025 programme.

We have an exciting year ahead full of unique and diverse shows, as well as opening a new look Cafe Bar and Brasserie in our upgraded building, including the new vibrant façade facing Wellington's waterfront.

As always, we want to thank our loyal supporters, play sponsors, practitioners, Friends of Circa and patrons for helping Circa to achieve an exciting future.

All of us at Circa look forward to sharing this exciting programme with you and continuing to bring the best of New Zealand theatre to Wellington.

Ngā mihi, The Circa Council

Circa council left to right from top: Susan Wilson, Salesi Le'ota, Neville Carson, Linda Wilson, Ross Jolly, Carolyn Henwood, Andrew Foster, Simon Leary, Gavin Rutherford, Carrie Green, Jamie McCaskill, Debbie Fish, Sepelini Mua'au



Circa Theatre would like to gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support of the following TACT (Theatre Artists Charitable Trust) Trustees: Charlotte Bates, Debbie Fish, Ian Fraser (TACT Chair – pictured), Dame Carolyn Henwood, James Johnston, Mark Reese.

WAYS TO SAVE

Bookings

Tickets can be booked online, over the phone by calling 04 801 7992, in person at the Circa Theatre Box Office or on email circa@circa.co.nz.

\$30 for aged 30 and Under

To encourage our youth to attend more live performance shows, we offer \$30 tickets to people who are 30 years old or younger.

\$25 Child tickets

New this year we are adding a child's ticket price. For ages 18 and under.

Discounted Early Bird tickets

Two months before a show starts, shows can opt to go on sale with an early bird ticket price of \$50 per adult, \$40 per SuperGold Card and \$30 for concession tickets. The sale is announced via Circa email and social media. Patrons have two weeks to take up the discounted offer before normal pricing resumes. Signing up to the Circa e-newsletter or following us on Facebook or Instagram will ensure you see when the early birds are on.

\$40 Sunday Special*

On the first Sunday performance of a show season, select shows can offer a special \$40 sale price per seat.

Choose Your Price Night*

Shows offer a price scheme whereby tickets can be purchased at differing price points ranging from \$15 to \$65 per person. Tickets can be bought at any price in this range, depending on how much the seat holder cares to pay. The purpose of this scheme is to find ways to allow everyone to get to enjoy the theatre.

\$40 Show Preview

The first performances of a show season, before opening night, are called a Preview. Shows can choose to hold these as part of their rehearsal process, some may hold more than one and some may not choose to have one at all. The price of a preview performance is \$40 per seat, and patrons will get to see the play first and also save. The preview can be an important milestone in a play's development.

Group Prices

Book a group of 6+ to one performance and save. The group will receive a discount on the subscription adult price at \$50pp.

Book a group of 20+ to one performance and save. The group will receive a discount on the subscription adult price at \$45pp.

Concession Pricing *(Presentation of appropriate ID will be required)*

SuperGold Card holders \$50

Community Services Card holders and full-time students \$40



SLEEPING BEAUTY: THE PANTOMIME – RETURN SEASON

SIMON LEARY AND GAVIN RUTHERFORD

*A family comedy where a stitch in time saves
nine thousand years*

DIRECTOR
Gavin Rutherford

**MUSIC ARRANGED AND
DIRECTED BY**
Michael Nicholas Williams

2 – 11 Jan
Circa One

Tues – Sat 6.30pm
Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$60
Family Pass available
Early Bird tickets
available

Aurora is the people's princess of Wellingtonia – with a curse.

On her first birthday an evil spell is cast: one day she will prick her finger on a spinning wheel, sending her into an unbreakable deep sleep.

With the help of sassy fairies that watch over her and a surprise visit from two interdimensional travellers, Aurora must venture through the time-space continuum to stay conscious and reclaim her throne from evil forces.

An original pantomime that takes a beloved fairy tale and adds equal amounts of song, dance, and sci-fi to bubble up a perfect potion the whole whānau will love. A high-energy romp of comedy and capers – *Sleeping Beauty* is anything but a snoozefest.

Celebrating 20 years of Circa Theatre pantomimes.

'The script, the music, the acting, the audience participation, it was superb'
– 2023 audience feedback

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
PLAYMARKET
THE FIRST 20 YEARS OF
WHAKARAUPŌA'S 125TH BIRTHDAY



HOPE

BY JENNY PATTRICK

The most powerful medicine of all

DIRECTOR

Lyndee-Jane Rutherford

25 Jan – 23 Feb

Preview 24 Jan

Circa One

Tues – Thurs 6.30pm

Fri – Sat 8pm

Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$60

Early Bird tickets
available



Set a little in the future, *Hope*, written by Jenny Patrick, one of Aotearoa's most loved writers (*The Denniston Rose*), and directed by Lyndee-Jane Rutherford (*Prima Facie*), is a family drama that rises hot from within. Piano teacher Irina, a Ukrainian refugee, is cared for at home by her son Daniel with a dubious mix of natural and illegal remedies.

But when Irina's feisty daughter returns from the war and a famous former pupil turns up on her doorstep, hope and delusion blur together making us question the morality of fighting for your life and your loved ones.

In a world where people are rapidly becoming financial commodities, where do we put our care and value? Can human connection, music and laughter give us comfort and hope? This might just be the most powerful medicine of all.

Original piano compositions by 2023 Douglas Lilburn Composer in Residence Briar Prastiti, recorded by Michael Houstoun.

'One of this country's most talented storytellers' — Nicky Pellegrino

Audience Care – *Hope* references the End of Life Choice Act and suicide.



IN OTHER WORDS

BY MATTHEW SEAGER

Jennifer Ward-Lealand and Michael Hurst star in the award-winning two-hander, In Other Words

DIRECTORS

Jennifer Ward-Lealand
Michael Hurst
Callum Brodie

COMPANY

Figment Productions

27 Feb – 8 Mar
Circa One

Tues – Sat 6.30pm
Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$60

For the first time ever, celebrated actors and real-life couple Jennifer Ward-Lealand and Michael Hurst perform together in a two-hander.

In Other Words tells the story of Arthur and Jane, whose lifelong love is threatened by the gradual onset of Alzheimer's. Connected by the music of Frank Sinatra, this intimate, humorous and deeply moving story explores the effects of dementia and the transformative power of music to help us remember the past, reconnect with the present and hope for the future.

In Other Words, full of life's frustrations and humour, promises to be an outstanding production.

'Performed to perfection by two masters of their craft.' – NZ Herald

'In Other Words is a masterpiece.'
– Broadway World NZ



P Ō N E K E , N Z

FRINGE

ARTS FESTIVAL

PLAY READINGS

PHOTO: ANDREW MCGEE



EDIT THE SAD PARTS

By Jack McGee | Directed by Lia Kelly | Squash Co. Arts Collective | Sat 22 Feb 2pm | Circa Two | \$20 – \$25

Art imitates life imitates art in this new romantic drama from Jack McGee (*Boys and Girls at the School Silent Disco*). When Debi starts writing a short story about a break-up, she's unprepared for what it reveals about her own relationship. Things only get messier when her partner, Keith, starts collaborating on the project, and the pair disappear down a rabbit hole of hot swimmers, gospel choirs, and questionable communication.

Starring Aimée Sullivan, Jamie Cain, Emma Katene, and Dryw McArthur, don't miss the first staged reading of this electric, touching, and slightly gonzo play.

Audience Care – Medium coarse and sexual language, reference to suicide.



GROUND

Written by Evangelina Telfar | Directed by Romina Meneses | Sat 8 March 2pm | Circa Two | \$20 – \$25

Ground follows three families that deal with maintaining a seaside house, holding on to their cultures, battling the fluctuating housing market and coping with climate change. This slice of life play is set over 100 years (1970–2070) in a beachfront house in Hue-te-Para Lyall Bay, Aotearoa New Zealand.

Audience Care – Mild swearing and discussions of mental health and eco anxiety.



BLITHE SPIRIT

BY NOËL COWARD

Guess who's coming to dinner?

DIRECTOR
Colin McColl

COMPANY
The Coward Collective

19 Mar – 19 Apr
Preview 18 Mar
Circa One

Tues – Thurs 6.30pm
Fri – Sat 8pm
Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$60



Wellington Pride
Festival 2025

Eccentric medium Madame Arcati is guest of honour at a dinner party hosted by socialite novelist Charles Condomine and his partner Rudi. Charles is hoping to pick up ‘a few tricks of the trade’ for his new novel. But after too many martinis and a schemozzle of a seance, Charles gets more than he wished for when an unexpected guest materialises.

Written in just seven days, *Blithe Spirit* remains one of Noël Coward’s funniest and most enduring comedies. Stylish, sharp and just a wee bit spooky, *Blithe Spirit* is a delicious cocktail of magic and mayhem.

After 18 years leading Auckland Theatre Company, veteran Wellington director Colin McColl teams up with comedy legend Ginette McDonald and a cast of award-winning actors for this refreshingly new take on Coward’s classic comedy.

***‘Riotously witty stuff’* – Daily Mail**

***“Ginette McDonald... an enchanting presence”* – Julian Lee, Seven Sharp**

***“An hilarious, outrageous, joyful night of theatre”* – Sydney Morning Herald**

Audience Care – Likely use of strobe and hazer



END OF SUMMER TIME

BY ROGER HALL

Strictly Limited Return Season

DIRECTOR
Ross Jolly

27 Mar – 13 Apr
Circa Two

Tues – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$60
Early Bird tickets
available

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
PLAYMARKET
THEATRE
WHAKAHOE & AOTEAROA

After a sold-out six-week season in 2024, *End of Summer Time* returns for a strictly limited two-week season.

Sir Roger Hall's *End of Summer Time* reintroduces lovable curmudgeon with a heart of gold Dickey Hart. Rugby fanatic Dickey first entertained audiences in the late 90s in *Come On Black* which toured the country to sell-out crowds. Dickey Hart reappeared in 2013's *You Gotta Be Joking!* and his change of lifestyle, going from the country into town, again kept us highly amused.

Now it is 2023. Older now, Dickey has moved into an Auckland apartment with wife Glenda ... to be nearer the grandchildren. He tries bravely to confront life in the big, bad city and very funny, sticky situations abound. Then suddenly Covid strikes, and Dickey finds himself isolated and going downhill. Thankfully he rallies – a little older and a lot wiser – and so a positive, enlightened future beckons for the intrepid, resilient Dickey... and by crikey he gives it heaps!

The 2024 audience said...

'Great writing and acting, poignant and funny.'

'I thought it was one of the best plays I have been to for ages. Gavin Rutherford was excellent.'

IMAGE: AIMEE SULLIVAN



POP ROX IMPROV COMEDY NIGHTS

Laughs, a fabulous bar and hot improvisers in three-piece suits – what more could you want?

COMPANY
PopRox

7pm – 8.15pm
Sunday nights in
the Circa Foyer

Sun 30 Mar – Sun 23 Nov

\$25 – \$35

**POP
ROX**
IMPROV
COMEDY

Wellington's best dressed improv company PopRox are excited to bring their signature format back to Circa in 2025 after a year of sold-out shows! Featuring hot improvisers, long-form narrative work and more laughs than you have breath for, this show is sure to have you *'frequently laughing so hard [your] chest hurts'* (Wellingtonista).

Seated cabaret style in the iconic Circa Bar PopRox is the perfect way to end your week with a laugh! Be sure to book early for this one as shows will sell out.

"Each of the performers are at the top of their game." – Wellyott

"Some of Wellington's best improv comedians on fire." – The Post

Audience Care – R16 – May contain adult themes and coarse language. The show will contain voluntary audience interaction, such as giving a suggestion for a scene.



KITCHEN CHAOS

BY DAVID LADDERMAN AND LIZZIE TOLLEMACHE

A Messy Magic Adventure

DIRECTOR
Greg Cooper

COMPANY
Rollicking
Entertainment

15 – 26 Apr
11am and 1.30pm
Circa Two

\$20
Under 2s free
Family pass
(4 tickets) \$70

Sensible Spray and excitable Wipe are messy magicians, and they've been invited to a surprise party. But after a terrible cake squishing accident, magic is let loose in the kitchen, everything is turned topsy turvy, and they have to figure out how baking works before the party starts... Circus, slapstick and magic combine in this very special adventure for children aged 3 to 8.

'Riveting, delightful, exciting and highly amusing' — Theatreview

'The winning combination of slapstick, sight gags, sound effects, sleight of hand, general silliness and puns, with the somewhat doofus Wipe juggling cake ingredients and kitchen utensils, proves irresistible.' — Stuff

Rollicking
Entertainment



CHOUCHOU

Enjoy our new Cafe Bar and Brasserie at Circa Theatre – Chouchou.

Whether you're attending a performance at Circa or not, Chouchou is a stylish and inclusive space for you to dine, right in the heart of Wellington's vibrant waterfront. With outdoor seating if the weather allows, the new layout provides a sophisticated setting for lunch or dinner, pre- or post-show drinks, hosting clients, or an intimate night for two.

Enjoy innovative cuisine made from the freshest local ingredients.

Please contact us for reservations on circa@chouchou.co.nz

Chouchou work in conjunction with Circa Theatre on pre-show packages with show bookings.

FUNCTIONS VENUE

Host your next function at Chouchou and enjoy great food and service in a venue like no other. For enquiries please contact circa@chouchou.co.nz



Architects' impression

**GIVE
WAY**



GIVE WAY – THE MUSICAL

BY STEVEN PAGE

Look left, look right, look out!

DIRECTOR

Jacqueline Coats

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Hayden Taylor

**SET AND COSTUME
DESIGNER**

Tony De Goldi

LIGHTING DESIGNER

William Smith,
Tungsten Projects

PRODUCER

Dave Armstrong

26 Apr – 24 May
Preview 25 Apr
Circa One

Tue – Thu 6.30pm
Fri – Sat 8pm
Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$60
Early Bird tickets
available

Give Way – The Musical is an award-winning, hilarious satire of Kiwi attitudes. It tells the ‘unofficial’ story behind the 2012 change to New Zealand’s Give Way rule. Sophie – an idealistic young Ministry of Transport employee with a secret admirer at the next desk – wants to change the world. She starts with the country’s bizarre Give Way rule, knowing a change will make our roads safer. But she attracts a groundswell of opposition in the form of a ‘Resistance’ protest movement, who believe Sophie’s rule change will destroy the lives of decent, hard-working New Zealanders. What follows is a battle for the nation’s soul. With sharp-witted songs and hard-case characters, this charming musical is both entertaining and thought-provoking.

Winner McNaughton South Island Play,
Adam NZ Play Award, 2023

*‘Hilarious and unique – an inherently
Kiwi story with a universal message.’*





RE-ENGINEERED

REGAN TAYLOR

*A powerful exploration of identity, trauma,
and redemption*

DIRECTOR
Natano Keni

COMPANY
Maunga Tay-Tay
Productions

10 – 24 May
Preview 9 May
Circa Two

7.30pm

\$25 – \$60
Early Bird tickets
available



creative *nz*
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND · TOI AOTEAROA

Re-Engineered is a powerful exploration of identity, trauma, and redemption told through the journey of 40-year-old Reg, a Māori builder confronting his past and grappling with societal expectations.

Written and performed by Regan Taylor, this moving piece of theatre combines comedy and drama, delving into themes of sobriety, cultural heritage, and the impact of personal history on present actions.

'The intimate charm of a skilled performer makes this my theatre experience of the year.' — Theatreview

'A skilful metatheatrical and charismatic performer.' — Theatreview

KIA MAU FESTIVAL

Kia Mau Festival is at the forefront of contemporary Tāngata Whenua, Tāngata Moana, and Indigenous theatre and dance in Aotearoa. Right here, right now, we bring together local, national, and international artists in Te Whanganui-a-Tara.

RETURNING 2025

Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui
30TH May – 14TH June

Nau mai, haramai! Nau mai, hoki mai ki te hui ahurei o Kia Mau!

kiamaufestival.org

**Absolutely
Positively
Wellington**
Me Heke Ki Pōneke



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

creative*nz*

ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA



THE TĪWHAS: A MATARIKI SPECTACULAR

Mānawa maiea te putanga o Matariki!

DIRECTOR
Jthan Morgan

COMPANY
The Tīwhas

SET DESIGN
Kate Anderson

LIGHTING DESIGN
Marshall Rankin

SOUND DESIGN
Tom Knowles
and Hayden Taylor

18 – 28 Jun
Circa Theatre
Foyer

Tues– Sat 8pm
Sun 6pm

\$85 – \$95
(includes dinner)

**THE
TĪWHAS!**

New Year. New foyer. New show!

The Tīwhas and their whānau return to Circa this Matariki with a brand new edition of *The Tīwhas: A Matariki Spectacular* to celebrate the Māori New Year.

Join the Tīwhas for kai, waiata and remembrance as they take you on a journey through the stars of Matariki.

Kai and wai are included in the ticket price, with entree, desserts and other drinks available for purchase on the evening. Simply select your choice of main meal when choosing your ticket!

Fill your wairua cup at Circa's hearth, as the queens – Dame Jthan, Pania, Slay West and Tina Coco Couture – dazzle you with their all new cabaret set-list of galactic hits! Including waiata Māori, old school classics and pop that spans decades! Accompanied by their band Ngāti Tīwha – Hayden Taylor, Tom Knowles, Kree Matthews and Hine Aniwaniwa – this whānau promises an unforgettable evening of fun, costumes, choreography and joyful celebration of te tau hou Māori and mana takatāpui.

Mānawatia a Matariki!

'We share beautiful Kai (food) prepared by Circa Bar and Restaurant and we meet as strangers and leave as friends. But this is no dry history lesson! It's party time too!'
— Theatreview 2024

'Being in a space that uplifts queer Indigenous stories makes me surge with pride and hope.' — Badapple.gay 2024



ALL THE THINGS I WISH I COULD BE

CREATED BY TOM KNOWLES AND JEFF PARSNIPS

A classic, Kiwi kids comedy singalong!

Circa Two

1 – 12 Jul

Tues – Sat

10am & 11.30am

Sun

3pm & 4.30pm

\$20

Under 2s free

Family pass

(4 tickets) \$70

An interactive musical exploration of all the possible things we could be when we grow up!

Join the bumbling dad-duo of Jeff and Tom as they open the storybook of endless adventure journeying through time and space, from the moon to the jungle and everything in-between.

Together, we'll find out what skin fits us best! Featuring a completely original repertoire of future hit music, sung live, to transport us around the world.

This 'very Kiwi' kid comedy will have the young ones singing along and roaring the roof off, while beckoning equal investment from the young at heart who brought them along. Fun for everyone!

An Aotearoa premiere by a multi-award winning duo.

'Provoking the audience into fits of laughter' – Theatreview



ACCESSIBILITY AT CIRCA

Circa Theatre strives to make theatre of the highest quality available to all members of our community.

At Circa Theatre some shows enlist qualified New Zealand Sign Language interpreters to interpret what is being said in the live performances for Deaf or hard of hearing audience members who use New Zealand Sign Language to communicate. The interpreter is usually on the side of the stage, or part of the action on the stage.

Performances can also include an audio described show which is the method of describing the non-verbal action in a play into headsets worn by blind and visually impaired audience members, so that they can access non visual components. We also provide a touch tour before hand allows people to explore the set and costumes, and props if available.

Circa Theatre also facilitates a Relaxed Performances for people who benefit from a more relaxed theatre environment where we welcome movement, taking a break, and noise throughout. Neuro divergent, autistic and disabled are especially welcome.

For more information please visit www.circa.co.nz or contact access@circa.co.nz

ACCESS TICKETS

Circa offers a special discounted price of \$25 per person for blind or low vision patrons, deaf or hard of hearing patrons and \$25 per companion/whānau. Service dogs are also allowed, identification must be provided.

BOOKING

To book for an accessible show please email circa@cira.co.nz or call 04 801 7992 and let us know your show requirements and preference.



THE SOUND INSIDE

BY ADAM RAPP

A story to die for

DIRECTOR
Stella Reid

PRODUCTION COMPANY
A Mulled Whine
& Stellavision

5 Jul – 2 Aug
Preview 4 Jul
Circa One

Tues – Thurs 6.30pm
Fri – Sat 8pm
Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$60
Early Bird tickets
available



Bella Baird is a brilliant Ivy League writing professor. Christopher is a talented yet mysterious student. Between real-life and literary fiction, an unusual friendship grows between lonely souls. Until Bella asks an unthinkable favour.

A gripping yet delicate new play that explores the limits of what one person can ask of another; beautiful in its writing and thrilling in its drama. *The Sound Inside* has seared through Broadway, earning six Tony Award nominations, including Best Play. Now making its New Zealand premiere in 2025, starring Dulcie Smart — making her long-awaited return to Aotearoa.

2019 New York Times Critics Pick

Listed among ‘Best of the Year’ in *Time*, *Chicago Tribune*, *LA Times*, *Daily News*, and *The Hollywood Reporter*

‘Dulcie combines a shining intelligence with a strength of spirit’
— Sunday Star Times

‘A delicate play that’s always one step ahead of its audience – as any good work of fiction should be.’
— Theatermania

90s



GEORGIE
PIE

YES WE
CAN

CC
CEREAL

Nintendo GAMEBOY™

Skux

95.5
KROQ
95.5

CRINGEWORTHY – THE '90s

A high-octane explosion of '90s nostalgia!

DEvised BY
Andrea Saunders

CAST
Andrea Sanders
Devon Neiman
Jared Pallesen
Emma Katene

9 Aug – 6 Sep
Preview 8 Aug
Circa One

Tues – Thurs 6.30pm
Fri – Sat 8pm
Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$60
Early Bird tickets
available

Following the success of Cringeworthy '60s, '70s and '80s, this show pays homage to NZ music and culture in the last decade of the 20th century. Expect a 'rad' mix of local and international hits delivered with snappy dance moves, scintillating vocals and a generous dollop of cheesy comedy.

The 90s was a decade bursting with diverse musical genres, from boy bands and girl groups to MMMBop and hip hop, the swing revival (Mambo No. 5), country (Achy Breaky Heart), The Macarena and re-releases of iconic hits such as To Sir With Love, Silly Love Songs, Unchained Melody and Get Down on It (can you dig it??).

On the local scene, legends such as Crowded House, Dave Dobbyn, The Exponents, Margaret Urlich, Supergroove, True Bliss, Ardijah, South Side of Bombay and The Chills gave us heavenly pop hits that have become Kiwi classics.

In some 'fly' outfits, *Cringeworthy – the '90s* packages the hits of the decade (including Can't Touch This, Weather With You, Love Shack and How Bizarre) with some unforgettable fashion trends including flannel shirts, baggy jeans, tracksuits and chokers. These energetic styles are woven together with a witty narrative reflecting the lifestyle, news events and culture of the time – smelling like Teen Spirit!

What's the time Mr Wolf? Time to grab your ticket to ride this retro rollercoaster! Nostalgia invites you to relive a decade that still resonates today. Get ready to party like its 1999!

'A fantabulous blast from the past, high energy, fun and a belly full of laughs'

'A unique blend of uplifting vocals, brilliant choreography and personality personified!'

The Treaty of Waitangi

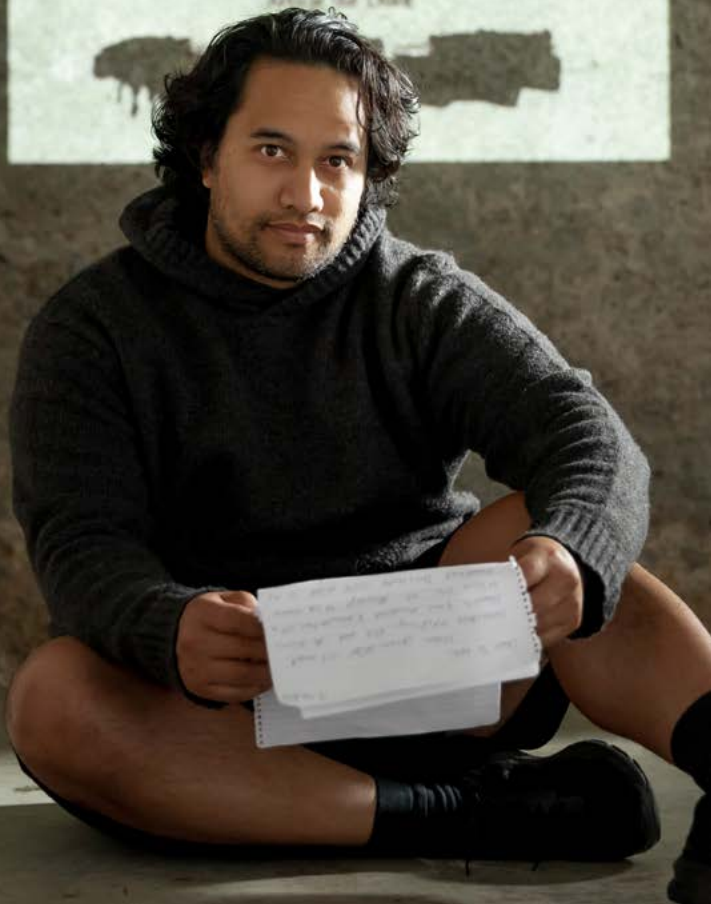
Article the First



Article the Second



Article the Third



RATION THE QUEEN'S VEGES

BY TAINUI TUKIWAHO & TE WEHI RATANA

Sometimes all you need to inspire change is a piece of gum

DIRECTOR
Tainui Tukiwaho

COMPANY
Te Pou Theatre &
Ko.Ko.Ko Creative Ltd

16 Aug – 13 Sep
Circa Two

Tues– Sat 8pm
Sun 6pm

\$25 – \$60



In December 2023 the group 'Te Waka Hourua' set the country alight when they painted over the English Treaty of Waitangi Exhibition at Te Papa to read... 'No. Her Majesty the Queen of England the alien. ration the Queens veges.'

This 'redaction action' provoked strong opinions across Aotearoa – some sang their praises, others called for blood. While all of the artists were charged, only one received prison time: Te Wehi Ratana. This uplifting new one-man play is inspired by true events, and shares the remarkable experience of the abseiling activist during his 48 hours at Rimutaka Prison.

ration the Queen's veges is a story of how one action can inspire change in unlikely places. It is a story about the quiet voice of defiance that still burns within us even when we are silenced – a piece of gum and Brian, Te Wehi's ingenious cellmate, were all that was needed to fan the flames and hear them roar.



A Rollicking Entertainment production of **2:22** **A GHOST STORY** **BY DANNY ROBINS**

Do you believe in ghosts?

DIRECTOR
Peter Feeney

COMPANY
Rollicking
Entertainment

13 Sep – 11 Oct
Preview 12 Oct
Circa One

Tues – Thurs 6.30pm
Fri – Sat 8pm
Sun 4pm

\$25– \$60
Early Bird tickets
available



In a newly gentrified part of London, a couple are renovating. But something strange and frightening can be heard at the same time every night. Jenny has become convinced the house is haunted. Husband Sam isn't having a bar of it. Tension builds throughout a housewarming dinner with friends as the clock ticks closer to 2:22... when the shocking truth will be revealed.

Spine-chilling, funny and scary, *2:22 A Ghost Story* premiered in London's West End in 2021, directed by Matthew Dunster – going on to win Best New Play at the 2022 WhatsOnStage Awards, and nominated for Best New Play at the Olivier Awards.

This New Zealand premiere is a new production of the UK smash hit thriller.

“Laugh, jump out your seats, scream, accidentally spill your drink on your mate – and then go off talking about it into the night.” – Danny Robins (writer)

Originally produced by Tristan Baker and Charlie Parsons for Runaway Entertainment, Isobel David and Kater Gordon

Presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International: www.mtishows.co.uk



KIWI'S BIG HARAREI

BY CATRIONA TIPENE & RYAN CUNDY

*From the Land of the Long White Cloud
to the Land Down Under!*

DIRECTOR
Ryan Cundy

COMPANIES
Horse With No Name with
GRIDLEY by Victoria

23 Sep – 4 Oct
Circa Two

Tues – Sat
10am & 11.30am

\$20
Under 2s free
Family pass
(4 tickets) \$70



HORSE
WITH NO NAME

GRIDLEY
by victoria

Kiwi is going on his first big holiday from Aotearoa across to the golden shores of Brisbane. He's got his backpack, a pocket full of worms, and a head full of dreams. The most exciting thing is that he might get to go on a rollercoaster! With Mum, Kiwi navigates air travel, hotels and conversations with marsupials. His world stretches from the home he knows, to the world over the horizon.

A tale celebrating the connection between our two countries, featuring stunning costumes by Victoria Gridley and fresh waiata by NZ singer-songwriter Benny Tipene. Horse With No Name and GRIDLEY by Victoria bring you *Kiwi's Big Hararei*: A story about spreading your wings and flying into the unknown.

Acclaim for *Trees, Bees and Me* (2024):
"I don't even know where to start in telling you how absolutely captivating, magical and real this show is." — Tania Du Toit, Regional News

Acclaim for *Land of the Long Long Drive* (2023):
"Horse With No Name have come up with one of the best children's theatre shows that Wellington has seen in quite some time." — Deborah Rea, Theatreview



MANAGE YOUR EXPECTATIONS

CREATED AND PERFORMED BY ELIZA SANDERS

You decide the ending...

DIRECTOR
Charley Allannah

COMPANY
House of Sand

16 – 20 Sep
Circa Two

7.30pm
20 Sept 2pm

**HOUSE OF
SAND**

TAHI

Manage Your Expectations takes the idea of the ‘trigger warning’ to its absurdist extreme using humour to question how ‘informed’ consent can really be and asking ‘How much do you really want to know?’

Be prepared to go on a moving journey using a unique blend of dance, theatre, live film, clowning and logic-bending philosophising.

Manage Your Expectations is a hilarious examination of our endless failure to say what we mean or to know what we’ll feel. Full of vigour and energy with a dash of confrontation and chaos, come and experience this bold, thought-provoking new show.

‘Clever, witty, evocative, subversive, immersive, despairing, poignant, personal and universal’

— Deirdre Tarrant, *Theatrereview*

Audience Care – This show contains explicit content, mild coarse language, heavy nudity, themes of abortion and rape.



MONUMENT

BY EMILY SHEEHAN

Sculpting the future of our nation

DIRECTOR

Lyndee-Jane Rutherford

COMPANIES

Kavanah Productions
& BRAVE Theatre

11 Oct – 8 Nov

Preview 10 Oct

Circa Two

Tues – Sat 7.30pm

Sun 4.30pm

\$25 – \$60

Early Bird tickets
available

‘Succession meets Barbie’

— Showcase Victoria

Edith Aldridge is the youngest woman to be elected leader of her country. In a lush presidential suite, she has just ninety minutes to get ready for the most monumental day of her life.

But things are not going to plan. Due to heavy fog, her team is stuck in another city. Enter Rosie, a twenty-two year old makeup artist from the David Jones counter, sent last minute to help Edith get camera ready.

From very different worlds, these two women, though face to face, do not see eye to eye in this provocative, slick and funny play that is ‘sparkling fresh and urgently of the now’.

The team that brought you *Prima Facie* brings you this dynamic new work that ‘explores the role that makeup and fashion play in how we perceive and receive women in power’.

(Review quotes from Arts Hub & Australian Arts)



THE TROJAN WAR

A SLIGHTLY ISOLATED DOG

The Trojan War brings together brilliant physical comedy, twisted pop songs and explosive wit to create a hilarious and irreverent experience

DIRECTOR
Leo Gene Peters

COMPANY
A Slightly Isolated Dog

14 Oct – 1 Nov
Circa One

Tues – Thurs 6.30pm
Fri – Sat 8pm
Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$60
Early Bird tickets
available

Ten years after the creation of *Don Juan*, A Slightly Isolated Dog returns to Circa with *The Trojan War!*

Five flirtatious ‘French’ performers meet you at the door. They bring you in, they show you to your seat, they flirt with you. Maybe they fall a little bit in love with you. Then they tell the story – with you.

Like a wild dress-up party, this show combines theatrical magic, twisted pop songs and explosive wit. The most charming performers you can hope to meet play a revolving repertoire of outrageous characters.

Created and performed by New Zealand theatre company A Slightly Isolated Dog, *A Trojan War* is a frantic and hilarious mash-up in the style of Python meets The Boosh. Leave your inhibitions at the door and play.

‘...legendary storytelling riddled with witty anachronisms, audience interaction and entirely voluntary participation, immediate love stories juxtaposed with the mythologised ones, wacky props and costumes, mind-bending metaphysics, fabulous physicality, sublime singing and superb sound effects.’ – Theatreview

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Annual Membership – \$75

Express your love for theatre by taking up a \$75 annual membership to our Friends of Circa programme. An affordable way to support Circa Theatre, you will receive:

- Two tickets at our special Friends price (\$40 per ticket) for the first two weeks of each production
- A monthly newsletter with special behind-the-scenes access and content
- Access to our exclusive Booking Service where Box Office staff will call to arrange your tickets
- Invitations to Q&As with artists and performers, and other special events
- 10% discount on Circa merchandise
- Invitation to join our social group where Friends can discuss the latest Circa shows
- Automatic entry into our Friends of Circa monthly giveaway of two Circa Theatre tickets

BECOME A SUPPORTER OF CIRCA THEATRE

Partners, donors and sponsors play an important role at Circa Theatre and every gift makes a difference. To become a donor, or to join Friends of Circa, please contact us in one of the following ways:

- Online by visiting circa.co.nz/support-us
- Box Office by calling us on 04 801 7992 or by emailing circa@circa.co.nz
- In Person by visiting Circa Theatre, 1 Taranaki Street, Wellington

Image: Architects' impression



ROBIN HOOD THE PANTOMIME

SIMON LEARY & GAVIN RUTHERFORD

*Adventures of the original working class hero
and man in tights!*

DIRECTOR
Gavin Rutherford

**MUSIC ARRANGED AND
DIRECTED BY**
Michael Nicholas Williams

15 Nov – 21 Dec
Previews 12 – 14 Nov
Circa One

Tues – Sat 6.30pm
Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$60
Family Pass available
Early Bird tickets
available



Robin Hood steals from the rich and gives to the poor in an oldie timey place where people are struggling and homeless, and the landed gentry hoard the money all for themselves – Wellington 2025.

Robin must stop the Evil Sheriff from running roughshod over the citizens! But this quest is far from easy... there is archery, swordfights, and a lot of dance numbers to get through. Our hero is grateful for help from spies on the inside: Maid Marian and her bolshie Nanny (Pantomime Dame Jthan Morgan).

Come one and come all to see the slings and arrows of outrageous panto!

*'These riotous rollercoaster rides [are]
an annual Christmas tradition'*

— Regional News



EVERY KIND OF WEATHER

CELEBRATING BRUCE MASON

A theatrical double-shot from an iconic playwright and one of our greatest actors

DIRECTOR
Shane Boshier

PERFORMER
Stephen Lovatt

COMPANY
Brilliant Adventures

20 Nov – 13 Dec
Circa Two

Tues – Friday 7.30pm
Sat 4.30pm & 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm

Productions play on alternate nights with an opportunity to see both productions in conversation with each other on Saturdays.

For the performance schedule, please check out the Circa website.

\$25 – \$60
Early Bird tickets available

Bruce Mason is perhaps the most significant playwright in Aotearoa New Zealand's theatrical history. Writing with courage and insight, he was a lover of language and a champion of the underdog.

Between 1959 and 1978, Bruce toured the country, telling uniquely Kiwi stories about emerging identity, cultural cringe and social difference. From church halls to country shearing sheds to the Edinburgh Festival, Bruce would play anywhere, in any circumstance, to any audience.

To celebrate his extraordinary legacy, Brilliant Adventures and Circa Theatre are collaborating to make two of his greatest solo works resound for a new age.

Two plays: timeless, universal, distinct. Following their critically acclaimed, sold out run of *Things I Know to Be True*, actor Stephen Lovatt and director Shane Boshier return to Circa for a not-to-be missed theatrical encounter with a master craftsman.



THE END OF THE GOLDEN WEATHER

'I invite you to join me, in a voyage into the past, to that territory of the heart we call childhood.'

Bruce Mason's quintessential Kiwi classic chronicles the friendship between a 12-year-old boy and Firpo, a social outcast who dreams of winning an Olympic medal.

Through the boy's eyes we see the wonder of life on a perfect beach, in a perfect 1930s New Zealand, during a perfect summer. It's a world of magic and transformation, where anything can happen and miracles seem possible.

When the boy sets out to help Firpo make his athletic dream a reality, ignoring his father's rebukes and community ridicule, a battle rages between the eternal optimism of childhood and the harsh pragmatism of adulthood.

Gliding effortlessly between flights of poetic fancy and blunt everyday speech, *The End of the Golden Weather* is New Zealand storytelling at its very best.

NOT CHRISTMAS, BUT GUY FAWKES

An adolescent boy tries to find his place in an adult-dominated world. A young man retraces an intensely felt boyhood experience of bullying. A playwright in his last days reconciles the value of an artistic life and challenges the idea of New Zealand identity.

Comic disasters and confronting your own hubris. *Not Christmas, but Guy Fawkes* is a richly autobiographical search for self-expression. Profound and true, it is a set of variations about over-reaching, cheekily confronting our very own Tall Poppy Syndrome.

'Powerfully insightful... Stephen Lovatt is riveting. Mercurial, fluid, fluent, extremely athletic and fully committed.' — Theatreview



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TRUST**

2025 The Year of the Creatives

Now we have our fabulous upgraded building, we are fundraising for the Theatre Artists Charitable Trust (TACT) to provide grants for our productions and enable our Creative Artists to blossom and thrive at Circa Theatre in all the many and varied roles they undertake.

Please support
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