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# Audio Description and this booklet

### What is Audio Description?

For blind, deaf blind and low vision people, audio description is a narration service that describes the visual images and actions not spoken in the dialogue. Audio description is available on many television programmes in New Zealand. Increasingly, arts organisations are offering live audio description for theatre, ballet and opera. In addition, museums, galleries and festivals are providing audio description at many of their events and exhibitions.

At live events, such as plays, musicals and gallery tours, blind and low vision attendees are issued with headsets and sit in the audience with the headphone in one ear, listening to the description along with the sound from the stage and the performers. The sound of the audio describer in our earpiece does not disturb our sighted neighbours in the audience.

**Touch tours** allow blind, deafblind and low vision patrons to get up close to elements of the production. We are guided around the stage and invited to touch the set and props. Sometimes we meet some of the performers in costume. Some actors may say a few lines in the voice they use on stage to help us recognise them when they speak in the play.

**Descriptive notes** are emailed to blind and low vision members of the audience when it is not necessary or sometimes not possible to provide an audio description. Sometimes an accessible copy of the print programme is also emailed ahead of time.

**Museums and Art Galleries** are providing audio description at some of their exhibitions. We walk around with sighted guides listening to an audio description from trained audio describers as well as the curators of the exhibitions.

**Times have changed for the better**. Older lifelong blind people remember their childhood museum visits being no more than tours of locked glass cases with some friends or families patiently reading some of the posters associated with the objects locked behind the glass. Today we can now say that opera, ballet, modern dance, art galleries and museums are no longer just for sighted people. There's a whole world of new discovery asking to be explored, made possible through audio description from trained describers and theatre, museum and art gallery staff.

For older members of the blind and low vision community who had previously explored museums and art galleries when fully sighted, there is a refresh of their memories. They ask questions to aid their own recall. And then someone will say, “You've just described that painting exactly as I remember it.”

**Audio Described Aotearoa**: Nicola Owen from Audio Described Aotearoa Ltd has been providing audio description services since 2011. She was trained in the programme funded by Auckland Live that introduced professional live audio description to New Zealand. She works with audio describers trained in the initial programme and others across the country who she has trained, including describers who speak Te Reo Māori and Pasifika languages.

Audio Described Aotearoa offers description for theatre, musicals, ballet, dance, opera, chamber music, galleries, museums, civic events, awards ceremonies, private events, conferences, films, guided tours and more. Email [audiodescribedaotearoa@gmail.com](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Caudiodescribedaotearoa%40gmail.com) for further information.

**Including Deafblind Audiences**: Improved Technology is enabling Audio Described Aotearoa to make live performance more accessible to deafblind people. If you would like to attend an event and have questions about accessibility please contact Audio Described Aotearoa directly to discuss by emailing [audiodescribedaotearoa@gmail.com](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Caudiodescribedaotearoa%40gmail.com).

### This Booklet of Audio Described Events

“2024 Audio Described Events” is for blind, deafblind and low vision readers who have difficulty navigating websites or are not yet online.

We are pleased to let blind, deafblind and low vision New Zealanders know about the audio described events on offer in 2024. Information about the events has been provided by the organisations responsible for the events and we thank them for all their help with this booklet. The information is correct at the date of publication, 18 February 2024 .

There are 58 events put on by 12 organisations in five cities across New Zealand listed in this booklet. The events are arranged in alphabetical order of the organisations responsible for the events.

There are two calendars of dates at the end. The first calendar is sorted by city. The second calendar is a nationwide list of all the events. Each event in the calendar has a page number reference back to where the event is listed in the booklet.

This booklet is available as a Word file by email from Mary Schnackenberg [mary@aicomms.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Cmary%40aicomms.co.nz). To stay up to date with new events or changes to events listed in this booklet, you may join the audio described email list by emailing Mary [mary@aicomms.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Cmary%40aicomms.co.nz).

This booklet is also issued to Auckland Branch members of Blind Citizens NZ in audio, Braille and large print with assistance from the Auckland Branch and National Office of Blind Citizens NZ and the Community Organisation Grants Scheme.

**The TellMe Telephone Service** lists all the events from this booklet on Menu 6. The Auckland Branch of Blind Citizens NZ also alerts listeners to events on their weekly Information Line, on TellMe Menu 12. To listen to this booklet on TellMe phone Auckland 09 283 0044, and take menu option 6.

**Amazon Alexa Smart Speaker**: If you have an Amazon Alexa Smart Speaker you can listen to TellMe on your smart speaker. Just ask Alexa: “Open My Information” then ask for “Help” to get you started.

**Telephone Information Service** of Blind Low Vision NZ also announces audio described events on Menu 66.

**New events and changes to schedules** may occur this year. We will do our best to let you know about any changes as well as any new events that come up during the year. We do this by email to our email list and we put the news out across TellMe. BLVNZ also updates the Telephone Information Service.

# Audio Described Events in 2024

## Act Three productions

### Matilda the Musical

Inspired by the twisted genius of Roald Dahl, the Tony Award-winning Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical is the captivating masterpiece from the Royal Shakespeare Company that revels in the anarchy of childhood, the power of imagination and the inspiring story of a girl who dreams of a better life. With script by Dennis Kelly and original songs by Tim Minchin, Matilda has won 47 international awards and continues to thrill sold-out audiences of all ages around the world.

Matilda is a little girl with astonishing wit, intelligence and psychokinetic powers. She's unloved by her cruel parents but impresses her school teacher Miss Honey. During her first term at school, the two forge a bond as Miss Honey begins to recognize and appreciate Matilda's extraordinary personality. Matilda's school life isn't completely smooth sailing, however – the school's mean headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, hates children and just loves to punish those who don't abide by her rules. But Matilda has courage and cleverness in equal amounts, and could be the school pupils' saving grace!

Packed with high-energy dance numbers, catchy songs and an unforgettable star turn for a young actress, Matilda is a joyous girl power romp. Children and adults alike will be thrilled and delighted by the story of the special little girl with an extraordinary imagination.

When: Saturday, 20 April, 12:30pm touch tour; 2:00pm audio described performance.

Where: The Regent on Broadway, 53 Broadway Avenue, Palmerston North.

Run time: 2 hours, 30 minutes, including interval

Tickets: Adults $65.00, Children $45.00. Show your Companion Card to receive two A-Reserve tickets for the price of one (normal booking fees and credit card fees apply).

To Book: in person at the Regent on Broadway box office or over the phone at 06 350 2100.

## Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts

### Jungle Book Reimagined – Akram Khan Company

Experience this timeless tale like never before, as one of the most innovative dance companies in the world, Akram Khan Company (UK), travels to Aotearoa with their latest production: a thought provoking but magical retelling of Kipling's much loved classic.

Jungle Book reimagined is a beautifully compelling and vital piece of storytelling about our need to belong and bond with others, and to connect with and respect our natural world.

When: Saturday, 24 February, 6:15pm touch tour; 7:00pm audio described performance.

Where: St James Theatre, 77 Courtenay Place, Te Aro, Wellington.

Tickets: Most Access tickets are $20. If an event has a lower ticket price, the lower price will apply. Some shows have higher, fixed ticket prices. Companion tickets are free, although they are limited and subject to availability for some events.

To book: For Access tickets please email access@festival.nz or phone 04 473 0149

### The Savage Coloniser Show

Following on from the triumphant production of Wild Dogs Under My Skirt at festivals around the world, including the 2018 New Zealand Festival, FCC theatre company is back, bringing to ferocious life Tusiata Avia's The Savage Coloniser Book, for which she became the first female Pasifika poet to win the Ockham Award for poetry.

Under the artful direction of the equally formidable Anapela Polata'ivao, Avia's unapologetic and clear-eyed examination of race and racism, the colonised and the coloniser, is full of bold humour, courage and lacerating truths.

Fierce, furious and fabulously unforgiving, The Savage Coloniser Show is theatre that is as provocative as it is necessary. This show touches on important but difficult historical societal themes such as colonisation, slavery, genocide, sexual abuse and racism. Contains strong language.

When: Saturday, 2 March, 3:15pm touch tour, 4:00pm audio described performance.

Where: Circa Theatre, 1 Taranaki Street, Te Aro, Wellington.

Run time: 1 hour, 10 minutes, no interval.

Tickets: Most Access tickets are $20. If an event has a lower ticket price, the lower price will apply. Some shows have higher, fixed ticket prices. Companion tickets are free, although they are limited and subject to availability for some events.

To book: For Access tickets please email access@festival.nz or phone 04 473 0149

### Witi's Wāhine

The extraordinary and much-loved wāhine from Witi Ihimaera's groundbreaking books including The Parihaka Woman, The Matriarch and Pounamu Pounamu are brought to life by a powerful cast in this theatrical masterpiece tenderly crafted by the late Nancy Brunning.

Ultimately this is her love story: a compilation of stories and a tribute to the wāhine of Te Tairāwhiti (the East Coast) with powerful commentary, unflinching reality, sensitivity and warm affection that places wāhine, whenua and Māori wisdom centre stage.

Witi's wāhine are distinct from one another, where time, situation and context overlap into a single thread: a cord that draws sustenance from the whenua, from onamata – the past. These women are recognisable as the aunties, sisters, mothers and nannies from your own whānau and communities. They invite you to traverse history, sharing memories, tears, jokes and beautiful waiata along the way.

When: Saturday, 2 March, 6:15pm touch tour, 7:00pm audio described performance.

Where: St James Theatre, 77 Courtenay Place, Te Aro, Wellington.

Run time: 1 hour, 20 minutes, no interval.

Tickets: Most Access tickets are $20. If an event has a lower ticket price, the lower price will apply. Some shows have higher, fixed ticket prices. Companion tickets are free, although they are limited and subject to availability for some events.

To book: For Access tickets please email access@festival.nz or phone 04 473 0149

### Whenua

Direct from the world premiere at Holland Dance Festival, the New Zealand Dance Company showcases unique creative voices in Whenua. This is a stunning double-bill which explores our relationship to the land and our natural environment.

Celebrated indigenous artist Rodney Bell (Ngāti Maniapoto) and acclaimed choreographer and Creative Director of World of WearableArt, Malia Johnston collaborate to create Imprint. Prepare to be entranced by their innovative choreography combined with captivating soundscape and digital design.

This new work will be paired with Eddie Elliott's (Ngāti Maniapoto) Uku - Behind the Canvas which premiered in 2022 receiving rave reviews, making a distinct yet complimentary programme. Uku is inspired by the Māori Pūrākau (mythology) of Hineahuone, the first woman, created by Tāne-Mahuta from clay. This work explores the power of vulnerability and the strength within struggle.

There is also a post-show talk on Saturday 9 March.

When: Saturday, 9 March, 6:45pm touch tour, 7:30pm audio described performance.

Where: Tāwhiri Warehouse, 11 Hutchison Road, Newtown, Wellington.

Run time: 1 hour, 35 minutes, including an interval.

Tickets: Most Access tickets are $20. If an event has a lower ticket price, the lower price will apply. Some shows have higher, fixed ticket prices. Companion tickets are free, although they are limited and subject to availability for some events.

To book: For Access tickets please email access@festival.nz or phone 04 473 0149

### The Air Between Us

A captivating aerial dance event performed mid-air. From diverse backgrounds and life experiences, critically acclaimed choreographer Chloe Loftus and multi-award-winning Māori artist Rodney Bell (Ngāti Maniopoto) who performs in his wheelchair – explore our innate capacity to exist in symbiotic harmony, with each other and with our environment.

There is also a post-show talk on Sunday 10 March, 1pm.

When: Sunday, 10 March, 12.30pm audio described performance.

Where: Tāwhiri Warehouse, 11 Hutchison Road, Newtown, Wellington.

Run time: 20 minutes.

Tickets: Free

To book: You do not need to book tickets for this event.

### Lost Lear

By Dean Colley

A moving and darkly comic interpretation of Shakespeare's play, told from the point of view of Joy, a person with dementia who is living in an old memory of rehearsing King Lear.

Critically acclaimed Irish theatre maker Dan Colley's visually stunning production uses puppetry, projection and live video to create multiple layers of Joy's world as past and present, ﬁction and reality overlap and distort.

When: Saturday, 16 March, 6:45pm touch tour, 7:30pm audio described performance.

Where: Tāwhiri Warehouse, 11 Hutchison Road, Newtown, Wellington.

Run Time: 1 hour, 20 minutes, no interval.

Tickets: Most Access tickets are $20. If an event has a lower ticket price, the lower price will apply. Some shows have higher, fixed ticket prices. Companion tickets are free, although they are limited and subject to availability for some events.

To book: For Access tickets please email access@festival.nz or phone 04 473 0149

## Auckland Art Gallery

### Guo Pei: Fashion, Art, Fantasy

This 90-minute tour includes a selection of Guo Pei's incredible garments and will be audio described by Nicola Owen from Audio Described Aotearoa. The exquisite craftwork and lavish embroidery od Guo Pei's creations are the design signatures that make her China's leading couturier.

We will have two volunteer companions assisting us on the day, please let us know if their support is something you would like.

When: Saturday, 6 April: 10:30am, tour begins.

Where: Auckland Art Gallery, corner Kitchener and Wellesley Streets.

Tickets: $24.50 adults; $20.50 Community Services Card / Seniors / Students or Free for current members and sighted companions with a limit of one companion per purchase.

There is a small booking fee attached to each booking.

To book online go to <https://tix.aucklandartgallery.com/events/c336eac2-b4e9-74dd-a70c-2087412ec2c2>.

Phone 09 307 7700. You may need to leave a voice mail.

## Auckland Arts Festival

### Introduction

Access & Inclusion Programme: We believe everyone should have access to extraordinary arts.

Our award-winning Access & Inclusion initiative provides discounted tickets to members of our d/Deaf and disabled communities. Each year we work with organisations to identify the shows that will translate best into each community, and then customise select performances both on and off the stage. For the Auckland Arts Festival in March 2024, we have 15 events in our Blind and Low Vision programme, offering Audio Description, Touch Tours, and a great music selection.

Booking Tickets: Access Tickets are $20, plus a companion seat is offered free of charge. Easy read booking forms are available on our website: Booking tickets - Auckland Arts Festival (aaf.co.nz).

If you would prefer to book over the phone, via text or email, please feel welcome to contact the Access and Inclusion coordinator, Eliza, anytime.

Email: access@aaf.co.nz

Phone/Text: 022 306 2206

Wheelchair accessible seats for Access events can be booked directly using our easy-read booking forms.

Some events have limited capacity. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Information about purchasing tickets is provided for each event listed below.

### Waiata Mai

Do you love to sing? Want to learn to sing in harmony? Come together with Choirs Aotearoa New Zealand in Aotea Square to share in the joy of collective singing and let your voice soar for the opening night of Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival 2024. Rehearsals across the city in a location close to you the week prior will ensure that your voice is primed, and you are ready to be part of the largest choir in Auckland, singing a selection of iconic waiata from Aotearoa.

When: Thursday, 7 March, 5:30pm.

Where: Aotea Square. Outdoors.

Run time: 1 hour 30 minutes.

Tickets: free event.

Braille songsheets and Access seating are available. Please reserve these online or by contacting Eliza. Email [access@aaf.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Caccess%40aaf.co.nz); Phone/Text 022 306 2206.

### Te Tangi A Te Tūī

Te Tangi a te Tūī invites you to experience an enchanting and empowering Māori cirque theatre work about adaptation and authenticity. A remarkable circus spectacle for audiences of all ages.

The Tūī soaks up the world around it and responds in song. Though beautiful, its tune now is a faint echo from when Aotearoa was blanketed in the ngahere, where flutes of Patupaiarehe filled the trees, and Māori alone walked gently upon their mother. The loss of the original voice of the Tūī parallels the forces of loss and regeneration of te reo Māori.

This Aotearoa premiere is a collaboration between Te Rēhia Theatre Company, Te Pou Theatre and The Dust Palace.

When: Friday, 8 March, 5:30pm touch tour; 7:00pm audio described Performance.

Where: Te Pou Theatre, Corban Estate Arts Centre, 2 Mount Lebanon Lane, Henderson.

Run time: 1 hour 40 minutes, including interval.

Tickets: access price is $20 per seat including free companion.

To book: email [bookings@tepoutheatre.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Cbookings%40tepoutheatre.nz). Online <https://www.tepoutheatre.nz>.

### Angelique Kidjo with Angitu

“Africa's premier diva” (Time), five-time Grammy Award winner Angélique Kidjo is one of the greatest artists in music today – and is back in Aotearoa for one night only.

Celebrating a 40-year music career with 16 albums to her name, Kidjo is a creative force. Her joyous body of work vibes between West African traditions, Afrobeat, dancehall, funk, jazz and American R&B – all of it performed with a voice and stage presence of striking power and clarity. Recipient of the prestigious Polar Music Prize in 2023 – the “Nobel Prize of Music” – Kidjo's recent highlights include the powerhouse musical Yemandja, an Afrobeat reimagining of the Talking Heads' Remain in Light, and the critically acclaimed album Mother Nature, made in collaboration with the next generation of leading African musicians.

Joining Kidjo is Tāmaki Makaurau based kapa haka, Angitu. Energetic and full of vitality and excitement, this group will wow you with their spirited repertoire and exuberance.

When: Saturday, 9 March: 8:00pm.

Where: Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall.

Run time: 2 hours 20 minutes approx with interval.

Hearing loop available.

Tickets: access tickets are $20 per seat with a free companion ticket.

To book: contact the Access and Inclusion coordinator, Eliza, anytime. Email: [access@aaf.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Caccess%40aaf.co.nz). Phone/Text: 022 306 2206.

### The Valentina

A gorgeous interstellar adventure for anyone who's looked to the stars and imagined the cosmos. With the help of her awesome parents, 8-year-old Ellen, paints a spaceship she has drawn at school on her bedroom ceiling. As darkness falls and the moon rises, the ship comes to life. Joining Ellen on board are new friends and trusted crew members Yuri Gagarin, Neil Armstrong, Laika the space dog, and the first woman in space, Valentina Tereshkova. Ellen goes on an extraordinary adventure that takes her past the edge of the unknown and onto the surface of an alien planet, Vitanonan X.

Acclaimed theatremaker Anders Falstie-Jensen pays tribute to the extraordinary imagination of kids who manage to stretch mightily to keep their feet on the ground as they reach for the stars.

When: Sunday, 10 March: 12:30pm touch tour; 2:00pm audio described performance.

Where: Herald Theatre, Aotea Centre.

Run time: 50 minutes, no interval.

Hearing loop available.

This performance will also be a Relaxed show.

Tickets: access tickets are $20 per seat with a free companion ticket.

To book: contact the Access and Inclusion coordinator, Eliza, anytime. Email: [access@aaf.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Caccess%40aaf.co.nz). Phone/Text: 022 306 2206.

### Beyond Words

To mark the 5th anniversary of the Christchurch Mosque attacks, the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra presents a unique collaboration promoting unity and peace through music.

Conducted by Fawzi Haimor, and featuring powerful Moroccan vocalist Oum and oud virtuoso Kyriakos Tapakis, the NZSO performs works from Valerie Coleman, Reza Vali, Arvo Pärt, and the world premiere of a new work from acclaimed Aotearoa composer John Psathas, ONZM. Psathas' Ahlan wa Sahlan, composed in collaboration with Oum and Tapakis, uses the Arabic welcome greeting to let people know they are in a place where they belong.

When: Sunday, 10 March: 4:00pm.

Where: Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall.

Run time: 1 hour 30minutes including interval.

Hearing loop available.

Tickets: access tickets are $20 per seat with a free companion ticket.

To book: contact the Access and Inclusion coordinator, Eliza, anytime. Email: [access@aaf.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Caccess%40aaf.co.nz). Phone/Text: 022 306 2206.

### The King's Singers: Finding Harmony

A stunning evening of a cappella and inspiration, with anthems of struggle and revolution sung by the superlative King's Singers ensemble. With more than 50 years in the choral business, double Grammy Award winners The King's Singers are masters of vocal harmony. Beloved in great venues the world over, from London's Royal Albert Hall to New York's Carnegie Hall, they return to the majestic Holy Trinity Cathedral for one night only.

There have been countless moments in history when songs have united nations, cultures and causes. Finding Harmony reflects on times of upheaval while celebrating gospel, African tribal songs and religious hymns about unity. Also featuring renditions of iconic U2 and Mahalia Jackson songs, this rousing repertoire is both a testament to how singing binds us together, and a reminder that music has always been our common language.

When: Thursday, 14 March: 7:30pm.

Where: Holy Trinity Cathedral, 446 Parnell Road, Parnell.

Run time: 1 hour 50 minutes, including interval.

Tickets: access tickets are $20 per seat with a free companion ticket.

To book: contact the Access and Inclusion coordinator, Eliza, anytime. Email: [access@aaf.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Caccess%40aaf.co.nz). Phone/Text: 022 306 2206.

### In the Name of the Son

What would you do if you received over 1 million pounds, became the subject of a hit movie, went to the Oscars and got to hang out with Daniel Day-Lewis?

This incredible true story chronicles the aftermath of Gerry Conlon's release from prison, where he spent 14 years as one of the Guildford Four – a group wrongly convicted of a bombing by the IRA during one of the deadliest periods of the Irish Troubles. With his ordeal transformed into a celebrated film (In the Name of the Father), Conlon enjoyed instant fame and fortune, though his freedom was just as quickly stifled by addiction.

Shaun Blaney portrays Conlon's life as it spirals out of control with gripping authenticity. Don't miss this deeply affecting one-man play that's drawn standing ovations all over the UK.

When: Friday, 15 March: 7:30pm; Saturday, 16 March, 2:00pm, and 7:30pm; Sunday, 17 March 4:00pm.

Where: Rangatira, Q Theatre, 305 Queen Street, Auckland.

Run time: 1 Hour 20minutes, no interval.

Introductory Notes delivered via email or in person, the performance is like a monologue so it is not audio described.

Hearing loop available.

Tickets: access tickets are $20 per seat with a free companion ticket.

To book: contact the Access and Inclusion coordinator, Eliza, anytime. Email: [access@aaf.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Caccess%40aaf.co.nz). Phone/Text: 022 306 2206.

### Afrique En Cirque

The definitive circus tribute to African culture is set to shake The Civic with the sounds of Afro-jazz and kora alongside feats of gravity-defying acrobatics. Inspired by daily life in Guinea, Afrique en Cirque transports the beauty, youth and artistry of Africa to the big stage.

It's an irrepressible, heart-filled spectacle for all ages that's spread like wildfire – and regularly sold-out – around the world.

When: Saturday, 16 March: 12:30pm touch tour; 1:30pm audio described performance.

Where: The Civic, corner Queen and Wellesley Streets, Auckland.

Run time: 75 minutes, no interval.

Hearing loop available.

Tickets: access tickets are $20 per seat with a free companion ticket.

To book: contact the Access and Inclusion coordinator, Eliza, anytime. Email: [access@aaf.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Caccess%40aaf.co.nz). Phone/Text: 022 306 2206.

### Ju Percussion Group: Energy Infinite

Promising a musical explosion fit for the biggest concert halls, renowned Taiwanese Ju Percussion Group (JPG) is finally coming to Aotearoa.

Founded by visionary percussionist Ju TzongChing in 1986, JPG is a 13-strong percussion supergroup, plus one composer in residence, who blend East with West through impressive technique. Huge in scale, JPG's concerts place classical instruments within Asian theatrical elements to deliver a sound that is traditional yet modern, and playful yet virtuoso.

When: Saturday, 16 March: 5:00pm touch tour; 6:30pm performance.

Where: Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall.

Run time: 1 hour 40 minutes, including interval.

Hearing loop available.

Tickets: access tickets are $20 per seat with a free companion ticket.

To book: contact the Access and Inclusion coordinator, Eliza, anytime. Email: [access@aaf.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Caccess%40aaf.co.nz). Phone/Text: 022 306 2206.

### O Le Pepelo, Le Gaio, Ma Le Pala'ai

By Natano Keni and Sarita So

This is a darkly comic exploration of the fa'a sāmoa, where family, leadership and legacy converge in spectacular chaos.

In Sāmoa's not-so-distant past, Pili Sā Tauilevā is a proud Ali'i (chief) in the village of Moa. He has devoted his life to the sacred fa'a sāmoa tradition of service. When he suddenly falls gravely ill and refuses to name a successor, his daughter and son become rivals for the title. O le Pepelo, le Gaoi, ma le Pala'ai | The Liar, the Thief, and the Coward is a bilingual, modern tale of a man whose time is running out. Who then will survive?

Contains coarse language, smoke effects, loud music and violence. This play is a collaboration between Auckland Arts Festival, Auckland Theatre Company and I Ken So Productions.

When: Sunday, 17 March: 2:30pm touch tour; 4:00pm audio described performance.

Where: ASB Waterfront Theatre, 138 Halsey Street, Wynyard Quarter, Auckland CBD.

Run time: 2 hours 30 minutes, including interval.

Hearing loop available.

Tickets: access tickets are $20, plus a companion seat also at $20.

To book tickets: email [boxoffice@atc.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Cboxoffice%40atc.co.nz) or phone or use NZ Relay Services to call ATC Box Office 0800 282 849.

### Aiga

A journey of identity, desire, family, and what it means to be disabled and Pasifika.

Aiga (Sāmoan for family / whānau) is a groundbreaking and emotional Disability-led, Pasifika led work of theatre told through the lens of the real-life journey of Pacific Toa award-winning, founding member of Touch Compass Lusi Faiva. A collective creative ensemble of women, non-binary, disabled, non-disabled, Pasifika and Māori identities brings this quest for identity and belonging to life, artfully sharing their own experiences with and through Lusi's.

An Aotearoa story with universal resonance. An honest and heartfelt work that moves you, expands your empathy and consciousness and invites you to explore new perspectives of being.

When: Wednesday, 20 March, touch tour to be confirmed; 7:30pm, audio described performance.

Where: Te Pou Theatre, Corban Estate Arts Centre, 2 Mount Lebanon Lane, Henderson.

Run time: 75 minutes, no interval.

Tickets: access price is $20 per seat including free companion.

To book: Email [bookings@tepoutheatre.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Cbookings%40tepoutheatre.nz). Online <https://www.tepoutheatre.nz>.

### The Sun and the Wind

In this surreal, heartbreaking, impactful new play, experience a birthday unlike any other. Rangi and Hūkerikeri, in the midst of quiet celebrations, are caught off-guard when two uninvited guests crash through the door of their home. Hihi and Kate are there to rob the place, until they're mistaken as the couple's deceased son and his wife. An emotional rollercoaster of grief, hope, love and loss, The Sun and the Wind deftly explores the moral of “persuasion over force” within a gripping human drama where the threat of violence meets the power of tenderness. It's also a beautiful, heartfelt ode to whānau and connection you won't soon forget.

When: Friday 22 March, 8:00pm; Saturday 23 March, 2:00pm and 8:00pm; and Sunday, 24 March, 4:00pm.

Where: Loft, Q Theatre, 305 Queen Street, Auckland.

Run time: 75 minutes, no interval.

Introductory Notes are delivered via email or in person. The performance is not audio described.

Hearing loop available.

Tickets: access tickets are $20 per seat with a free companion ticket.

To book: contact the Access and Inclusion coordinator, Eliza, anytime. Email: [access@aaf.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Caccess%40aaf.co.nz). Phone/Text: 022 306 2206.

### Kōtuitui

A special performance to celebrate Indigenous musical artists. In recognition of the UN Decade of Indigenous Languages and in the spirit of Indigenous connection and creativity, Kōtuitui brings together performers from three world cultures to demonstrate the traditional instruments that are played in their respective homelands.

Featuring artists from Haumanu Collective (Aotearoa), Pamyua (Alaska) and William Barton (Australia), Indigenous creative ingenuity comes to the fore as these artists share their musical heritage and combine their multiple talents to compose a bespoke piece of music to be enjoyed by all.

When: Saturday, 23 March: 4:00pm performance; 6:00pm post show touch tour.

Where: Concert Chamber, Auckland Town Hall.

Run time: 1 hour 30minutes, no interval.

Hearing loop available.

Tickets: access tickets are $20 per seat with a free companion ticket.

To book: contact the Access and Inclusion coordinator, Eliza, anytime. Email: [access@aaf.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Caccess%40aaf.co.nz). Phone/Text: 022 306 2206.

### Āhuareka

Revel in the uniquely Aotearoa art form that is kapa haka with a performance from some of our finest Māori cultural groups. Following on from a very successful Te Matatini Herenga Waka Herenga Tangata in Tāmaki Makaurau in February 2023, we are pleased to welcome kapa haka back to Auckland to delight audiences of all ages in song and haka.

Saturday, 23 March: 5:30pm touch tour; 7:00pm audio described performance.

Run time: 2 hours 30 minutes, no interval.

Where: Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall.

Hearing loop available.

Tickets: access tickets are $20 per seat with a free companion ticket.

To book: contact the Access and Inclusion coordinator, Eliza, anytime. Email: [access@aaf.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Caccess%40aaf.co.nz). Phone/Text: 022 306 2206.

### Pamyua

Blending tribal funk with Inuit soul music, Pamyua hail from the northern reaches of Alaska, bringing their unique style and sound to Aotearoa for the first time.

Combining traditional Yup'ik Nation melodies with contemporary vocalisations, native masks and cultural dances, Pamyua (pronounced bumyo-ah) share Indigenous rituals and ceremonies, showcasing the pride and history of their Arctic Circle heritage for all to enjoy. Drums, vocals and storytelling come together in a foot tapping, rhythmic musical delight. With their name meaning “Encore”, or “Do It Again”, you will be calling out for more.

When: Sunday, 24 March: 8:00pm.

Where: Spiegeltent, Aotea Square.

Run time: 1 hour 30 minutes, no interval .

## Auckland Theatre Company

All these events are audio described and include a touch tour 90 minutes before the performance open to access ticket holders and their companions.

### O le Pepelo, le Gaoi, ma le Pala'ai | The Liar, the Thief, and the Coward

By Natano Keni and Sarita So.

See the details about this audio described show in the Auckland Arts Festival section on p. 19.

### The Effect

By Lucy Prebble.

When Connie and Tristan sign up for a clinical trial to test a new antidepressant, they fall for each other. Sealed off from the outside world, they're ready to break all the rules. But are their feelings real or nothing more than a side effect from the drug that's firing a dopamine hit to their brains? As the couple's illicit romance throws the trial off course, tensions flare between the two supervising psychiatrists, who turn out to have a messy history of their own. And, as both the dosage of the drug and the emotional stakes increase, a wider debate plays out on the medicalisation of depression for profit by the pharmaceutical industry. “There's no such thing as side effects. They're just effects you can't sell.”

A provocative delve into the mysteries of human attraction, this chemical romance keeps you guessing as it asks which is more powerful – the head or the heart? Contains sexual content, physical aggression, depictions of seizures, and references to depression, anxiety and suicide.

When: Sunday, 28 April: 2:30pm, touch tour; 4:00pm, audio described performance.

Where: ASB Waterfront Theatre, 138 Halsey Street, Wynyard Quarter, Auckland CBD.

Run time: 2 hours 20 minutes, including interval.

Tickets: access tickets are $20, plus a companion seat for $20.

To book tickets: email [boxoffice@atc.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Cboxoffice%40atc.co.nz)-or phone or use NZ Relay Services to call ATC Box Office 0800 282 849.

### Red, White and Brass

Adapted from the hit film by Leki Jackson-Bourke.

It's 2011 in Wellington and the seventh Rugby World Cup is just around the corner. Reprising his film role, John-Paul Foliaki stars as Maka, a Tongan superfan, who will do whatever it takes to score tickets for the most important game of their lives – the Tonga versus France Rugby World Cup game.

When Maka and his cousin Veni fail in getting tickets, they decide to form a traditional Tongan marching band for the pre-match entertainment, just so they can go to the game. The only problem is, the band doesn't exist and Maka has four weeks to put one together. With the help of his fāmili, his mates and local church members, Maka rallies together a band of misfits who know nothing about marching, nor do they have any instruments. What starts out as just a cynical scam to see a rugby game becomes a journey of self-discovery in which Maka and Veni will learn the importance of their Tongan culture, their community, and what really matters in life. Inspired by an amazing straight-up true story and with bucketloads of Tongan māfana (warmth), Red, White and Brass is a story of friendship, family and fearlessly standing up for what you believe in.

This is a stage adaptation commissioned by Auckland Theatre Company of the film Red, White and Brass.

When: Sunday, 30 June: 2:30pm, touch tour; 4:00pm, audio described performance.

Where: ASB Waterfront Theatre, 138 Halsey Street, Wynyard Quarter, Auckland CBD.

When: Wednesday, 3 July, 11:00am, audio described performance for school groups.

Where: ASB Waterfront Theatre, 138 Halsey Street, Wynyard Quarter, Auckland CBD.

Run time: 2 hours, including interval.

Tickets: access tickets are $20, plus a companion seat for $20.

To book tickets: email [boxoffice@atc.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Cboxoffice%40atc.co.nz)-or phone or use NZ Relay Services to call ATC Box Office 0800 282 849.

### Scenes from the Climate Era

By David Finnigan.

“People go through three stages when they're getting to grips with climate change. Denial. Solutions. Grief. And then, on the other side, hope.” A couple discusses whether it's ethical to have children. Scientists try to bioengineer a new coral reef. A pilot spreads acid in the atmosphere. The last frog of its kind calls into the abyss for a mate.

Scenes from the Climate Era isn't just a conversation about climate change, it's a dizzying stream of conversations, snapping from absurd comedy to blistering rage to deep vulnerability. Set in the past, the present and a possible future, they're personal snapshots of the biggest story in human history.

This is a collaboration between Auckland Theatre Company and Silo Theatre.

When: Sunday, 18 August: 2:30pm, touch tour; 4:00pm, audio described performance.

Where: Rangatira, Q Theatre, 305 Queen Street, Auckland.

Run time: 1 hour 20 minutes, no interval.

Tickets: access tickets are $20, plus a companion seat for $20.

To book tickets: email [boxoffice@atc.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Cboxoffice%40atc.co.nz)-or phone or use NZ Relay Services to call ATC Box Office 0800 282 849.

### Girls & Boys

By Dennis Kelly.

The pulse-pounding West End sensation with a tour-de-force performance by the brilliant Beatriz Romilly begins with a chance encounter at an airport in Naples. How it ends will make you question whether it's ever possible to truly know the people we love.

This shattering, passionate solo drama by Tony Award-winning British playwright Dennis Kelly, has gripped audiences in London and New York with its provocative take on gender politics as a family unravels at the seams. From starring on London's West End to Auckland Theatre Company's stage, Beatriz Romilly takes on the funny, gutsy, messy woman who falls head over heels for a sexy, charismatic man who imports European antiques.

At first, they can't get enough of each other. “Our love was intense. Actually, it was insane.” But, as the heat of their passion gives way to the banalities of domestic life, her star continues to rise while his starts to fade. As her story unfolds, from being madly in love, through frazzled interactions with her two squabbling kids, to confessional moments of heartbreaking intimacy, what went wrong with their relationship is slowly revealed. Raw and unflinching, Girls & Boys explores the dark shadow on the far side of love and asks what anyone of us is capable of.

Contains frequent coarse language, mature themes, and graphic descriptions of family violence and suicide. Not suitable for anyone under 18 years of age.

When: Sunday, 22 September: 2:30pm, touch tour; 4:00pm, audio described performance.

Where: ASB Waterfront Theatre, 138 Halsey Street, Wynyard Quarter, Auckland CBD.

Run time: 1 hour 50 minutes, no interval.

Tickets: access tickets are $20, plus a companion seat for $20.

To book tickets: email [boxoffice@atc.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Cboxoffice%40atc.co.nz)-or phone or use NZ Relay Services to call ATC Box Office 0800 282 849.

### Peter Pan

By Carl Bland, adapted from the story by J.M. Barrie.

Prepare for delightful twists in this large-scale and wondrously inventive production of J.M. Barrie's classic tale by the magical team at Nightsong. In the hands of one of New Zealand's most innovative theatre creators, you wouldn't expect anything less.

Imagine a tropical island where kids can run wild, with villainous pirates to fight, and there are no parents telling you when to go to bed. No wonder the spellbinding story of Peter Pan, the boy who never grows up, is still a favourite with children around the world after more than 100 years. When Peter Pan loses his shadow, a headstrong young girl called Wendy helps him reattach it. Riotous make-believe, music and mayhem ensue as she and her two brothers fly out of their bedroom window with Peter and follow him to Neverland, where Captain Hook, Tinker Bell and the Lost Children await to take them on the greatest adventure yet. This timeless story is guaranteed to delight anyone who believes in possibility, so let your imagination take flight. With a sprinkle of fairy dust, you'll be on your way to Neverland: second star to the right and then straight on till morning.

A collaboration between Auckland Theatre Company and Nightsong. Commissioned by the ATC Patrons Group.

When: Sunday, 20 October: 2:30pm, touch tour; 4:00pm, audio described performance.

Where: ASB Waterfront Theatre, 138 Halsey Street, Wynyard Quarter, Auckland CBD.

When: Wednesday, 23 October, 11:00am, audio described performance for school groups.

Where: ASB Waterfront Theatre, 138 Halsey Street, Wynyard Quarter, Auckland CBD.

Run time: 1 hour 50 minutes, including interval.

Tickets: access tickets are $20, plus a companion seat for $20.

To book tickets: email [boxoffice@atc.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Cboxoffice%40atc.co.nz)-or phone or use NZ Relay Services to call ATC Box Office 0800 282 849.

### a mixtape for maladies

By Ahi Karunaharan.

In a small coastal village in Sri Lanka, Sangeetha's life is filled with music. Songs are the glue that binds her family together. And she has a crush on the guy at the general store who plays all the latest hits. But, as the country slips into civil war, they find themselves caught on the wrong side of history. “I had only ever heard the sounds of gunshots in movies,” she remembers. “This one was different.” Both a love letter to his homeland and a lament, this powerful new work by Ahi Karunaharan (My Heart Goes Thadak Thadak, The Mourning After) sweeps from 1950s Sri Lanka to modern-day Aotearoa, where Sangeetha is now living with a son of her own, Deepan.

The only remnant of the past is an old mixtape filled with memories. As Deepan plays the 17 songs one by one – Dusty Springfield, La Bamba, the hit single from a Tamil rom-com – the story of what happened to their family unfolds through the music to reach its unforgettable conclusion.

Includes themes of war and trauma. This is a collaboration between Auckland Theatre Company and Agaram Productions.

When: Sunday, 1 December: 2:30pm, touch tour; 4:00pm, audio described performance.

Where: ASB Waterfront Theatre, 138 Halsey Street, Wynyard Quarter, Auckland CBD.

Run time: 1 hour 50 minutes, no interval.

Tickets: access tickets are $20, plus a companion seat for $20.

To book tickets: email [boxoffice@atc.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Cboxoffice%40atc.co.nz)-or phone or use NZ Relay Services to call ATC Box Office 0800 282 849.

## Massive Theatre Company

### I Love You G

Created by Neil Amituanai, Dominic Ona-Ariki and Beulah Koale, co-directed by Sam Scott and Scotty Cotter.

"We're dicks, we're idiots, we're guys. We don't dive deep." But what happens when their friendship fractures and they need to work out how to put it back together? When ignoring it stops working, Neil, Beulah and Dom have to work out how to fix their friendship or walk away. Gaming online together isn't the same as turning up for each other. They have to excavate what being brothers really means. This won't look or sound like your usual theatre show. Three of New Zealand's best actors bring their real lives to the stage, returning to Massive Theatre Company where they first met as teenagers, to explore the va of their friendship.

Full of trademark cheek, grit and a whole lot of heart, I Love You G is a gutsy and at times uncomfortable love letter to brotherhood - a joyous invitation to "soften the fuck up."

When: Wednesday, 8 May: time to be confirmed.

Where: Te Pou Theatre, Corban Estate Arts Centre, 2 Mount Lebanon Lane, Henderson.

To book tickets: email [bookings@tepoutheatre.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Cbookings%40tepoutheatre.nz). Online <https://www.tepoutheatre.nz>.

### Te Ao Hou

Te Ao Hou is a devised physical theatre production by a cast of five emerging Pasifika performers, directed by Margaret-Mary Hollins and Hone Taukiri. New worlds big and small ignite through a fusion of movement and emotion. Boundaries of past and future are challenged, and wisdom flows from unexpected sources - reminding us that even fish can hold profound truths. Te Ao Hou dares to imagine a world without boundaries, and poses the question of who we could be, if we free our imagination.

When: some time between 23 and 27 July, audio described performance date to be confirmed.

Where: Te Pou Theatre, Corban Estate Arts Centre, 2 Mount Lebanon Lane, Henderson.

Tickets through Patronbase ticketline phone 0800 728 766.

## New Plymouth Operatic Society

### Jersey Boys

Jersey Boys is a musical biography of the Four Seasons—the rise, the tough times and personal clashes, and the ultimate triumph of a group of friends whose music became symbolic of a generation. Far from a mere tribute concert (though it does include numbers from the popular Four Seasons songbook), Jersey Boys gets to the heart of the relationships at the center of the group—with a special focus on front man Frankie Valli, the small kid with the big falsetto.

When: Sunday, 14 July, 3:00pm.

Where: TSB Theatre, 92-100 Devon Street West, New Plymouth.

Tickets: TSB Showplace box office, phone 06 759 0021, and say you want the audio description headsets.

## New Zealand Opera

### Le comte Ory

Music: Gioachino Rossini. Libretto: Eugène Scribe.

So, here's the scoop: the fellas are off on a crusade, leaving the ladies behind. Enter Count Ory, a guy who's all heart but totally clueless in love and life. He's dead set on making the most of the knights' absence and sets his sights on Countess Adèle. Trouble is, Adèle is as pure as snow and not buying any of his nonsense. Meanwhile, our bumbling Ory is totally clueless that his trusty page, Isolier, has his own grand plans for the countess.

Le comte Ory is a whirlwind blend of silly and sublime. The music and script are bursting with that 1820s pizzazz, while our modern-day sensibilities are nodding along to the tunes of sensuality, sexuality, and those pesky and entitled dudes. And let's not forget the pièce de résistance: an outrageous three-in-a-bed romp with over fourteen minutes of slow-burn musical sensuality.

Get ready for a rollercoaster of deception, intrigue, and a dash of playful flirtation, all wrapped up in some of the smoothest Rossini tunes you've ever heard.

Orchestras: Auckland Philharmonia; Orchestra Wellington; Christchurch Symphony Orchestra.

Sung in French with English surtitles.

**Auckland**:

When: Thursday, 30 May, 5:30pm, touch tour; 7:30pm, audio described performance.

Where: Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre, Aotea Centre, 50 Mayoral Drive, Auckland.

Run time: 2 hours 45 minutes, including interval.

Tickets: Full price ticket and complimentary ticket for a companion.

To book: contact the NZ Opera Box Office Manager, Julie Bird, phone 0800 696 737 or email boxoffice@nzopera.co.nz. Specify the audio described performance. Guide dogs are welcome.

**Wellington**:

When: Saturday, 15 June, 5:30pm touch tour; 7:30pm audio described Performance.

Where: St James Theatre, 77 Courtenay Place, Te Aro, Wellington.

Run time: 2 hours 45 minutes, including interval.

Tickets: Full price ticket and complimentary ticket for a companion.

To book: contact the NZ Opera Box Office Manager, Julie Bird, phone 0800 696 737 or email boxoffice@nzopera.co.nz. Specify the audio described performance. Guide dogs are welcome.

**Christchurch**:

When: Saturday, 29 June: 5:30pm touch tour; 7:30pm audio described Performance.

Where: Isaac Theatre Royal, 145 Gloucester Street, Christchurch Central.

Run time: 2 hours 45 minutes, including interval.

Tickets: Full price ticket and complimentary ticket for a companion.

To book: contact the NZ Opera Box Office Manager, Julie Bird, phone 0800 696 737 or email boxoffice@nzopera.co.nz. Specify the audio described performance. Guide dogs are welcome.

### Rigoletto

Music: Giuseppe Verdi. Libretto: Francesco Maria Piave.

Against La Dolce Vita styling of 1950s Italy, court jester Rigoletto delights in making enemies of husbands and fathers while his boss, Duke of Mantua, is a callous playboy. (Yet somehow, it's the duke who has the nerve to sing "La donna e mobile" – women are fickle!) Giuseppe Verdi's opera, a smash hit since its debut, is brimming with crowd-pleasing melodies and lush orchestrations. "La donna e mobile" is the hit. But the composer preferred "Bella figlia dell'amore", a sensuous depiction of the characters' motives. "I never expect to do better," Verdi said. The jester finds it less funny when he's cursed by a humiliated parent, and the duke meets Gilda, Rigoletto's beautiful daughter.

Join NZ Opera, a star-studded cast and a Fiat Bambina as Verdi steps into uncharted artistic territory, balancing character, drama and music in a way that set new standards for Italian opera.

Sung in Italian with English surtitles.

When: Saturday, 21 September, 5:30pm touch tour; 7:30pm audio described performance.

Where: Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre, Aotea Centre, 50 Mayoral Drive, Auckland.

Run Time: 2 hours, 45 minutes, including interval.

Tickets: Full price ticket and complimentary ticket for a companion.

To book: contact the NZ Opera Box Office Manager, Julie Bird, phone 0800 696 737 or email boxoffice@nzopera.co.nz. Specify the audio described performance. Guide dogs are welcome.

## Open Christchurch 2024

The annual festival of architectural excellence returns on 3-5 May 2024 with 50 open buildings for the public to explore, four guided walks, a series of urban landscapes to encounter and close to 40 activities that allow festival attendees the chance to delve deeper into the design and history of the spaces they are exploring. There are two activities specifically designed for blind and low-vision participants.

### Tour of Marian College

Join an audio described tour of the fascinating Marian College to find out how you successfully turn a large supermarket distribution centre into a fully functioning school. It holds classrooms, sports facilities and other treasures, such as the chapel with a striking star-lit ceiling, within its 10,000sqms.

When: Saturday, 4 May: 2:00pm-3:00pm.

Bookings are free and are open to blind and low-vision attendees and their companions.

Visit [openchch.nz/accessibility](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Copenchch.nz%5Caccessibility) for tickets.

Bookings open at 6:00pm on Thursday 21 March.

### Te piki a Tāwhaki, tour of Tūranga

Join an audio described and touch tour of Christchurch's central library, Tūranga. Te piki a Tāwhaki – The ascent of Tāwhaki journeys alongside Tāwhaki as we follow the kōrero woven throughout Te Kete Wānanga o Tūranga. Find our manu friends and feel through the different textures, elements and hidden gems throughout our whare ko Tūranga.

When: Sunday, 5 May: 1:00pm-2:30pm.

Bookings are free and are open to blind and low-vision attendees and their companions.

Visit [openchch.nz/accessibility](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Copenchch.nz%5Caccessibility) for tickets.

Bookings open at 6pm on Thursday 21 March.

## Royal New Zealand Ballet

### Swan Lake

Considered the greatest of all classical ballets, Swan Lake is a perfect marriage of music and dance. With Tchaikovsky's sweeping score – lush, romantic, instantly recognisable – and Kristian Fredrikson's opulent designs, gorgeously lit by Jon Buswell, Swan Lake transports the audience from the palace ballroom to the lakeside in wave upon wave of beauty and emotion. You'll be inexorably drawn into the unfolding tragedy and exalt as the dancers bring every facet of their iconic characters to life.

Celebrating the dramatic and technical brilliance of a new generation of RNZB dancers, this production, honouring and cherishing the artistic legacy of former Artistic Director and RNZB kaumatua Russell Kerr will celebrate the company's rich past and bright future. We are thrilled to be able to present this beautiful production, not seen in Aotearoa since 2013, with the support of colleagues from the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (Wellington), the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra (Christchurch) and the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra (Auckland).

Audio described performances will be available in Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch. A free touch tour and introduction to ballet terminology will be held before the show, giving you a chance to touch set pieces, feel costume samples and gain behind-the-scenes insight into the production.

**Wellington**:

When: Saturday, 4 May: 1:30pm.

Where: St James Theatre, 77 Courtenay Place, Te Aro, Wellington.

Tickets: To book tickets to a public performance, contact the RNZB Ticketing Team on 04 831 1056 or email subscribe@rnzb.org.nz. Box office hours are Monday to Friday, 10am-4pm. Tickets are $28 for children and $48 for Adults. Each booking has a service fee of $2. Seats are allocated in the stalls. A free companion ticket is available if required. Guide dogs are welcome.

**Auckland**:

When: Saturday, 11 May: 1:30pm.

Where: Kiri te Kanawa Theatre, Aotea Centre, 50 Mayoral Drive, Auckland.

Tickets: To book tickets to a public performance, contact the RNZB Ticketing Team on 04 831 1056 or email subscribe@rnzb.org.nz. Box office hours are Monday to Friday, 10am-4pm. Tickets are $28 for children and $48 for Adults. Each booking has a service fee of $2. Seats are allocated in the stalls. A free companion ticket is available if required. Guide dogs are welcome.

**Christchurch**:

When: Saturday, 25 May: 1:30pm.

Where: Isaac Theatre Royal, 145 Gloucester Street, Christchurch Central.

Tickets: To book tickets to a public performance, contact the RNZB Ticketing Team on 04 831 1056 or email subscribe@rnzb.org.nz. Box office hours are Monday to Friday, 10am-4pm. Tickets are $28 for children and $48 for Adults. Each booking has a service fee of $2. Seats are allocated in the stalls. A free companion ticket is available if required. Guide dogs are welcome.

## Showbiz Christchurch

### Kinky Boots

Kinky Boots is the big-hearted musical extravaganza that won six Tonys including Best Musical, the Grammy for Best Musical Theatre album and London's Olivier Award for Best Musical. Charlie Price has reluctantly inherited his father's shoe factory, which is on the verge of bankruptcy. Trying to live up to his father's legacy and save his family business, Charlie finds inspiration in the form of Lola, a fabulous drag entertainer in need of some sturdy stilettos. Kinky Boots is a joyful celebration of embracing your true self and raising each other up!

Don't miss this opportunity to experience the magic of Kinky Boots brought to life by Showbiz Christchurch.

When: Sunday, 28 April: 4:00pm show; touch tour at 2:00pm (arrive 1:45pm).

Where: Isaac Theatre Royal,145 Gloucester Street, Christchurch Central.

Tickets: Book through the Isaac Ticketing Office. Tickets are $49 which includes a companion.

Box Office Phone 03-260 5260.

Box Office Email [online@ticketek.co.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Conline%40ticketek.co.nz).

## Tim Bray Theatre Company

Auckland's leading theatre for children.

### The Great Piratical Rumbustification

By Margaret Mahy, Adapted for the stage by Tim Bray, Songs by Christine White.

Shiver me timbers! The pirates are restless, yearning for a grand piratical adventure. “Oh, for a pirate party!” they proclaim. But, as any good pirate knows, a proper pirate party must be a stolen one. Join our young hero, Oliver Terrapin, as he opens up the doors of his oblivious parents' home for a party – a party with real pirates! Mayhem ensues in this rollicking, rumbunctious rumpus of an escapade that promises the most piratical fun you've had in years. Created for Ages 4–10.

When: Tuesday, 9 April: 12 noon, touch tour; 1:00pm, audio described performance.

When: Saturday, 20 April: 12 noon, touch tour; 1:00pm, audio described performance.

Where: The PumpHouse Theatre, 2a Manurere Avenue, Takapuna.

Run time: 50 minutes, no interval.

Tickets from $28.

To book phone The PumpHouse Theatre 09 489 8360.

Once booked, please contact Gail at Tim Bray Theatre Company to book your headset and touch tour either by phoning 09 486 2261 or by email [gail@timbray.org.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Cgail%40timbray.org.nz).

When: Wednesday, 8 May: 9:30am, touch tour; 10:30am, audio described performance.

Where: Māngere Arts Centre, Nga Tohu o Uenuku, Corner Bader Drive and Orly Avenue, Māngere.

Run time: 50 minutes, no interval.

Tickets from $28.

To book phone Eventfinda 0800 289 849.

Once booked, please contact Gail at Tim Bray Theatre Company to book your headset and touch tour either by phoning 09 486 2261 or by email [gail@timbray.org.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Cgail%40timbray.org.nz).

### Five Go on an Adventure

Based on the famous adventure stories by Enid Blyton, Adapted for the stage by Tim Bray.

Julian, Dick and Anne, their cousin George, and dog Timmy, head off together on an adventure and end up having to solve a dastardly mystery. Along the way they meet some frightfully awful baddies and get into all sorts of scrapes. Luckily, our five heroes are famous for getting out of trouble! With courage, capers and plenty of sandwiches and ginger beer, this show reminds us all that fun, friendship and fortitude always fool the felons! Hoorah! Created for Ages 5–10.

When: Tuesday, 2 July: 12 noon, touch tour; 1:00pm, audio described performance.

When: Saturday, 13 July: 12 noon, touch tour; 1:00pm audio described performance.

Where: The PumpHouse Theatre, 2a Manurere Avenue, Takapuna.

Run time: 50-60 minutes, no interval.

Tickets from $28.

To book phone The PumpHouse Theatre 09 489 8360.

Once booked, please contact Gail at Tim Bray Theatre Company to book your headset and touch tour either by phoning 09 486 2261 or by email [gail@timbray.org.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Cgail%40timbray.org.nz).

### Mrs Wishy-Washy

By Joy Cowley, Adapted for the stage by Tim Bray, Songs by Christine White.

“Oh, lovely mud!” exclaim Mrs Wishy-Washy's farm animals Cow, Duck, and Pig. These beloved characters from Joy Cowley's series of picture books are about to come to life in a hilarious stage performance. While the animals just love getting mucky, Mrs Wishy-Washy is determined to keep them spotless for the Big Farm Fair. In this funny farmyard adventure, audiences will be treated to comical chaos as Mrs Wishy-Washy attempts to give her muddy animal buddies a good scrub. Created for Ages 3 – 8.

When: Tuesday, 24 September: 12 noon, touch tour; 1:00pm, audio described performance.

When: Saturday, 28 September: 12 noon, touch tour; 1:00pm audio described performance.

Where: The PumpHouse Theatre, 2a Manurere Avenue, Takapuna.

Run Time: 60 minutes, no interval.

Tickets from $28.

To book phone The PumpHouse Theatre 09 489 8360.

Once booked, please contact Gail at Tim Bray Theatre Company to book your headset and touch tour either by phoning 09 486 2261 or by email [gail@timbray.org.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Cgail%40timbray.org.nz).

When: Wednesday, 23 October: 9:30am, touch tour; 10:30am, audio described performance.

Where: Māngere Arts Centre, Nga Tohu o Uenuku, Corner Bader Drive and Orly Avenue, Māngere.

Run Time: 60 minutes, no interval.

Tickets from $28.

To book phone Eventfinda 0800 289 849.

Once booked, please contact Gail at Tim Bray Theatre Company to book your headset and touch tour either by phoning 09 486 2261 or by email [gail@timbray.org.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Cgail%40timbray.org.nz).

### The Santa Claus Show '24

By Tim Bray, Songs by Christine White.

Join our hero Kelly on an epic adventure, dashing through the snow, and laughing all the way to the North Pole. Along the way, you'll find yourself singing, giggling, and embarking on a magical journey as Kelly learns the true sentiment of Christmas. Bring along your little elves (and even some big ones) for a truly entertaining Christmas show that will fill your souls with jolly holiday cheer. Created for Ages 3 – 8.

When: Tuesday, 3 December: 12 noon, touch tour; 1:00pm, audio described performance.

When: Saturday, 14 December: 12 noon, touch tour; 1:00pm, audio described performance.

Where: The PumpHouse Theatre, 2a Manurere Avenue, Takapuna.

Run Time: 60 minutes, no interval.

Tickets from $28.

To book phone The PumpHouse Theatre 09 489 8360.

Once booked, please contact Gail at Tim Bray Theatre Company to book your headset and touch tour either by phoning 09 486 2261 or by email [gail@timbray.org.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csarah%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CR0XCQDAZ%5Cgail%40timbray.org.nz).

# Calendar of Events by city

## Auckland

Thursday, 7 March: Waiata Mai, Auckland Arts Festival, p. 13.

Friday, 8 March: Te Tangi A Te Tūī, Auckland Arts Festival, p. 13.

Saturday, 9 March: Angelique Kidjo with Angitu, Auckland Arts Festival, p. 14.

Sunday, 10 March: The Valentina, Auckland Arts Festival, p. 15.

Sunday, 10 March: Beyond Words, Auckland Arts Festival, p. 16.

Thursday, 14 March: The King's Singers: Finding Harmony, Auckland Arts Festival, p. 16.

Friday, 15 March, Saturday, 16 March, and Sunday, 17 March: In the Name of the Son, Auckland Arts Festival, p. 17.

Saturday, 16 March: Afrique En Cirque, Auckland Arts Festival, p. 18.

Saturday, 16 March: Ju Percussion Group: Energy Infinite, Auckland Arts Festival, p. 18.

Sunday, 17 March: O Le Pepelo, Le Gaio, Ma Le Pala'ai, Auckland Arts Festival, p. 19.

Wednesday, 20 March: Aiga, Auckland Arts Festival, p. 20.

Friday 22 March, Saturday 23 March, and Sunday 24 March: The Sun and the Wind, Auckland Arts Festival, p. 21.

Saturday, 23 March: Kōtuitui, Auckland Arts Festival, p. 21.

Saturday, 23 March: Āhuareka, Auckland Arts Festival, p. 22.

Sunday, 24 March: Pamyua, Auckland Arts Festival, p. 22.

Saturday, 6 April: Guo Pei: Fashion, Art, Fantasy, Auckland Art Gallery, p. 11.

Tuesday, 9 April: The Great Piratical Rumbustification, Tim Bray Theatre Company, p. 37.

Saturday, 20 April: The Great Piratical Rumbustification, Tim Bray Theatre Company, p. 37.

Sunday, 28 April: The Effect, Auckland Theatre Company, p. 23.

Wednesday, 8 May: I Love You G, Massive Theatre Company, p. 29.

Wednesday, 8 May: The Great Piratical Rumbustification, Tim Bray Theatre Company, p. 37.

Saturday, 11 May: Swan Lake, Royal New Zealand Ballet, p. 34.

Thursday, 30 May: Le comte Ory, New Zealand Opera, p. 31.

Sunday, 30 June: Red, White and Brass, Auckland Theatre Company, p. 24.

Tuesday, 2 July: Five Go on an Adventure, Tim Bray Theatre Company, p. 38.

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Saturday, 13 July: Five Go on an Adventure, Tim Bray Theatre Company, p. 38.

Tuesday, 23 July: some time between 23 and 27 July, audio described performance date to be confirmed, Te Ao Hou, Massive Theatre Company, p. 30.

Sunday, 18 August: Scenes from the Climate Era, Auckland Theatre Company, p. 25.

Saturday, 21 September: Rigoletto, New Zealand Opera, p. 32.

Sunday, 22 September: Girls & Boys, Auckland Theatre Company, p. 26.

Tuesday, 24 September: Mrs Wishy-Washy, Tim Bray Theatre Company, p. 39.

Saturday, 28 September: Mrs Wishy-Washy, Tim Bray Theatre Company, p. 39.

Sunday, 20 October: Peter Pan, Auckland Theatre Company, p. 27.

Wednesday, 23 October: Peter Pan, Auckland Theatre Company, p. 27.

Wednesday, 23 October: Mrs Wishy-Washy, Tim Bray Theatre Company, p. 39.

Sunday, 1 December: a mixtape for maladies, Auckland Theatre Company, p. 28.

Tuesday, 3 December: The Santa Claus Show '24, Tim Bray Theatre Company, p. 40.

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## Christchurch

Sunday, 28 April: Kinky Boots, Showbiz Christchurch, p. 36.

Saturday, 4 May: Tour of Marian College, Open Christchurch 2024, p. 34.

Sunday, 5 May: Te piki a Tāwhaki, tour of Tūranga, Open Christchurch 2024, p. 34

Saturday, 25 May: Swan Lake, Royal New Zealand Ballet, p. 34.

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## New Plymouth

Sunday, 14 July: Jersey Boys, New Plymouth Operatic Society, p. 30.

## Palmerston North

Saturday, 20 April: Matilda the Musical, Act Three productions, Palmerston North, p. 6.

## Wellington

Saturday, 24 February: Jungle Book Reimagined, Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts, p. 7.

Saturday, 2 March: The Savage Coloniser Show,Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts, p. 7.

Saturday, 2 March: Witi's Wāhine, Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts, p. 8.

Saturday, 9 March: Whenua, Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts, p. 9.

Sunday, 10 March: The Air Between Us, Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts, p. 10.

Saturday, 16 March: Lost Lear, Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts, p. 11.

Saturday, 4 May: Swan Lake, Royal New Zealand Ballet, p. 34.

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# Calendar of Events Nationwide

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