

TE AHUREI TOI O TĀMAKI AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL 2027

Your Free Festival Guide

4—21 o Māehe · March

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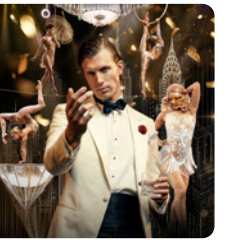
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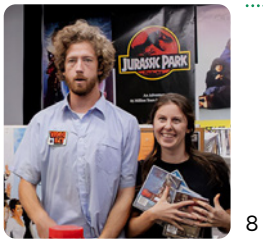
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TOITŪ TE REO

Ko Toitū Te Reo te hua o tō mātou ngākau titikaha ki te reo Māori.

I tēnei mātārere, ko tā te tohu harakeke he tohu i te kaupapa e noho ana hei wāhi nō Toitū Te Reo — ko tōna whāinga, kia māori te rere o te reo, kia tautokona rānei ngā ringa toi Māori i raro i te maru o te manaakitanga.

He mea arataki nā te Rautaki Māori o te Auckland Festival Trust, nā Tuia Te Muka Kōrero, tērā e ārahi ana i tō mātou haepapa ki te whakaū i te mana o te ao Māori, ki te whakanui hoki i te reo Māori hei taonga, mā Toitū Te Reo e mātua kitea ai, e mātua rangona anō ai te reo Māori huri i te hui Ahurei.

Kua oti he tapanga whakaaturanga, he whakamārama, he whakaari hoki ki te reo Māori; arā hoki he tohu me ētahi pānui tōmua i ngā whakaaturanga e reorua ana; ka whakamahia hoki ētahi kupu Māori kāore e whakapākehātia, tae pū atu ki ērā kua whānui te whakamahia e te tokomaha o ngā tāngata i Aotearoa. Koinei noa iho ētahi o ngā wāhi e pāorooro ai te reo Māori hei wāhi matua nō ngā wheako ka rangona i te hui Ahurei, otirā, nō ngā rā o ō tātou ao i Tāmaki Makaurau nei.

Toitū Te Reo is our commitment to te reo Māori.

In this brochure, the harakeke icon indicates an event within the Toitū Te Reo kaupapa — its purpose, to normalise te reo or support Māori creatives under the mantle of manaakitanga.

Led by The Auckland Festival Trust's Māori Strategy, Tuia Te Muka Kōrero, which guides our responsibility to uphold the mana of te ao Māori and acknowledge the Māori language as taonga, Toitū Te Reo ensures te reo is seen and heard throughout the Festival.

Show titles, descriptions and performances in te reo, bilingual signage and pre-show announcements, and the use of kupu without English equivalents — especially those that have become inherent in their use by many New Zealanders — are just some of the areas where te reo Māori resounds as an integral part of the Festival experience and our everyday lives here in Tāmaki Makaurau.

Ko te reo kia tika,
ko te reo kia rere,
ko te reo kia Māori.

A message from Desley Simpson, Deputy Mayor of Auckland



Arts and culture are at the heart of what makes Tāmaki Makaurau such a wonderful place to live. They bring us together, celebrate who we are and open our eyes to the world.

Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival brings that spirit to life, showcasing the stories and creativity of Aotearoa alongside extraordinary artists from around the globe. It's an invitation to experience something new, share a memorable night out and see our city through fresh eyes.

As the Festival's lead funding partner, Auckland Council is proud to help make these experiences possible. I'm especially excited to see opportunities for more Aucklanders to take part, through free events and a range of ticket prices.

As a passionate supporter of the arts, it is my ambition to see Auckland become the greatest arts and cultural city in the Southern Hemisphere.

I encourage you to explore the programme, bring your whānau and friends, and share in the joy of this incredible event.

Ko te ao me te ahurea toi kei te manawa o Tāmaki Makaurau.

Nau mai, tahuti mai. Koinei te reo karanga ki a koutou e tautoko nei i Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki i tēnei tau. Welcome to Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival 2027.

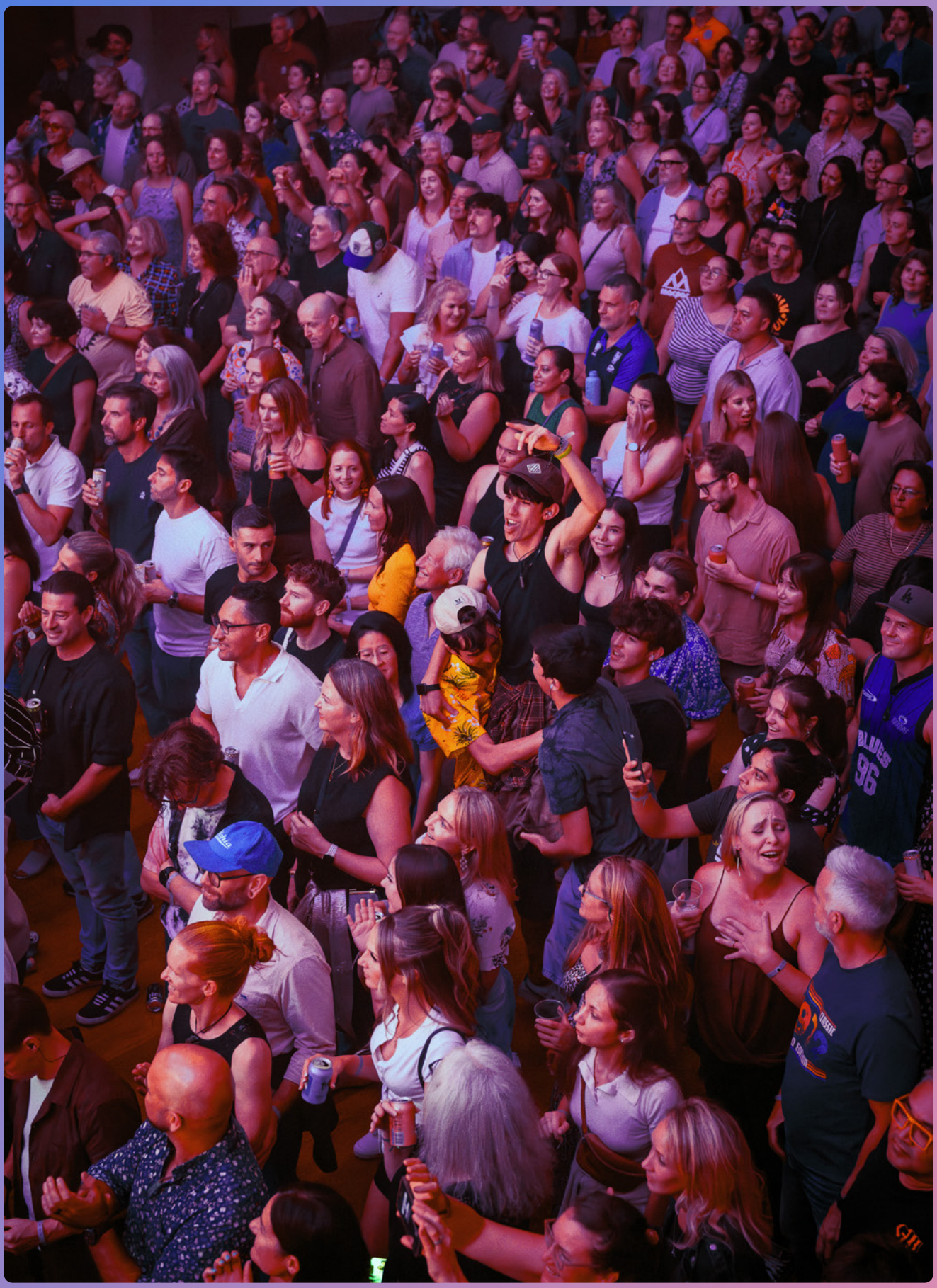
New connections and places to gather are changing the rhythm of central Tāmaki Makaurau. Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival brings us together through arts and culture. Whether you call this vibrant city home or you're here to explore, we invite you to be part of it.

Incredible artists from Aotearoa and across the globe gather in Auckland, with world premieres, remarkable stories, and music to lift your spirits and bring the wonder of the world to your doorstep. From whānau adventures to nights with friends, there's something for everyone, with accessible ticket prices to help you explore.

Our Festival Garden takes on a cultural life of its own: the city's arts backyard, alive with 18 days of free experiences. Come for a performance, stay for the atmosphere and make yourself at home.

Bring your curiosity, find your favourites and leave with a story to share. We can't wait to welcome you.

Whakapiri mai ki te Pokapū o Tāmaki Makaurau.



It's a feeling in the air.



Auckland Town Hall, Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival 2026. Images by Jinki Cambronero.

It's meeting old friends and making new ones.

It's being in the moment.

Music, Aotearoa
Opening Night Concert

Lessshgooo!

It's all on for everyone at our free opening night concert.

Share in the moment as we launch the Festival with a summer burst of live music and dancing in our midtown oasis, the Festival Garden. Join Te Reo Lepou, together with a specially curated house band and MC, for a setlist celebrating many of the artists, R&B favourites and pop bangers you'll encounter in our 2027 lineup. It's all laid out for you free in Aotea Square and in time for you to catch a show straight after — or if you're just loving the vibe, stay for eats, drinks and Festival atmosphere. Nau mai ki Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki. Karawhiua!

Where
Festival Garden, Aotea Square

When
Thu 4 March, 5.30pm

Free Event

View the event page
aaf.co.nz/lessshgooo

Accessibility

Suitable for Blind & Low Vision audiences

New Zealand Sign Language interpreted performances

Wheelchair access

Show Information

Suitable for all ages.



With support from FOUNDATION NORTH Pūtea Hāpai Oranga Funding to Enhance Lives · Pub Charity Limited · nzct COMMUNITY TRUST · Four Winds FOUNDATION


SAMOA

Music, Aotearoa

Festival Garden

rova Sound Stage

It's your place to bask in the sun or revel as dusk settles for eats, drinks and free live music.

Whether you're here before a show, dropping in for a bite or in the mood for music as the day turns to night, the Festival Garden is where it's at in March. If you're around Aotea Square, it's the easiest way to experience the Festival, stumble into the unexpected and see the city in a new light.

This relaxing, beautifully lit hangout space is open to everyone. And it's home to the rova Sound Stage, where DJs and musicians are on rotation all throughout the Festival to extend that late summer energy a little while longer.

Where
Festival Garden, Aotea Square

When
Thu 4 — Sun 21 March

Free Event

rova Sound Stage lineup to be announced
aaf.co.nz/rova

Accessibility

Wheelchair access





Family, Aotearoa

Whānau Day

It's pure, unadulterated joy in Aotea Square.

Save the date! Check our website in early 2027 for the full lineup of activities and performances — a Sunday fun day that caters to families and audiences of all ages.

If you were with us for *Whānau Day* in 2026, the explosion of sunshine and smiles — and the incredible turnout of families, communities, artists and creatives — set the scene for a magical day in the heart of the city. It all happens again on the first weekend of March, the perfect time to dive into the Festival and enjoy it all for free.

Where
Aotea Square

When
Sun 7 March, 10.00am to 4.00pm

Free Event

View the event page
aaf.co.nz/whaanauday

Accessibility

Audio described performances

New Zealand Sign Language interpreted performances

Wheelchair access











**This brand new show is electric...
It's loud, it rocks, it is full of joy and you leave...
with a huge smile on your face.** Glam Adelaide ★★★★★



Music, Australia
Aotearoa Premiere Season
From the creators of hit rockumentary concert *27 Club*

Twenty Sixteen

Amplified House

It's the immortal music of George Michael, David Bowie, Prince, Leonard Cohen, Sharon Jones and more.

In 2016, the world darkened. Ten years on, the songs of these music greats shine brighter than ever. Returning with the swagger and showmanship that made *27 Club* a Spiegeltent sensation, this brand-new production from the same talented creative team holds a torch for the loss of so many legends within one year — and the seismic cultural moments that marked it as the end of an era. Bursting with mainstage concert energy, indelible stories and irresistible nostalgia, *Twenty Sixteen* is your music ticket to a bona fide must-see Festival moment.

Where
Spiegeltent, Aotea Square

When
Wed 10 — Sat 13 March

Adult Tickets
$59

View the event page
aaf.co.nz/twentysixteen

Show Information
1 hour 10 mins no interval.
Suitable for ages 8+ (with parental guidance).

Accessibility
Touch Tours
Wheelchair access

Supported by BREEZE

Music, Aotearoa
Closing Weekend Concert

Anthology of Wonder

It's Dixon Nacey's super band celebrating Stevie Wonder's glorious songbook.

We're showering an iconic songwriter with love in a final-weekend boogie to hit you in all the right places. After his blockbuster 2026 Festival concert, Dixon Nacey returns to the Great Hall with an all-new funkalicious crew. Powerhouse voices Betty-Anne, Lady Lyric, Vince Harder and Hawkins lead the charge alongside special guests, triple keyboards, tight horns and a deep-pocket rhythm section. Whether you've always jammed to Stevie's R&B showstoppers or you're just discovering their greatness, come ready to move, groove, and revel in the message of hope and change at the heart of Wonder's musical soul.

Where
Great Hall,
Auckland Town Hall

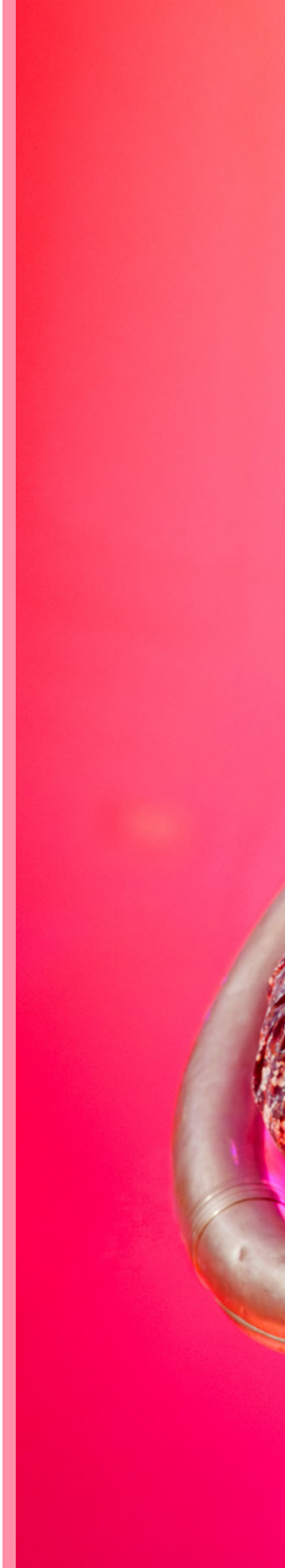
When
Sat 20 March, 7.30pm doors open
8.00pm concert start

Adult Tickets
from $69

View the event page
aaf.co.nz/anthology

Show Information
1 hour 30 mins no interval.
All ages event.

Accessibility
- **Suitable for Blind & Low Vision audiences**
- **Hearing Loop available**
- **New Zealand Sign Language interpreted performances**
- **Touch Tours**
- **Wheelchair access**





SAWMILL BREWERY

Best supporting role // Auckland Arts Festival



Sawmill is an independent and locally owned brewery. We work with innovative New Zealand farmers to produce fresh, crisp and clean beer.

Visit the Smoko Room inside the brewery for generous hospitality, locally sourced food, New Zealand wine and great beer.

SAWMILL

Sawmill Brewery + Smoko Room
1004 Leigh Road, Matakana

www.sawmillbrewery.co.nz

It's seeing it first and seeing it live.

It's goosebumps and hysterical laughter.



Spiegeltent, Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival 2026. Image by Jinki Cambronero.

Music/Theatre, United Kingdom
Aotearoa Premiere Season
Nominated for the Best Entertainment or Comedy Play Olivier Award, 2022

Where
Spiegeltent, Aotea Square

When
Thu 4 — Sun 21 March

Adult Tickets
from $85

View the event page
aaf.co.nz/choirofman

Show Information
1 hour 15 mins + 15 min pre-show.
Suitable for all ages, but recommended for ages 14+.
Contains alcohol sales and references.

Accessibility
Pre-show information available
Touch Tours
Wheelchair access
TBC **For updates on this event, visit aaf.co.nz/access**

Supported by COLENSO BBDO

MINI AUCKLAND MINI GARAGE

SAWMILL

The ultimate feel-good show.
Edinburgh Evening News ★★★★★

Wildly entertaining.
Broadway World ★★★★★



The Choir of Man

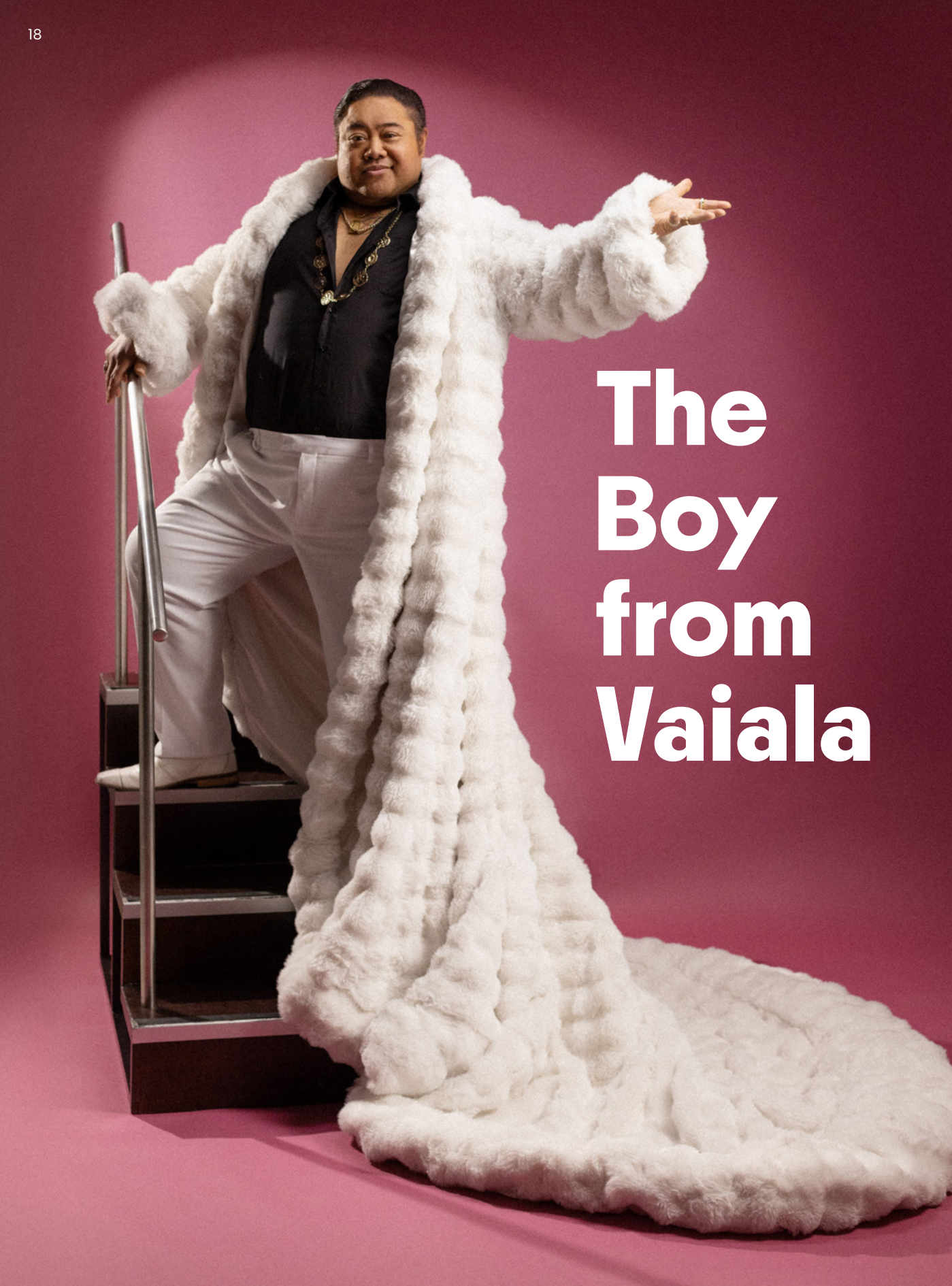
Produced by Andrew Kay and Nic Doodson



Featuring hit songs by Queen, Luther Vandross, Sia, Paul Simon, Adele, Guns N' Roses, Avicii, Katy Perry and more.

It's the best pub in the world, and it's right here in Auckland.

Brimming with chart-topping pop bangers, this Olivier-nominated West End hit is the ultimate feel-good Festival moment — a foot-stomping, song-belting, laugh-your-socks-off night at the theatre. The setting: an old English pub you can hang out in and order a drink from before the show. Swept up by a cast of mighty-voiced blokes, *The Choir of Man* is a celebration of the wholesome friendships and communities formed inside the humble local pub. They don't call it a public house for nothing. It's for your mates, mutuals, family and anyone with a beating heart.



The Boy from Vaiala

Theatre, Aotearoa
World Premiere Season

By Victor Rodger ONZM

Director: Anapela Polata'ivao ONZM
Starring: Semu Filipo

It's the highly unlikely but utterly faaabulous story of Pasi.

Father of three, maitre d' to the stars, founder of a legendary drag bar, always fabulous — Pasi Daniells Silva was a character born for the big stage. Victor Rodger, the writer of Pasifika theatre classic *Black Faggot*, returns with an affectionate love letter to Pasi. Full of sass and wit, Grindr and God, it's a biography that doesn't shy away from the darker side of the mirror ball. Directed by Anapela Polata'ivao (*Tinā*) and starring Semu Filipo who leads a cast of eight, it's the ultimate celebration of the most unlikely Sāmoan man of his generation.

From the producing and directing force behind iconic Festival plays *Wild Dogs Under My Skirt* and *The Savage Coloniser Show*.

Where
ASB Waterfront Theatre

When
Tue 2 — Sun 14 March

Tickets
from $30

View the event page
aaf.co.nz/vaiala

Show Information
2 hours inc. interval.
Recommended for ages 14+.
Contains strong language, sexual references and haze.

Accessibility

- **Audio described performances**
- **Hearing Loop available**
- **New Zealand Sign Language interpreted performances**
- **Relaxed performances**
- **Touch Tours**
- **Wheelchair access**

A collaboration between Auckland Theatre Company, FCC, Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival and Creative New Zealand's Festival Commissioning & Presentation Fund managed by PANNZ.

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH PLAYMARKET
HE RŌPŪ TAUTOKO TITO WHAKAARI O AOTEAROA

Line Up Kaupoi!

By Amber Curreen & Tainui Tukiwaho

He kaupoi Māori nō nāianei e kimi nei i tana tūranga ki te ao.

Ka whai a Wātene rātou ko ana kaihana whakatoi kia whai rawa i te hokotanga atu o te whare kaumātua kātahi anō ka tukuna ihotia ki a ia. Heoi, tūtaki atu ana ki ngā kaumātua me ngā whānau kua whai kāinga i reira, ka ohorere te huri o ā rātou whakaritenga. Mā roto mai i te noho ā-hapori me te puoro tuawhenua, ka mārama ngā tāhae nei, he nui noa atu ngā kura o tēnei ao i tēnei mea i te pūtea noa. Kī pai ana i te kanikani matatira me te kaupapa whakarewa ngākau, ānō he waka hourua a *Line Up Kaupoi!* — he whakaari ki tētahi taha, he pāti hoedown ki tērā atu, me te aha, katoa, katoa ka whai wāhi ki te kanikani. Nā reira, tīkina ngā pūtu me ngā pōtae, ka whakarārangi mai ai!

It's a modern Māori cowboy finding his place in the world.

Wātene and his cheeky cuzzies set out to cash in by selling the retirement home he's just inherited. But when they meet the kaumātua and whānau who call it home, their plans take an unexpected turn. Through community and country music, the young bucks discover there's more to life than pūtea. Filled with line dancing and lots of heart, *Line Up Kaupoi!* is part theatre, part hoedown, and everyone gets the chance to jump on the dancefloor. So, grab your boots, your cowboy hat and line on up!

Where
Te Pou Theatre

When
Thu 4 — Sun 14 March

Adult Tickets
$45

View the event page
aaf.co.nz/lineupkaupoi

Show Information
2 hours 20 mins inc interval.
Recommended for ages 12+.
Contains haze and coarse language. Set may contain hay (allergen).

Presented by Te Pou Theatre and Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival.

Developed in partnership with Auckland Live.

Accessibility

Audio described performances

Hearing Loop available

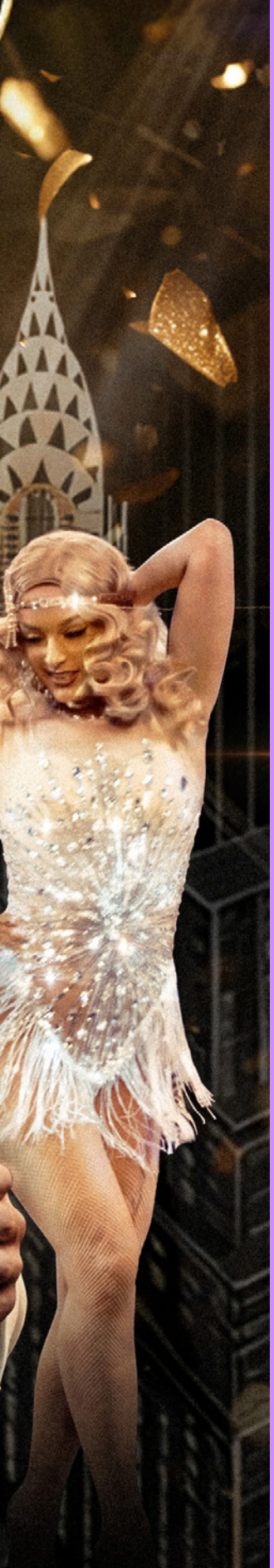
Touch Tours

Wheelchair access





From the creators of Cirque du Soleil's *Mad Apple* and the global smash hits *Cirque Alice* and *The Illusionists*.



Circus, Australia
World Premiere Season

Cirque Empire

It's the ultimate destination for roaring twenties revelry.

Welcome to 1920s New York. A visionary young impresario has inherited his late father's fortune and invested every penny in creating *Cirque Empire*, an epic circus spectacle with a lavish party atmosphere of excess and excitement. Prepare to witness an eclectic lineup of breathtaking and outrageous talent from across the globe, from high-flying aerialists and avant-garde acrobats to hysterical comedians and dazzling dancers. This opulent theatrical extravaganza is sure to astonish and delight audiences of all ages.

Where
The Civic

When
Thu 11 — Sun 21 March

Adult Tickets
from $55

View the event page
aaf.co.nz/cirqueempire

Show Information
2 hours inc interval.
Suitable for ages 8+.

Accessibility
Hearing Loop available
Wheelchair access

Presented by Auckland Live.

Theatre/Variety, Canada/Australia
First time in Aotearoa

Lucy Darling: Cheers

It's mischief and magic from the darling of TikTok.

Award-winning performer Carisa Hendrix stars as charming socialite and cocktail enthusiast Lucy Darling as she continues her vivacious vagabond voyages with *Cheers*, a variety show featuring her razor-sharp wit, unquestionable advice and skillful magic. Lucy is joined by Tom Cardy, hilarious musical internet sensation, for a fabulous evening of improvisation, comedy, magic and wild nonsensical tangents from which we may never return! *Cheers* is the perfect chance to take a break from reality and indulge in the mischief and wonder that we all deserve.

Where
Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre, Aotea Centre

When
Sat 13 March, 7.30pm

Adult Tickets
from $89.90

View the event page
aaf.co.nz/lucydarling

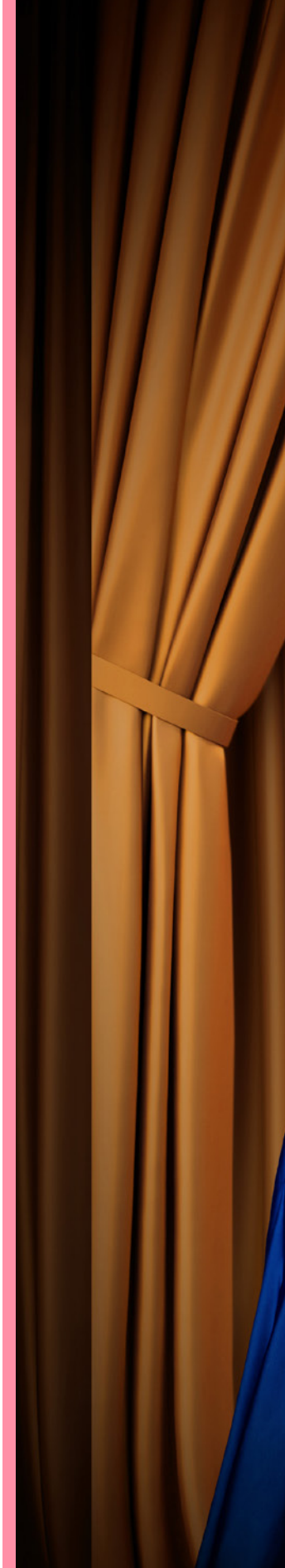
Show Information
2 hours inc interval.
Recommended for ages 14+.

Accessibility

Hearing Loop available

Wheelchair access

TBC **For updates on this event, visit aaf.co.nz/access**





Lucy Darling is the delight we need. The Spokesman-Review

Music, United Kingdom

Beth Orton

It's the dreamy English singer-songwriter back in Aotearoa.

For more than 30 years, Beth Orton has made records that exist outside of time, from the pioneering folktronica of *Trailer Park* to the self-produced *Weather Alive*. Her new album, *The Ground Above*, is her most direct and urgent work yet: a record about survival, love and grief, made with a band of trusted collaborators and moving between raw, searching songs and some of the most timeless melodies of her career. Beth returns to Aotearoa with her band for a one-off Auckland show in the Great Hall.

Where
Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall

When
Sun 14 March, 8.00pm

Accessibility

Hearing Loop available

Suitable for Blind & Low Vision audiences

Wheelchair access

Adult Tickets
from $78.50

View the event page
aaf.co.nz/bethorton

Show Information
1 hour 30 mins approx.
All ages event.



Thirty-three years into her career, Beth Orton is making some of the best music of her life.
Pitchfork



Q Theatre, Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival 2026. Image by Jinki Cambronero.

It's a performance that changes your life.

It's a story you will tell for years to come.

Scorched Earth

Attic Projects
in association with Far and Away Productions
Director, Writer & Choreographer: Luke Murphy



It's a stunning crime saga that unfolds on stage like you've never seen or felt before.

Imagine the kind of moreish Netflix or BBC crime show you can't stop watching late at night, transformed into a live theatre experience through the most incredible collision of drama and movement. At its dark Irish heart is a murder mystery, a land dispute, a missing donkey, and the psychological power struggle between a detective and her prime suspect. Creator Luke Murphy's genius is to weave the rich tapestry of this riveting cold case around unforgettable visuals and moments — and most climactic of all, a tour de force of fiercely physical, intensely poetic dance.



A form of total theatre, unlike anything else. RTÉ Arena ★★★★★

***Scorched Earth* is visceral and sensational, taking your breath away.** The Arts Review

Dance/Theatre, Ireland
Aotearoa Premiere Season

Where
ASB Waterfront Theatre

When
Thu 18 — Sun 21 March

Adult Tickets
from $59

View the event page
aaf.co.nz/scorched

Show Information

1 hour 20 mins no interval.

Recommended for ages 12+.
No one under age 5 will be admitted.

Contains haze, strobe lighting, theatrical smoke, adult themes and herbal cigarettes.

Accessibility

- **Audio described performances**
- **Hearing Loop available**
- **New Zealand Sign Language interpreted performances**
- **Touch Tours**
- **Wheelchair access**

A co-production with Dublin Dance Festival and Galway International Arts Festival, supported by Arts Council of Ireland and Culture Ireland.

With support from Cultúr Éireann Culture Ireland

WAI BURRA

Atamira Dance Company & Karul Projects

Choreographed by Gabrielle Thomas & Thomas E.S. Kelly

From ocean depths to molten-born ridgelines, two leading Indigenous contemporary dance companies converge.



Dance, Aotearoa/Australia
World Premiere Season

TOI TŪ TE REO

He pito e kotahi ai ngā ngaru auaha iwi taketake, ka pahū ai hei kanikani o nāianei.

I tēnei mahinga ngātahi ka whakarewaina i konei ki te ao, ko te kaitito nekehanga o Atamira, ko Gabrielle Thomas ka tō atu i a tātou ki ngā pito rētō o te moana i *Tere Tohorā Tere Tangata — Where Whales Journey, People Follow*; hei tāpiri, ko te kaitito nekehanga o Karul, ko Thomas E.S. Kelly, ka whakaara i ngā parehua i mahue i te tokarewa i *Dargin-nyi Jalu-nu Borrol — From the Bones of the Volcano*. Ka whakatōpūhia hoki ngā kaikanikani o ia o ngā ope kanikani nei ki tētahi kaupapa whakawhitiwhiti ngātahi. He mea whakakotahi i ngā ahurea, Māori mai, Iwi Moemoeā mai, he mea kōtui anō i ngā reo tito nekehanga motuhake o nāianei, mā *WAI BURRA* e oti ai ētahi ia hou, nekehanga mai, hononga mai, āheinga mai anō hoki.

It's where waves of Indigenous creativity collide and erupt into contemporary dance.

In this world premiere collaboration, Atamira choreographer Gabrielle Thomas takes us to the depths of the moana in *Tere Tohorā Tere Tangata — Where Whales Journey, People Follow*; while Karul choreographer Thomas E.S. Kelly brings forth landscapes of molten-born ridgelines in *Dargin-nyi Jalu-nu Borrol — From the Bones of the Volcano*. The dancers of both companies also unite in a shared exchange. Bringing Māori and Aboriginal cultures and distinct contemporary choreographic languages together, *WAI BURRA* generates new currents of movement, connection, and possibility.

Where
Rangatira, Q Theatre

When
Thu 18 — Sat 20 March

Show Information
1 hour no interval.
Suitable for all ages.
Contains haze.

Adult Tickets
from $49

View the event page
aaf.co.nz/waiburra

Accessibility

Hearing Loop available

Very Visual performances

Wheelchair access

Dance, China
Aotearoa Premiere Season

TAO Dance Theater: *Numerical Series 13 & 14*

It's Beijing's visionary dance company in Aotearoa for the first time.

此次是这家来自北京、具有前瞻性视野的舞蹈团体首次来长白云之乡演出。如果您想领略亚洲当代舞蹈的巅峰之作，那么来自中国的先锋艺术团体——陶身体剧场绝对不容错过。该舞团荣获威尼斯双年展享有盛誉的舞蹈银狮奖。在来到奥克兰之前，他们已到过欧洲、纽约、伦敦和澳大利亚多地巡回演出。凭借独特的圆运动体系，创造出非凡的舞蹈编排艺术。此次演出将呈现编舞家陶冶享有盛誉的"数位系列"中风格反差鲜明的作品《13》和《14》。这两部充满活力、富于冥想意味且极具爆发力的作品，将在艺术节开幕周宣告一支真正具有国际影响力的舞蹈劲旅的到来。

For the pinnacle of Asian contemporary dance, look no further than Chinese iconoclasts TAO Dance Theater. Awarded Venice Biennale's prestigious Silver Lion for Dance, the company delivers extraordinary choreography through their unique circular motion system. Presenting the high-contrast 13th and 14th works in choreographer Tao Ye's renowned *Numerical Series*, this vibrant, meditative and explosive double-bill announces the arrival of a genuine international dance powerhouse to the opening week of the Festival.

Where
Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre, Aotea Centre

When
Fri 5 & Sat 6 March, 7.00pm

Adult Tickets
from $79

View the event page
aaf.co.nz/taodance

Show Information
1 hour 10 mins inc interval.
Recommended for ages 12+.

Accessibility
Hearing Loop available
Wheelchair access
Very Visual performances

Supported by _AUCKLAND RED Radisson

With support from Platinum Patrons Sir Roderick & Gillian, Lady Deane.





A celebration of dance in its purest form. Bakchormeeboy ★★★★★



Presented by Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival and Auckland Live.

Developed with support from Auckland Live, Creative New Zealand, Te Atamira, and Abby M. O'Neill and Carroll Joynes.

Dance/Theatre, Aotearoa
Aotearoa Premiere Season
From the creative team behind *Belle – A Performance of Air*

Rodney Bell and Guests

Movement of the Human (MOTH)

Director: Malia Johnston · Production Designer: Rowan Pierce
Live Musician: Jol Mulholland · Composer: Eden Mulholland

It's an electrifyingly unique performance, live on stage and different every time, with surprise guest artists and dancers waiting in the wings.

Groundbreaking disabled dancer and choreographer Rodney Bell (Ngāti Maniapoto) has no idea who he's about to perform with. Neither do we — and they could be sitting right next to us in the audience. Each anonymous guest steps into Rodney's metaphorical boxing ring for a duet — a dance or a kōrero. Some might be his close friends; others he'll be meeting for the first time. This celebration of presence, artistry and human connection is the reason we go to the performing arts — to experience an unforgettable, never-to-be-repeated moment — and why you, like Rodney, should embrace the power of the unexpected.

Where
Rangatira, Q Theatre

When
Thu 4 — Sun 7 March

Adult Tickets
from $49

View the event page
aaf.co.nz/rodneybell

Show Information

1 hour 5 mins approx no interval.

Recommended for ages 12+.

Contains lighting effects, haze and adult language.

Accessibility

Audio described performances

Hearing Loop available

Pre-show information available

Relaxed performances

Touch Tours

Wheelchair access

For updates on this event, visit aaf.co.nz/access

With support from Platinum Patrons Andrew & Jenny Smith.

Full Voice:
Opera Favourites with Auckland Philharmonia

Soprano: Madeleine Pierard · Tenor: Simon O'Neill ONZM

It's the music that moves us, the voices that stay with us and the drama that never fades.

The Festival brings together our city's much-loved orchestra and leading New Zealand singers Madeleine Pierard and Simon O'Neill ONZM to celebrate opera in full voice — and a conductor who has given so much to Auckland's musical life. In his final year with Auckland Philharmonia, conductor and host Giordano Bellincampi invites you to spend an evening with the music he loves. From the sweeping drama of Wagner and Verdi to the wit, romance and sparkle of Viennese operetta by Strauss and Lehár, experience extraordinary voices and the Auckland Phil in full flight.

Where
Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall

When
Thu 18 March, 7.30pm

Adult Tickets
from $59

View the event page
aaf.co.nz/fullvoice

Show Information
2 hours inc interval.
Suitable for all ages.

Accessibility
Hearing Loop available
Suitable for Blind & Low Vision audiences
Wheelchair access







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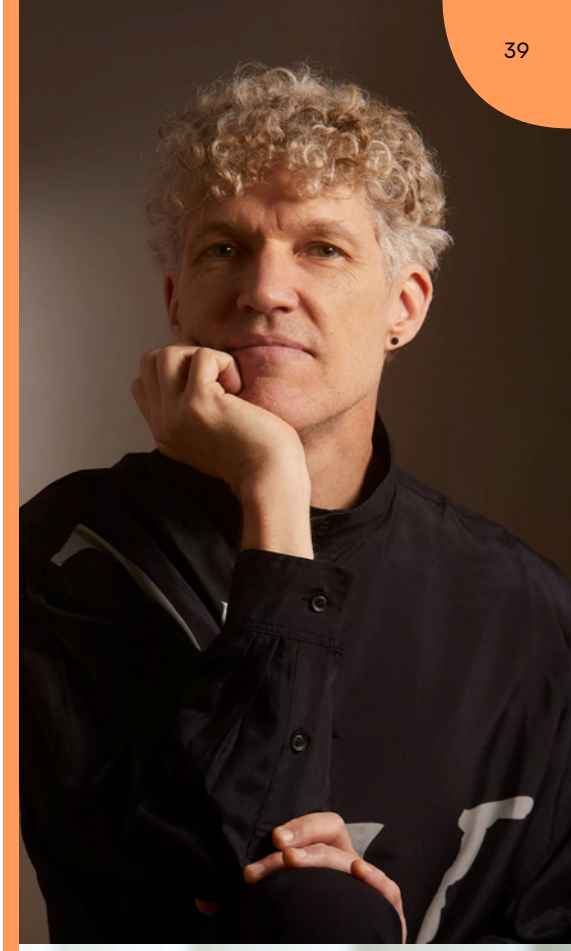
SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK OR VISIT RADISSONHOTELS.COM AND USE PROMO CODE: ARTSFEST



Music, United Kingdom/Aotearoa

Matthew Barley & Stephen De Pledge: Beethoven *Cello Sonatas*

Chamber Music New Zealand



It's Beethoven 200 years on.

Matthew Barley (cello) and Stephen De Pledge (piano) pull back the curtain on Beethoven's extraordinary *Cello Sonatas* to shine fresh light on the composer's epoch-defining journey, from the formal restraint of the Classical era to the heightened emotional expressiveness of the Romantic era.

Programme One, 4.00pm — 1 hour 30 mins inc interval

Beethoven **Sonata No. 1 in F major, Op. 5 No. 1**
Beethoven **Sonata No. 2 in G minor, Op. 5 No. 2**

Programme Two, 7.30pm — 1 hour 35 mins inc interval

Beethoven **Sonata No. 3 in A major, Op. 69**
Beethoven **Sonata No. 4 in C major, Op. 102, No. 1**
Beethoven **Sonata No. 5 in D major Op. 102 No. 2**



Where
Kāhui St David's, Grafton

When
Sun 14 March, 4.00pm & 7.30pm

Accessibility
Suitable for Blind & Low Vision audiences
Wheelchair access

Adult Tickets
$69 per programme

View the event page
aaf.co.nz/beethoven

Show Information
Suitable for all ages.
Special ticket offer available for attending both programmes.

Theatre, Australia
Aotearoa Premiere Season

Coil

re:group performance collective

Co-created by Mark Rogers, Solomon Thomas, Malcolm Whittaker, Steve Wilson-Alexander & Carly Young

It's a movie made live on stage. And a farewell to the local video store.

Streaming changed how we watch movies. But what happened to the places where we chose them together? Set in a video store, *Coil* brings theatre and filmmaking together in full view of the audience. One actor plays every character, cameras capture the action, and footage is mixed and edited live, creating a movie on screen as it unfolds during the play. An elegy for more innocent times and a moving experience shared cleverly through technology and performance, this gorgeous reflection on the joys and pitfalls of nostalgia will hit you square in the feels.

Where
Rangatira, Q Theatre

When
Thu 11 — Sun 14 March

Adult Tickets
from $49

View the event page
aaf.co.nz/coil

Show Information

1 hour no interval.

Recommended for ages 12+.

Contains mild language, flashing lights and brief loud noises.

Accessibility

Hearing Loop available

Pre-show information available

Relaxed performances

Wheelchair access





Genuinely impressive...a very funny and energetic work. Time Out Sydney ★★★★

A must-see live cinema event...miraculously manufactured before our eyes. RealTime



Rarely does a one-person show so effectively capture an audience's attention throughout...a real joy.

West End Best Friend ★★★★★

Cohen, Bernstein, Joni & Me

Written and Performed by Deb Filler

It's a musical odyssey of family, legendary artists and growing up Jewish in Aotearoa.

Consummate character actor, raconteur and musician, Deb Filler brings all these gifts and her razor-sharp wit home to Tāmaki Makaurau for her hit show. Ride along with Leonard Cohen and Joni Mitchell, as she takes you on a guided tour of her extraordinary life. Attend an unforgettable private audience with Leonard Bernstein in the Auckland Town Hall. Travel with Deb from Aotearoa and her Jewish immigrant family to LA, Vancouver, New York, Poland and back — all true stories from a one-woman powerhouse. Hilarious, heartwarming and poignant, it's a journey that's a direct hit to the heart.

Where
Loft, Q Theatre

When
Thu 18 — Sat 20 March

Adult Tickets
$49

View the event page
aaf.co.nz/cohen

Show Information
1 hour 30 mins no interval.
Recommended for ages 14+.
Contains strong language.

Accessibility

Hearing Loop available

Wheelchair access

Pre-show information available

For updates on this event, visit aaf.co.nz/access

Theatre, Aotearoa
Poipoia te kākano kia puāwai
Nurture the seed and it will blossom

He Kākano:

Haere

By Tawhi Thomas (Ngāti Maniapoto)

Strange Signals! Aliens in Aotearoa

By Lila Māhina Black (Ngāti Raukawa)

Where
Loft, Q Theatre

When
Fri 12 — Sun 14 March

Adult Tickets
$30

Show Information
For updates on duration, age and content advisory, visit aaf.co.nz

View the event pages
aaf.co.nz/haere
aaf.co.nz/strangesignals

Accessibility
Wheelchair access

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH PLAYMARKET

He ara e whai wāhi ai koe ki ētahi whakaari hou e auahatia tonutia ana.

Ka ara ake anō ko te hōtaka o *He Kākano* me ētahi pānuitanga o ētahi whakaari hou e rua, he mea tohutohu nā Jason Te Kare (Ngāti Maniapoto). Ao ake i te pānuitanga o *Becoming Jeff Bezos* nā Alex Medland (Kāi Tahu) i te hōtaka nei i te tau 2026, ka koke te kaupapa hei whakaari pū ka tuwhera aini ki te maru o Auckland Theatre Company — he take e kotahi atu ai koe i te tau 2027 kia whai wāhi ai ki te huranga mai o te kura whakaari o te wā.

It's your chance to discover new plays as they take shape.

He Kākano returns with readings of two new plays directed by Jason Te Kare (Ngāti Maniapoto). 2026's reading of *Becoming Jeff Bezos* by Alex Medland (Kāi Tahu) led to an upcoming Auckland Theatre Company premiere — a reason to be there in 2027 for the next big discovery.



I ***Haere***, ko tā Tawhi Thomas, toa o te tohu Best Māori Play i te kaupapa Adam NZ Play Awards a Playmarket mō te tau 2026, he pātai: he pēhea nei te tawhiti o tō tātou haerenga mai? Ko ngā kāpeka poto, hihiri anō, he mea tū ki tētahi momo waka kawe rerekē, ka ruku ki ngā tohe, ka whakanui hoki i ngā hononga i waenga i te Māori me te Pākehā huri i ngā tau i Aotearoa.

In ***Haere***, Tawhi Thomas, recipient of Best Māori Play at Playmarket's 2026 Adam NZ Play Awards, asks the question: how far have we come? Punchy short scenes, each set on a different mode of transport, explore the tensions and celebrate the connections between Māori and Pākehā throughout Aotearoa history.

I ***Strange Signals! Aliens in Aotearoa***, ko tā Lila Māhina Black (Ngāti Raukawa) he kawe i a tātou ki tētahi teihana reo irirangi i pae kōkēi i tētahi pō tātāhau. Tērā ētahi rama pōkīkī, ētahi reo, ētahi manuhiri porehu hoki ka whakararu i te pāhotanga a te kaikawe kōrero. He mea whanokē rānei kei te ngahere e oreore ana, kua rere kē rānei ana whakaaro ki tua o Tāwauwau?

In ***Strange Signals! Aliens in Aotearoa***, Lila Māhina Black takes us to a remote radio station on a storm-lashed night. Unexplained lights, voices and mysterious visitors disrupt the host's broadcast. Is something extraordinary lurking in the forest, or is his own mind unravelling?

Theatre, Aotearoa/Australia
Aotearoa Premiere Season
Winner of Best New Australian Work, Sydney Theatre Awards, 2024

Trophy Boys

By Emmanuelle Mattana

Presented by Silo Theatre & Auckland Live

Directed by Abigail Greenwood
Starring: Freya Silas Finch, Kirana Gaeta, Louise Jiang & Liv Parker
Design: Talia Pua, Sean Lynch

It's a blazer-trailing new play navigating power, privilege and the terrifying confidence of young men who know exactly how to say the right thing.

Four elite private-school boys are locked in a prep room before the biggest debating final of their lives. Top blokes, future leaders, blazers crisp, egos enormous. Then the moot drops: *FEMINISM HAS FAILED WOMEN. AFFIRMATIVE*. They're horrified. They're feminists. They love women. But trophies don't win themselves, and these boys have never been taught to lose. Performed by women and non-binary actors, *Trophy Boys* is a fast and wickedly funny satire that immerses itself in the struggles and triumphs of our young men today: the affirmative and the negative.

Where
Herald Theatre, Aotea Centre

When
Thu 11 March — Sun 4 April

Adult Tickets
from $55

View the event page
aaf.co.nz/trophyboys

Show Information

1 hour 10 mins no interval.

Recommended for ages 13+.

Contains coarse language and references to adult themes, including sexual violence.

Accessibility

Pre-show information available

Touch Tours

Wheelchair access



Hilariously profound...*Trophy Boys* is a masterful play. Time Out Melbourne ★★★★★

Cleverly conceived — and sharply funny.
The Wall Street Journal


LET'S TAKE THIS OFFLINE.
COLENSO
LONG LIVE CREATIVITY

It's everything you want from a city.



Aotea Square, Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival 2026. Image by John Rata.

Visual Arts, Aotearoa/International
Auckland CBD

Visual Arts

Free Events*

It's our annual tour of exhibitions, galleries and public art around Tāmaki Makaurau in March.

More exhibitions and public programmes to be announced.

For accessibility, visit **aaf.co.nz/visualarts**

Heart Tāmaki by Angus Muir

Where
Aotea Square

When
4 — 21 March

Aotea Square lights up with our signature Festival artwork. Share the spirit with your friends and whānau when you soak up the atmosphere and snap your perfect Festival moment. Visit our love letter to Tāmaki Makaurau, tell us what makes you proud to call this city home and tag us @**aucklandartsfestival**.





Zhang Xu Zhan, *Compound eyes of tropical—Animal Series*, 2020–2022. Single-channel video, colour, sound, 16'. Courtesy of the artist.

Tell Tales: Zhang Xu Zhan, Ming Ranginui, Wai Ching Chan

Where
Gus Fisher Gallery

When
13 February — 8 May

Tell Tales is an intimate grouping of Aotearoa and international artists whose artworks centre diverse folktale narratives as part of their practice. Premiering in Aotearoa is the work of internationally acclaimed artist Zhang Xu Zhan, whose stop-motion puppetry animation draws on Taiwanese folk traditions, temple festivals and the artist's family heritage of joss-paper craftsmanship. Featuring a charismatic cast of animal protagonists and a percussive soundtrack, *Compound eyes of tropical* (2020–2022) centres on the story of a small, clever animal who outwits a larger predator into helping them cross a river. The exhibition features major new commissions by leading Aotearoa artists.

Visual Arts, Aotearoa/International
Henderson & Waiheke Island

Rosanna Raymond: *Va'ai i Tua / Seeing Beyond*
Seung Yul Oh: *Poom*

Where
The Arts House Trust, Pah Homestead

When
25 February — 23 May



Seung Yul Oh, *Slow Bounce*, 2026. Courtesy of the artist.

Impeccably mannered, magnificently adorned and absolutely not to be trifled with, Rosanna Raymond's Backhand Maiden is an embodied charisma carrying the mauli, mana and whakapapa of her maker. Named from the old Sāmoan proverb *tali i le tualima* — to wave with the back of the hand, signalling dismissal, defiance and refusal — her gesture is an elegant rebuke to the rules of colonial decorum. The Backhand Maiden takes up residence in the historic rooms of Pah Homestead, where a colonial parlour assembled from the Trust's collection becomes her stage. **25 Feb — 16 May**

Poom, a Korean word, describes a space formed through relation: the interval held by an embrace — open yet contained. Its logic echoes the madang, the open courtyard in Korean spatial tradition, where a centre emerges through the conditions that gather around it. In Seung Yul Oh's new sculptures and paintings, interior and exterior, centre and periphery, fullness and void remain in continual exchange. Rather than resolving as autonomous objects, forms register as temporary conditions shaped by proximity, pressure and release. **4 Mar — 23 May**



Perpetual Guardian *Sculpture on the Gulf*

Where
Matiatia Bay, Waiheke Island

When
26 February — 29 March

Perpetual Guardian *Sculpture on the Gulf* returns for its 12th edition. For five weeks this summer, 31 large-scale contemporary sculpture projects line a 2.5 km clifftop walkway above Matiatia Bay, with the Hauraki Gulf as their backdrop.

This year's exhibition, *The Ocean Remembers the Shore*, is curated by Heather Galbraith and Benjamin Work and draws on Waiheke Island's original name, Te Motu Ārai Roa, the long sheltering island. Artists respond to land and sea, shelter, regeneration and the connections between us.

Presented by Perpetual Guardian and Waiheke Art Gallery.

***Free entry for ages 15 and under.**

Visual Arts, Aotearoa/International
Titirangi & Wynyard Quarter

Hariata Ropata-Tangahoe: *Pono, Politics of irritation & Domestic Topographies*

Where
Te Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery

When
28 February — 23 May

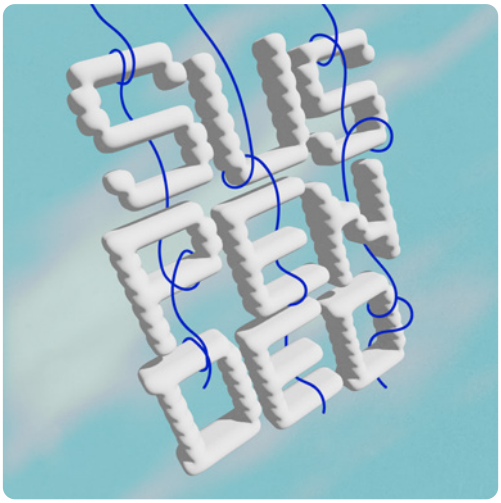
The work of Hariata Ropata-Tangahoe (Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Toa, Te Arawa, Tūwharetoa) can be approached less as records of the past than as ways of bringing relationships into the present. Whakapapa is the starting point, but the work does not stop at genealogy: Oral histories, inherited stories, memory, dreams and intuition are allowed to overlap. **28 Feb — 9 May**

The group show *Politics of irritation* explores the systems that regulate bodies. Addressing health, disability and the pathologisation of difference, the artists consider irritation not as a symptom to be cured, but as a source of knowledge, resistance and collective care. **7 Mar — 16 May**

The group show *Domestic Topographies* takes the feminist proposition that "the personal is political" as its point of departure. Bringing together artists from Aotearoa and abroad across generations, the exhibition explores how the intimate spaces of domestic and everyday life can become sites of political meaning, resistance and artistic practice. **14 Mar — 23 May**



Hariata Ropata-Tangahoe, *Kapokapo kau ana te whetu o te rangi ka hoki mai aku moemoea o te ao turoa, Dreams return and our breath settles*, 2026. © the artist and William Austin Gallery.



SUSPENDED

Where
Silo 6, Wynyard Quarter

When
4 — 21 March

SUSPENDED is art with its feet off the ground, a group exhibition of hanging works taking over Silo 6.

Bringing together artists working across textiles, ceramics, tapa, sculpture and mixed media, *SUSPENDED* explores what happens when artworks leave the wall and enter the air. Across the six soaring concrete silos, works are suspended overhead and throughout the gallery, making full use of the height and scale of the waterfront Silo 6 space.

The exhibition features works by Ahsin Ahsin, Monique Barnett, BEMODERN, Tui Emma Gillies & Sulieti Fieme'a Burrows, Janna van Hasselt, Turumeke Harrington, Lindsey Horne, Brooke Mallinger, Hanna Shim, Kathryn Tsui and Jenny Zhong.

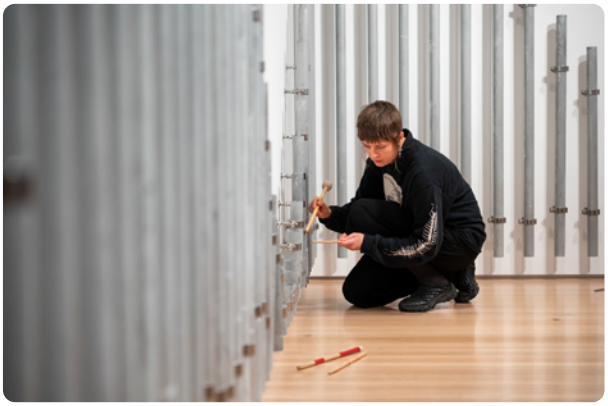
Visual Arts, Aotearoa / International
Karangahape Road & Ponsonby

Madison Kelly

Where
Artspace Aotearoa

When
5 March — 2 April

Madison Kelly is a Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe, Pākehā artist whose practice explores sound, duration and sensory experience. Working across sculpture, drawing and percussion, Kelly is interested in how we listen, observe and connect with the world around us. This exhibition brings together new and existing works that invite audiences to engage with the world through listening, movement and sensory experience. Kelly's growing collection of percussion instruments, drawings and sculptural works create different ways of experiencing and thinking through sound, while drawing on ideas of whakapapa, observation and exchange.



Madison Kelly, *toko by and by*.
Courtesy the artist and Toi Tauranga Art Gallery.





Pictured: works by Unna Pumjan (top), Jiahua Chen (bottom).

Solo exhibitions by Unna Pumjan, Jiahua Chen, Sinag Fernandez & Emma Rogan

Where
Studio One Toi Tū

When
11 March — 8 April

Unna Pumjan: ***As They Are*** is an installation of playful and strange ceramic figures that explore emotion, individuality and the quiet complexity of being human.

Jiahua Chen: ***The Voice of Jingwei*** draws on the Chinese myth of Jingwei, a bird who endlessly carries stones to fill the sea, combining ceramics, stop-motion and sound.

Sinag Fernandez: ***city of star, city of dust, city of love, city of rust*** follows a visit to the artist's hometown of Iloilo, Philippines, exploring the city's rapid urban transformation amidst the warmth of homecoming.

Emma Rogan: ***Ancestral Mahi*** reckons with Rogan's ancestral past, reconciling old information with recently received familial knowledge.

Visual Arts, Aotearoa/International
Devonport & Hillsborough

Conversations that Matter: THE ARTIST IS PRESENT

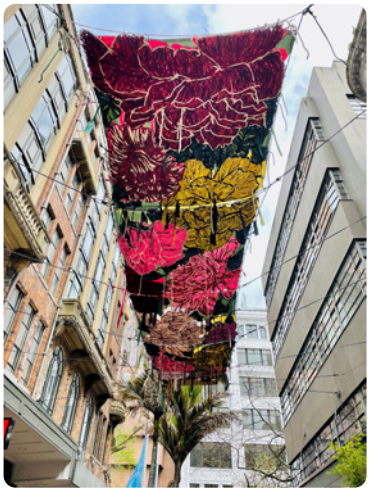
Where
DEPOT, Te Whare Toi

When
Saturday 13 March, 11.00am to 1.00pm

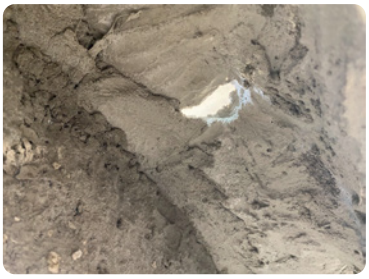
We usually meet the artwork when it's finished. This is your invitation to meet everything that came before it. Cross the harbour to Te Hau Kapua Devonport and step inside DEPOT, Te Whare Toi for a candid and surprising morning of conversation and community with some of our treasured local artists and creatives.

Through objects, textiles, images and stories, artists reveal a moment that changed the course of their creative lives, from failures and wrong turns to breakthroughs, mentors and unexpected opportunities. Our speakers will tackle questions from the audience all things art — sharing their artistic processes, to build confidence, where they find inspiration and how they navigate their way through the world as an artist today.

Join us for a special morning of connection, music, coffee, art and conversation.



Frankie Meaden, *Flourishing*, 2022. Commissioned by Heart of the City, Auckland. Mixed media and fibre artist Meaden will exhibit at DEPOT from February 2027.





"Ghost Projects" photos courtesy of Lingtan Jane Guiguit.

Ghost Projects: Uku Rangi / Skye Lunson-Storey, Lingtan Jane Guiguit and Sinag Fernandez

Where
Homestead Galleries, Corban Estate Arts Centre

When
20 March — 1 May

What lies beneath, around and beyond the monumentality of a city? Bringing together the practices of Uku Rangi, Lingtan Jane Guiguit and Sinag Fernandez, this exhibition considers the environmental and social consequences of urban development. Working across sculpture, installation, drawing, painting and moving image, the artists draw from their relationships to their homes across Aotearoa and the Philippines to consider how cities reshape the places, environments and communities around them.

Concrete, steel, glass, water, wai, harekeke and other materials of the built and natural landscape become ways of thinking through flooding, migration, memory, land and belonging. Moving between the monumental and the everyday, the exhibition asks what is displaced, covered over, rerouted, destroyed and forgotten in the making of a city. Rather than presenting urban growth as straightforward progress, the artists draw attention to its ongoing and uneven consequences, and to the histories and relationships that remain beneath its surfaces.

Visual Arts, Aotearoa / International
Grey Lynn & Auckland CBD

Karl Fritsch: *1000 Rings*

Where
Objectspace

When
20 March — 23 May

1000 Rings celebrates the remarkable career of Karl Fritsch: a goldsmith and artist born 1963 in Sonthofen, Germany, and now based in Aotearoa. Fritsch is recognised worldwide as one of the most influential figures in contemporary jewellery. His work blends masterful craftsmanship with rebellious humour, material innovation, and a distinctively expressive style. Across four decades he has made work at the edges of jewellery and sculpture. Each ring is one of a kind — a miniature artwork that challenges how we think about value, beauty and purpose.

1000 Rings draws together (more than) 1000 rings, seen en masse and across time, the work tracks the evolution of his making, and his enduring love of the singular ring form. This exhibition honours Fritsch as a boundary-breaking artist, and a key figure among those who see jewellery as its own artistic language. *1000 Rings* is both a retrospective and a spatial experience — a manifesto of free unconventional thinking in contemporary art and craft.



Rings by Karl Fritsch.



Maureen Lander, *Crown Grab Bag*, 2006, pīngao fibre, blue textile cushion, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, purchased 2011.

In and Out of Site: Maureen Lander

Where
Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki

When
20 March — 12 September

In and Out of Site: Maureen Lander is a survey exhibition of the work of senior artist Dr Maureen Lander MNZM (Ngāpuhi, Te Hikutū) exploring four decades of her installation art. The exhibition examines the material traces and conceptual implications of her site-responsive and ephemeral art practice. From her installations made from natural fibres such as muka and pīngao to her use of synthetic materials, photography and digital media, what remains constant is Lander's deepening knowledge of her own whakapapa, mātauranga Māori and material culture, along with an acknowledgement of site and context, and her steadfast commitment to experimentation. The exhibition is proudly supported by Auckland Art Gallery Foundation.

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Our patrons are a passionate group of supporters who contribute to the life of the Festival. Their generosity uplifts the mahi behind many of our initiatives, including free events, low-cost tickets for families and rangatahi, education for students, and accessibility for all. They also strengthen our role as an industry leader and the immediate future of the performing arts in Aotearoa.

With their help — and if you're thinking about becoming a patron, yours too — we can keep doing more for the arts and Auckland. To become a Festival Patron today, or learn more about ways to support us, visit **aaf.co.nz/support**.

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Let us host you at the Festival.

Make the most of your Festival experience with our premium hospitality packages.

For groups of 30–100, we can tailor a memorable Festival experience. Host your guests in the VIP area of our Festival Garden or at one of our venue spaces in the Aotea Arts Precinct, before enjoying an unforgettable night out together at the theatre, in the Spiegeltent, or at a music concert.

If you are after something a little more relaxed but packed full of fun for your community, social group or arts club, we are creating Spiegeltent packages for groups of 10 or more.

Leave the logistics to us, we'll take care of everything. All you need to do is arrive, relax and enjoy.

For more information visit **aaf.co.nz/hosting**

or fill in the form via the QR code and we'll get in touch.







TE AHUREI TOI O TĀMAKI AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL

The Festival is a melting pot of shared experiences, whakaaro, live entertainment and kōrero every March.

For the love and vibrancy of Tāmaki Makaurau, we celebrate the best of arts and culture, for the people of this diverse city, by artists doing incredible things from Aotearoa and around the world.

Ko ngā mahinga toi whānui me te ahurea ki Tāmaki Makaurau o nāianei te pūmanawa o te Ahurei.

The Festival's lifeblood is arts and culture in contemporary Tāmaki Makaurau. We care deeply about celebrating artists and their kaupapa, serving the creatives and communities behind the works we present, honouring te reo and te ao Māori in all that we do, and contributing to a better city and society. That's us. Koia pū!

Every March you'll see a big reunion with our city's arts community — many of whom we consider our whānau whānui, our extended family — alongside our mahi towards better accessibility and education opportunities for our audiences. We're also passionate about the works we curate and our collaboration with the many people who make those experiences happen. We strive to celebrate with generosity; human connection and manaakitanga will always be at the heart of what we stand for.

When we're on, we're on a mission to make Auckland an amazing place to socialise and be entertained in. Whether you're discovering the city for the first time or rekindling your love for its hidden gems, we truly believe that the Festival has something for everyone.

The Festival is a registered Charity (CC22145).

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TE AHUREI TOI O TĀMAKI
AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL

The Auckland Festival Trust

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Website **aaf.co.nz**

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Page 1, 50 — *Heart Tāmaki* artwork, Aotea Square, March 2026, photographed by Rob Trathen.

Pages 6, 7, 8 — *Lessshgooo!, Festival Garden & rova Sound Stage*. Image: audience members at *Sau Fiafia! Boogie Down!*, Aotea Square, March 2026, photographed by John Rata.

Page 9 — *Whānau Day*. Images: families at *Whānau Day*, Aotea Square, March 2026, photographed by John Rata.

Pages 10, 11 — *Twenty Sixteen*. Image by Julian Crupi.

amplified house

Pages 12, 13 — *Anthology of Wonder*. Image: Tavite Tonga performing at Auckland Town Hall, March 2026, photographed by Jinki Cambronero.

Pages 16, 17 — *The Choir of Man*. Image by Morgan Roberts, Brisbane Festival 2026.

Pages 18, 19 — *The Boy from Vaiala*. Image: Semu Filipo, supplied.
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Pages 20, 21 — *Line Up Kaupoi!* Image by Julie Zhu. Styled by Kiri Cooper. Costumes by Auckland Theatre Company Costume Department & Ariat.

TE POU THEATRE in partnership with Strategic Partner AUCKLAND LIVE

Pages 22, 23 — *Cirque Empire.* Image supplied.

AUCKLAND LIVE Auckland Council Events

Page 24, 25 — *Lucy Darling: Cheers.* Image: Carisa Hendrix and Tom Cardy, supplied.

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Pages 28, 29 — *Scorched Earth.* Image by Pato Cassinoni. Additional images by Teddy Wolff. Created with additional support from Dance Cork Firkin Crane; Shawbrook Residential; Cork City Council; Town Hall Theatre/Black Box Theatre, Galway; Uillinn West Cork Arts Centre, and Bathway Theatre at University of Greenwich.

Pages 30, 31 — *WAI BURRA.* Image: dancers from Atamira Dance Company and Karul Projects, photographed by Julie Zhu.

KARUL

Pages 32, 33 — *TAO Dance Theater: Numerical Series 13 & 14.* Images by Hai Yang (top, *13*) and Fan Xi (bottom, *14*).

陶身体 TAO Dance Theater

Pages 34, 35 — *Rodney Bell and Guests.* Image: 'Isope 'Akau'ola (left) and Rodney Bell (right), photographed by Andi Crown.
A Movement of the Human production.

MOVEMENT OF THE HUMAN

Presented by Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival and

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Developed with support from Auckland Live and

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Te Atamira, and Abby M. O'Neill and Carroll Joynes.

Pages 36, 37 — *Full Voice: Opera Favourites with Auckland Philharmonia.* Images: Giordano Bellincampi (top) and Simon O'Neill (bottom) performing with the Auckland Phil, photographed by Sav Schulman.

Auckland Philharmonia.

Page 39 — *Matthew Barley & Stephen De Pledge: Beethoven Cello Sonatas.* Images: Matthew Barley (top) and Stephen De Pledge (bottom), supplied.

CMNZ Puoro Taiwhanga Aotearoa

Pages 40, 41 — *Coil.* Image by Lucy Parakhina. Developed with the support of Next Wave Festival, PACT Centre for Emerging Artists, Salamanca Arts Centre, Merrigong Theatre Company, Performing Lines, Intimate Spectacle, Punctum, Creative Partnerships Australia through MATCH Lab, Arts Tasmania and Creative Australia.

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Pages 42, 43 — *Cohen, Bernstein, Joni & Me.* Image: Deb Filler, supplied.

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Pages 44, 45 — *He Kākano.* Illustration by Camila Araos Elevancini.

Pages 46, 47 — *Trophy Boys.* Image: Liv Parker, Freya Silas Finch and Louise Jiang, photographed by Greta van der Star. Presented by

SLIO AUCKLAND LIVE

Creative Learning at the Festival

Toi Ako, Toi Auaha, Toi Ora. Learning and creativity for the wellbeing of the arts.

Our lineup of shows for schools and students aims to reach tamariki and adult learners, making the arts accessible and fostering a desire to learn, appreciate and participate.

We have a variety of performances available to schools and teachers in Tāmaki Makaurau, some with free ticketing allocations that can be booked directly through us.

To learn more about schools tickets, matinees, pre/post-show talks and workshop opportunities, visit **aaf.co.nz/education**.

Creative Learning Bookings & Enquiries

Email: **education@aaf.co.nz**

Website: **aaf.co.nz/education**

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Our Commitment to Accessibility

We believe everyone should have access to extraordinary arts.

All our 2027 Festival venues have step-free access, wheelchair accessible seating and accessible toilets.

We work with representatives from Deaf and disabled communities to identify the shows that are most suitable for audio description, NZSL interpretation and relaxed performances.

Closer to the Festival you will also find information about venue accessibility, including a downloadable map showing accessible parking and drop off zones.

We are always looking at ways to improve visitor experience. If you would like to provide any suggestions, please send them to the email address below.

Where possible we offer reduced cost tickets for events in the Accessible Programme, with one companion ticket available free of charge.

For more information on our accessible events, visit **aaf.co.nz/access**.

Accessibility Bookings & Enquiries

Email: **access@aaf.co.nz**

Phone or Text: **022 1239 759**

NZ Relay Service: **nzrelay.co.nz**

Accessible booking forms and ticket information **aaf.co.nz/access**

What's On **Week 1, 4—7 March**	Where	Page		Thu **4**	Fri **5**	Sat **6**	Sun **7**
Lessshgooo! **Opening Night Concert**	rova Sound Stage, Aotea Square	6	**Free**	5.30pm	·	·	·
Festival Garden & rova Sound Stage	Aotea Square	8	**Free**	☀ ☾	☀ ☾	☀ ☾	☀ ☾
The Boy from Vaiala	ASB Waterfront Theatre	18	Previews, Tue 2 & Wed 3, 7.00pm	7.00pm	7.00pm	2.00pm & 7.00pm	4.00pm
Line Up Kaupoi!	Te Pou Theatre	20		Preview 7.00pm	7.00pm	7.00pm	4.00pm
The Choir of Man	Spiegeltent, Aotea Square	16		8.00pm	7.30pm	2.00pm & 6.00pm	5.00pm
Rodney Bell and Guests	Rangatira, Q Theatre	34		7.30pm	7.30pm	7.30pm	2.00pm
TAO Dance Theater ***Numerical Series 13 & 14***	Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre, Aotea Centre	32		·	7.00pm	7.00pm	·
Whānau Day	Aotea Square	9	**Free**	·	·	·	10.00am to 4.00pm

Plan your Festival.

Planning a night of fun, a big weekend out or a whole 18 days of immersion? For more information to help you curate your experience, visit **aaf.co.nz/info**.

On our website you'll find frequently asked questions, venue access and locations, public transport advice, accessible parking notes and more.

Choose your tickets.

Booking online is the fastest and easiest way to purchase your tickets. Click on the **Buy Now** button on any **aaf.co.nz event page** to be taken through to an official ticketing provider.

Some venues offer phone, email and in-person booking services. For more information, visit **aaf.co.nz/tickets**. For terms and conditions, refer to **aaf.co.nz/terms-and-conditions**.

What's On **Week 2, 9—14 March**	Where	Page	Tue **9**	Wed **10**	Thu **11**	Fri **12**	Sat **13**	Sun **14**
Festival Garden & rova Sound Stage	Aotea Square	8	☼ ☾	☼ ☾	☼ ☾	☼ ☾	☼ ☾	☼ ☾
The Boy from Vaiala	ASB Waterfront Theatre	18	7.00pm	7.00pm	7.00pm	7.00pm	2.00pm & 7.00pm	4.00pm
Line Up Kaupoi!	Te Pou Theatre	20	7.00pm	7.00pm	7.00pm	7.00pm	7.00pm	4.00pm
The Choir of Man	Spiegeltent, Aotea Square	16	7.00pm	6.00pm	9.00pm	6.00pm	2.00pm & 6.00pm	5.00pm
Trophy Boys	Herald Theatre, Aotea Centre	46	Season continues until Sun 4 April		7.00pm	7.00pm	7.00pm	5.00pm
Cirque Empire	The Civic	22	·	·	7.00pm	7.00pm	2.00pm & 7.00pm	1.00pm & 6.00pm
Twenty Sixteen	Spiegeltent, Aotea Square	10	·	9.00pm	6.00pm	9.00pm	9.00pm	·
Coil	Rangatira, Q Theatre	40	·	·	7.30pm	7.30pm	7.30pm	5.00pm
He Kākano: *Haere*	Loft, Q Theatre	44	·	·	·	7.00pm	5.00pm	·
He Kākano: *Strange Signals! Aliens in Aotearoa*	Loft, Q Theatre	44	·	·	·	·	7.00pm	2.00pm
Lucy Darling: Cheers	Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre, Aotea Centre	24	·	·	·	·	7.30pm	·
Matthew Barley & Stephen De Pledge: Beethoven *Cello Sonatas*	Kāhui St David's, Grafton	39	·	·	·	·	·	4.00pm & 7.30pm
Beth Orton	Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall	26	·	·	·	·	·	8.00pm

What's On **Week 3, 16—21 March**	Where	Page	Tue **16**	Wed **17**	Thu **18**	Fri **19**	Sat **20**	Sun **21**
Festival Garden & rova Sound Stage	Aotea Square	8						
The Choir of Man	Spiegeltent, Aotea Square	16	7.00pm	7.00pm	2.00pm & 7.00pm	6.00pm & 9.00pm	2.00pm & 6.00pm	5.00pm
Trophy Boys	Herald Theatre, Aotea Centre	46	7.00pm	7.00pm	7.00pm	7.00pm	2.00pm & 7.00pm	5.00pm
Cirque Empire	The Civic	22	·	7.00pm	7.00pm	7.00pm	2.00pm & 7.00pm	1.00pm & 6.00pm
Scorched Earth	ASB Waterfront Theatre	28	·	·	7.00pm	7.00pm	7.00pm	5.00pm
WAI BURRA	Rangatira, Q Theatre	30	·	·	7.30pm	7.30pm	3.00pm & 7.30pm	·
Cohen, Bernstein, Joni & Me	Loft, Q Theatre	42	·	·	7.00pm	7.00pm	2.00pm & 7.00pm	·
Full Voice: Opera Favourites with Auckland Philharmonia	Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall	36	·	·	7.30pm	·	·	·
Anthology of Wonder **Closing Weekend Concert**	Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall	12	·	·	·	·	7.30pm*	·

Ticket prices in this Festival Guide indicate the lowest adult price (no restrictions), unless an alternative price has been supplied by the producer. Transaction and booking fees may apply. For a full range of prices including concessions, refer to our official ticketing providers via the **Buy Now links on aaf.co.nz only.**

Information in this Festival Guide is correct at the time of publication.

*7.30pm doors open, 8.00pm concert starts.

What's On **Visual Arts around Tāmaki Makaurau**	Where	Pages 50—55	When
***Tell Tales*: Zhang Xu Zhan, Ming Ranginui, Wai Ching Chan**	Gus Fisher Gallery	**Free**	13 February — 8 May
Rosanna Raymond: *Va'ai i Tua / Seeing Beyond*, Seung Yul *Oh: Poom*	The Arts House Trust, Pah Homestead	**Free**	25 February — 23 May
Perpetual Guardian *Sculpture on the Gulf*	Matiatia Bay, Waiheke Island	Free entry for ages 15 and under	26 February — 29 March
Hariata Ropata-Tangahoe, *Politics of irritation* & *Domestic Topographies*	Te Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery	**Free**	28 February — 23 May
***Heart Tāmaki* by Angus Muir**	Aotea Square	**Free**	4 — 21 March
SUSPENDED	Silo 6, Wynyard Quarter	**Free**	4 — 21 March
Madison Kelly	Artspace Aotearoa	**Free**	5 March — 2 April
Unna Pumjan, Jiahua Chen, Sinag Fernandez & Emma Rogan	Studio One Toi Tū	**Free**	11 March — 8 April
Conversations that Matter: THE ARTIST IS PRESENT	DEPOT, Te Whare Toi	**Free**	Saturday 13 March, 11.00am to 1.00pm
Ghost Projects	Homestead Galleries, Corban Estate Arts Centre	**Free**	20 March — 1 May
Karl Fritsch: *1000 Rings*	Objectspace	**Free**	20 March — 23 May
In and Out of Site: Maureen Lander	Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki	**Free**	20 March — 12 September

Festival Calendar

4—21 o Māehe · March 2027 **18 unforgettable days and nights** **aaf.co.nz/whats-on**


It’s the
Festival.