

# MEDIA RELEASE

THE  
**COURT**  
THEATRE

13<sup>th</sup> February 2019

**For immediate release**

[Crash Bash: Reaction](#)

Written by Brendon Bennetts

Directed by Ben Freeth

18 February – 22 March 2019

Touring Canterbury Schools

## Short Show Description:

*Crash Bash: Reaction* is an interactive touring show exploring the risks of driving with Canterbury High School students and teaching young drivers how to make safe choices on the road.

## SAFE DRIVING MESSAGES SHARED THROUGH TOURING THEATRE SHOW

### IN-BRIEF:

Performers Monique Clementson and Fergus Inder won't be cutting any corners when they take to the road in *Crash Bash: Reaction*, an interactive touring experience educating Canterbury High School students about safe driving.

Running in collaboration with the Christchurch City Council and New Zealand Police, *Crash Bash: Reaction* is a 25-minute show highlighting key road safety messages in an entertaining, informative and memorable performance.

*Crash Bash* has traditionally been interactive, but this year's version of the show will use a mobile app to engage the entire audience, rather than just one or two people.

The key focus for the show is distracted driving (whether that be because of phone use, passenger distraction or out-of-car objects such as digital signage), impaired driving (drugs, alcohol and fatigue) and the consequences of these.

"The programme conveys the importance of making safe choices for yourselves and others as these students move through the graduated licence system," says Christchurch City Council Transport Operations Manager, Steffan Thomas.

*Crash Bash: Reaction* will be visiting over 20 schools in Canterbury, with bookings still available. The show is free for eligible schools and recommended for those in years 11 – 13.

*Crash Bash: Reaction* will be touring Canterbury High Schools from 18 February – 22 March 2019.

### IN-DEPTH:

Principal Sponsor



Core Funder



Season Sponsor



The Court Theatre

PO Box 268

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

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[www.courtheatre.org.nz](http://www.courtheatre.org.nz)

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*Crash Bash* has traditionally been interactive, but this year's version of the show will use a mobile app to engage the entire audience, rather than just one or two people.

"For us it's a really exciting theatrical journey of how to engage 600 audience members at once, which is really challenging," says The Court Theatre's Programmes Manager (Education, Training and Jesters), Rachel Sears, who is overseeing the project.

Using mobile learning app *Kahoot!*, the teenage audience will be encouraged to use their phones during the show, interacting with cast members live on-stage by answering questions and sharing their opinions on topics discussed.

Clementson and Inder, who were recently on The Court's stage in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, will be directed by co-star Ben Freeth, who promises that *Crash Bash* will appeal to Canterbury's varied school audiences – and impart some well-needed knowledge.

Despite the diversity of audiences, the problems facing young drivers behind the wheel is similar across the board.

The key focus for *Crash Bash: Reaction* is distracted driving (whether that be because of phone use, passenger distraction or out-of-car objects such as digital signage), impaired driving (drugs, alcohol and fatigue) and the consequences of these.

Educating people on the risks of distracted driving is a key goal for the council and police due to our rising annual road toll.

"The programme conveys the importance of making safe choices for yourselves and others as these students move through the graduated licence system," says Christchurch City Council Transport Operations Manager, Steffan Thomas.

Relevance was a key goal for the project, with young people consulted during the development of *Crash Bash: Reaction* and feedback from previous years also informing the new direction for this year's show.

Alongside the new and interactive production elements, AV Design will be used to showcase examples of bad driving decisions – and the consequences of these.

*Crash Bash: Reaction* will be visiting over 20 schools in Canterbury, with bookings still available. The show is free for eligible schools and recommended for those in years 11 – 13.

"We don't want to scare them, but young people are dying on our roads all the time," says Sears. "The purpose of *Crash Bash* is to give them time to think and reflect on their driving choices; encourage better driving decisions and habits; build relationships between young people and the police and celebrate good driving decisions."

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## **Cast**

Monique Clementson  
Fergus Inder  
Senior Constable Brent Cosgrove

## **Creatives**

Writer	Brendon Bennetts
Director/Stage Manager/Operator	Ben Freeth
Programmes Manager	Rachel Sears
AV Producer	Jessica Todd
AV Designer	Zac Beckett-Knight

## **Booking Details**

*Crash Bash: Reaction* is free for eligible Canterbury High Schools. For more information and to book your school's visit, please contact Angela McDonnell at [Angela.McDonnell@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:Angela.McDonnell@ccc.govt.nz) or phone (03) 941 8379.

Images can be found at The Court Theatre's [Media Centre](#)

**For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:  
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