

MEDIA RELEASE

THE
COURT
THEATRE

26 July 2018

For immediate release

[Ē Toru](#)

Written by Tania Gilchrist; Tavita Nielsen-Mamea; Y NOT

9 - 11 August 2018

The Pub Charity Studio at The Court Theatre

Short show description:

Three Māori and Pasifika companies from Ōtautahi each present an evening of compelling and essential works in progress. Each night, a new and unique piece will meet an audience for the first time. Be part of their creation.

A FESTIVAL OF MĀORI AND PASIFIKA WORKS COMES TO THE COURT THEATRE FOR THREE NIGHTS ONLY IN Ē TORU

IN BRIEF:

For three nights in August The Court Theatre will be welcoming a trio of Māori and Pasifika theatre practitioners who will each present a new and different work-in-progress theatre piece in The Forge at The Court production *Ē Toru*.

Opening the series is writer Tania Gilchrist with her play *Rīpeka* on the 9th August. *Rīpeka* follows Paia in Christchurch as she learns more about the life of her ancestor, Rīpeka, and her life in The East Cape back in 1860.

Following Gilchrist on Friday 10th August is Tavita Nielsen-Mamea with political story of environmental relevance in *Au Ko Tuvalu* as three siblings are displaced from their homeland of Tuvalu due to climate change.

The final performance on Saturday 11th August comes from theatre collective Y NOT who are giving a Pacific twist to a traditional cabaret setting in *Palu*, a tri-lingual show that highlights the differences (and similarities) between Samoa and Tonga over the shared kava bowl.

Vanessa Gray, the Kaihāpai Toi (Māori and Pasifika Producer) at The Court Theatre believes that *Ē Toru* is immensely important for the theatre.

“It’s important that The Court Theatre puts on work like *Ē Toru* because Aotearoa New Zealand and its Māori and Pasifika peoples have a unique perspective found nowhere else in the world.”

As these three very different plays begin to take shape, audiences now have to choose which evenings – if not all three – they will come along to.

Ē Toru runs at The Court Theatre from the 9th – 11th August.

Principal Sponsor



Core Funder



Season Sponsor



The Court Theatre

PO Box 268

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

Email: admin@courtheatre.org.nz

www.courtheatre.org.nz

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IN DEPTH:

For three nights in August The Court Theatre will be welcoming a trio of Māori and Pasifika theatre practitioners who will each present a new and different work-in-progress theatre piece in The Forge at The Court production *Ē Toru*.

Writers Tania Gilchrist, Tavita Nielsen-Mamea and collective Y NOT will present their individual pieces – each still growing and developing as rehearsals begin – to a Christchurch audience for one night only in The Court Theatre's Pub Charity Studio from 9 – 11 August.

Opening the series is writer Tania Gilchrist with her play *Rīpeka* on the 9th August. *Rīpeka* follows Paia in Christchurch as she learns more about the life of her ancestor, Rīpeka, and her life in The East Cape back in 1860.

"*Rīpeka* is about whakapapa and identity," Gilchrist says.

Following Gilchrist on Friday 10th August is Tavita Nielsen-Mamea with political story of environmental relevance in *Au Ko Tuvalu*.

"*Au Ko Tuvalu* means 'I Am Tuvalu' and is a reference to the people of Tuvalu who are losing their islands to climate change. *Au Ko Tuvalu* is about three siblings who are being displaced from their homeland. It's about the struggles and hopes of these siblings as they try to say goodbye to the land where they come from, where their family comes from and all their ancestors before them," Nielsen-Mamea says.

The final performance of *Ē Toru* on Saturday 11th August comes from theatre collective Y NOT. Their production *Palu* will be taking a traditional cabaret setting and giving it a Pacific twist in this tri-lingual show that highlights the differences (and similarities) between Samoa and Tonga.

"*Palu* is about the essence of Kava," says Y NOT co-founder Albany Peseta. "*Palu* will show the difference of how Tonga and Samoa use kava, but also the similarities in both cultures. You will see the tradition of kava in the cultures, but also what it's like now in today's generation, alongside a lot of singing, laughter and a great time."

Vanessa Gray, the Kaihāpai Toi (Māori and Pasifika Producer) at The Court Theatre, is working on the project alongside Associate Director Dan Bain and believes that *Ē Toru* is immensely important for the theatre.

"It's important that The Court Theatre puts on work like *Ē Toru* because Aotearoa New Zealand and its Māori and Pasifika peoples have a unique perspective found nowhere else in the world."

As these three very different plays begin to take shape, audiences now have to choose which evenings – if not all three – they will come along to.

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[To read more click here](#)

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Rīpeka

Written by Tania Gilchrist

Au Ko Tuvalu

Written by Tavita Nielsen-Mamea

Palu

Written by Y NOT

Ticket Prices

All tickets \$10

Show Times

- Thursday 9th August (*Rīpeka*) 8:00pm
- Friday 10th August (*Au Ko Tuvalu*) 8:00pm
- Saturday 11th August (*Palu*) 8:00pm

Bookings: phone 03 963 0870 or visit www.courttheatre.org.nz

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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