

# MEDIA RELEASE

THE  
COURT  
THEATRE

2 April 2019

For immediate release

## [Fresh Ink](#)

Written by Aroha Awarau, Tanya Muagututi'a and Gary Henderson  
Directed by Holly Chappell-Eason, Nathaniel Lees and Simon Bennett  
14 April, 19 May & 30 June  
The Court Theatre's mainstage

### Short show description:

Step further into the world of theatre through *Fresh Ink*. In three rehearsed readings, you'll get the chance to be part of stories that are still being crafted – and that may develop in line with your reactions.

## TOMORROW'S PLAYS TAKE THE STAGE TODAY IN REHEARSED READING SERIES, FRESH INK

### IN-BRIEF:

Across three Sundays in April, May and June, Canterbury audiences will have the chance to contribute to a trio of Kiwi plays in rehearsed reading series, *Fresh Ink*.

*Fresh Ink* allows three developing plays to undergo a workshop with the help of The Court Theatre that culminates in a public rehearsed reading.

Here, audiences get to see – and shape – some very fresh, local theatre.

The series starts with Aroha Awarau's glitzy comedy *Luncheon* on the 14<sup>th</sup> April, following five Oscar nominated women as they come together for a 'cordial' luncheon...

Up next is *Scholars*, an epic play written by Tanya Muagututi'a, following three generations of a Samoan family as young Tavita emigrates to New Zealand.

Finally, *The Breath of Silence* will take the stage in May. In his new script, Gary Henderson has written a story of connections across time periods in this intriguing and twisting drama.

"What we've done this year is brought people together with themes that resonate at this particular moment in time," says Literary Manager and *Fresh Ink* organiser Roanna Dalziel. "So, come, have a drink, sit and watch a reading and enjoy yourselves."

***Fresh Ink* runs across three Sundays in April, May and June, starting with Luncheon on the 14<sup>th</sup> April; Scholars on 19<sup>th</sup> May and The Breath of Silence on 30 June. All tickets are just \$10.**

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Season Sponsor



The Court Theatre

PO Box 268

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

Email: [admin@courttheatre.org.nz](mailto:admin@courttheatre.org.nz)

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

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## IN-DEPTH:

Across three Sundays in April, May and June, Canterbury audiences will have the chance to contribute to a trio of Kiwi plays in rehearsed reading series, *Fresh Ink*.

*Fresh Ink* allows playwrights to undergo a three-day workshop with the help of The Court Theatre, before presenting their efforts at a public rehearsed reading. Here, audiences get to see – and shape – some very fresh, local theatre.

“What’s special about *Fresh Ink* is that it allows the audience to communicate directly to the playwright while that writer is in the room,” says The Court’s Literary Manager and organiser of *Fresh Ink*, Roanna Dalziel.

*Fresh Ink* is an unusual and exciting experience. For just \$10, attendees can witness some exhilarating new theatre, knowing that their reactions – whether it be laughter, tears or gasps – will shape the final version of the script.

Previous *Fresh Ink* readings include theatrical hits *That Bloody Woman*; *MAMIL*; and last year’s production of *Astroman*, now playing at the Auckland Theatre Company.

The 2019 series starts with Aroha Awarau’s *Luncheon* on the 14<sup>th</sup> April.

Directed by Holly Chappell-Eason, glitzy comedy *Luncheon* follows five women nominated for the 1958 Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress. The nominees catch up for a ‘cordial’ luncheon and sparks soon fly...

“It’s not about Kiwis per se, but it has strong relevance to a New Zealand audience. Aroha is particularly interested in what it feels like to be a minority in the majority culture, because one of the nominees was the first Japanese actress to be nominated.”

*Scholars*, written by Tanya Muagututi’a and directed by Nathaniel Lees, is a little closer to home. This epic play follows three generations of a Samoan family as young Tavita emigrates to New Zealand.

“We’ve chosen *Scholars* for two reasons. The play has huge potential, in terms of its historical relevance and its showing of cross-cultural friendship, and Tanya is just an incredible theatre practitioner. It’s an absolute honour to bring her into the room and be working with her.”

Finally, in May, Gary Henderson’s new work, *The Breath of Silence*, will take the stage, directed by Simon Bennett.

Henderson, known for his plays *Home Land* and *Skin Tight*, has written a story of connections across time periods in this intriguing and twisting drama.

“What I love about *The Breath of Silence* is that what happens between the dialogue is the most important thing. Things are at stake and tensions rise, but the pace, pausing and gentleness leading up to that is just fantastic,” Dalziel says.

*Fresh Ink* offers a chance for theatre lovers to step further into the world of playwrighting and gives new audience members an accessible opportunity to attend the theatre.

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“What we’ve done this year is brought people together with themes that resonate at this particular moment in time. So, come, have a drink, sit and watch a reading and enjoy yourselves.”

**Fresh Ink runs across three Sundays in April, May and June, starting with Luncheon on the 14<sup>th</sup> April; Scholars on 19<sup>th</sup> May and The Breath of Silence on 30 June. All tickets are just \$10.**

## **Luncheon (14 April, 4pm)**

Written by Aroha Awarau  
Directed by Holly Chappell-Eason

## **Scholars (19 May, 4pm)**

Written by Tanya Muagututi’a  
Directed by Nathaniel Lees

*Warnings: contains some coarse language & bullying*

## **The Breath of Silence (30 June, 4pm)**

Written by Gary Henderson  
Directed by Simon Bennett

*Warnings: contains some coarse language*

## **Ticket Prices**

All tickets \$10

**Bookings:** phone 03 963 0870 or visit [www.courttheatre.org.nz](http://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:

**Mally Goldberg, Marketing Manager**

The Court Theatre, 03 963 0884

[mally.goldberg@courttheatre.org.nz](mailto:mally.goldberg@courttheatre.org.nz)

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