

MEDIA RELEASE

THE
COURT
THEATRE

21 May 2018

For immediate release

He Kura Kōrero

Written and directed by Holly Chappell-Eason and Rutene Spooner

21 May – 29 June

Touring Canterbury Primary Schools

Short show description:

Touring Canterbury Primary Schools, *He Kura Kōrero* follows three collectors as they find their greatest treasure yet: Te Reo Māori. *He Kura Kōrero* inspires young people to be bold and brave when using Te Reo Māori in their everyday life, whether they know a little or a lot.

TREASURING TE REO MĀORI AT THE COURT THEATRE

Te Reo Māori and English are combining on stage as The Court Theatre's newest touring primary school show *He Kura Kōrero* begins its bi-lingual tour this May.

The show, a musical and theatrical exploration of the gifts of Te Reo Māori, will be performed at over 40 schools throughout Canterbury during May and June.

The story follows three 'collectors' (Tola Newbery, Shea Kokaua and Olivia Parker) who, after gathering treasures from around the world, find their newest and greatest gift: Te Reo Māori.

The show is a love-letter to the language and questions how children and adults alike can utilize and treasure Te Reo Māori in everyday life.

For creators Holly Chappell-Eason and Rutene Spooner, *He Kura Kōrero* is their fourth time collaborating on a primary school touring show following *Māui me te Rā; Matariki – The Little Eyes in the Sky* and 2017's *Matatihi – Maia's Journey of Bravery*.

"This year's show is different for us, because we really wanted to make it about the language. We wanted it to be about being brave and using Te Reo Māori in your everyday life," said Chappell-Eason.

Helping advance that goal is Te Reo Māori Consultant Ani-Piki Tuari.

"What the creators and actors of this show are trying to do and encourage is the normalisation of Te Reo Māori," Tuari said.

She thinks the show is particularly pertinent with the current discussion on whether Te Reo Māori should be compulsory in schools.

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The Court Theatre

PO Box 268

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

Email: admin@courtheatre.org.nz

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“This is an awesome way for children of all generations to see how cool Te Reo Māori is and see how it can be used in many platforms - not just in a classroom, but in a theatre space; in a song; in a conversation. It allows them to see that it’s not scary and that it can be fun if you allow yourself the time to be able to have a go.”

The cast, who have been devising and rehearsing the show at the Two Productions space at the Arts Centre, are excited to share their show with the children of Canterbury, and hope that their audience will take some Te Reo Māori away with them.

“This play might give you a beginning or a start place; somewhere to begin your journey with Te Reo Māori,” performer Tola Newbery said.

“Te Reo Māori is a part of our identity for a lot of people and it could become extinct if we don’t nurture it or put it into practise and encourage it in our everyday society,” performer Shea Kokaua said.

Helping educators tackle that task is an education pack provided to each teacher at participating schools. Full of activities and learning resources, the pack encourages schools to continue the teachings of *He Kura Kōrero* after the cast have left the building.

Beyond bringing the love for Te Reo Māori, the cast and crew will be bringing lot of laughter for Canterbury children this Autumn.

“The show is full of laughs, some pretty weird dance moves, a lot of music... And boxes,” laughed Kokaua.

For the *He Kura Kōrero* team, the joy has already begun.

[He Kura Kōrero begins its tour on the 21st May and runs until the 29 June. You can find out more about the show and ticket enquiries here.](#)

Cast

Performer [Tola Newbery](#)
Performer [Shea Kokaua](#)
Performer [Olivia Parker](#)

Creatives

Director/Co-Creator [Holly Chappell-Eason](#)
Director/Co-Creator [Rutene Spooner](#)
Set, Costume and Props Designer Owen McCarthy
Consultant [Ani-Piki Tuari](#)
Stage Manager [Mandy Perry](#)
Education Manager [Rachel Sears](#)
Costume Department [Deborah Moor](#)
Production Manager [Flore Charbonnier](#)

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Tickets: Tickets are \$5 per child and a minimum booking of 100 children is needed.

Show Times: 9:30 and 2pm Monday – Friday.

Bookings: contact education@courttheatre.org.nz to enquire about bookings.

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

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:
Samantha McConnell, Marketing & Communications Manager
The Court Theatre, 03 963 0884, 0275 22 9700
samantha.mcconnell@courttheatre.org.nz

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