

# MEDIA RELEASE

THE  
**COURT**  
THEATRE

29<sup>th</sup> January 2018

## For immediate release

### *KiwiAble Leisure Card Holders get a Free Seat for Their Support Person*

The Court Theatre continues to excel in making theatre as accessible as possible for everyone in the community. This time through a new initiative that gives KiwiAble Leisure Card holders their standing discount and now a free seat for their support person when attending selected shows.

The Court previously offered a discounted price for disabled audience members and their support person upon presentation of their KiwiAble Leisure Card, but wanted to take this a step further.

The KiwiAble Leisure Card offers discounted recreation, sport and leisure opportunities to people with disabilities and it aims to reduce some of the barriers faced when participating in recreation.

Education Manager Rachel Sears believes it's necessary for the theatre to take this extra step and open the theatre doors to all. "Buying a ticket to the theatre is a luxury. It's not always achievable within your budget - if you're living with a disability you're potentially living on a limited budget."

The initiative is aimed at adults attending mainstage and Forge shows who require a support person, therefore children's shows are excluded.

It's a move that Rachel Mullins, Inclusive Communities Coordinator for the Community Governance & Partnerships Unit at the Christchurch City Council, welcomes. "I am absolutely thrilled The Court Theatre has come on board to support the KiwiAble Leisure Card and to increase access to the arts for disabled people in Christchurch. As a long time attendee at The Court I'm excited that more people can take the opportunity to experience this first class entertainment."

Richard Benge, Executive Director, Arts Access Aotearoa, says the cost of tickets is a significant barrier for many disabled people wanting to attend events – particularly when they require a companion to accompany them. "This initiative will reduce one of the barriers for disabled people and enhance The Court Theatre's reputation as an outstanding leader in providing access to theatre."

It's a move that everyone can welcome. As Rachel Sears says, "Everyone deserves a good night out."

To arrange interviews or for more information please contact:

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