

MEDIA RELEASE

THE
COURT
THEATRE

6 March 2023

For immediate release

[Rēwena](#)

Written by Whiti Hereaka

Directed by Tania Gilchrist

Sponsor: Naturally Tiles

Location: The Court Theatre, Addington, Christchurch

Dates: 25 March – 22 April 2023

Rēwena showcases the heart and hearth of life.



IN BRIEF:

A seemingly simple domestic ritual is honoured as the holder of whakapapa, connection and culture in *Rēwena*, written by award-winning author Whiti Hereaka and onstage at The Court Theatre from 25 March.

Described by Director Tania Gilchrist “A one-woman kōrero about love and sharing”, the play speaks to the commonality of bread (and its creation) as the great connector across cultures, generations and civilisations.

Infused with humour and wry observations about modern life, *Rēwena* is told in real time as bread is baked onstage (and then shared) in an intimate ‘kitchen’ space only available to 70 people per performance.

Rēwena runs 25 March – 22 April, and can be seen alone or in double bill with *Be like Billy?* (discounts apply). Tickets available from courttheatre.org.nz

“Rēwena is an unexpected and delightful treat, poignantly reminding us that those simple shared pleasures (the breads of life) are the things that keep us connected with our whānau and friends.”
Theatreview, 30 October 2013

Season Sponsor



Core Funder



The Court Theatre

PO Box 268

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

Email: boxoffice@courttheatre.org.nz

www.courttheatre.org.nz

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IN DEPTH:

A seemingly simple domestic ritual is honoured as the holder of whakapapa, connection and culture in *Rēwena*, written by award-winning author Whiti Hereaka and onstage at The Court Theatre from 25 March.

Rēwena brings us into the heart of Maggie's home, where we are taken on a journey through the beliefs, traditions and personal memories baked into the making, sharing and eating of bread.

Presented as a 'class' in breadmaking, Maggie (played by Kim Garrett, fresh off The Court's recent run of *Sense and Sensibility*) shares memories and experiences – and the feelings they stir – that are as palpable as the rēwena she is making in front of us.

Tania Gilchrist, who has worked both as a performer, writer and director at The Court, as well as at other theatres, directs. In approaching *Rēwena* as director, Gilchrist also embraced rēwena making for the first time, creating (and naming) her own bug and learning the rhythms of the bread-making process.

She describes *Rēwena* as “a one-woman kōrero about love and sharing.” *Rēwena* speaks poignantly to the commonality of bread (and its creation) as the great connector across cultures, generations and civilisations. Traditionally the most essential food of even the poorest, here Hereaka teaches us its real value: “Remember that it's not just rēwena that we share; it's life... So it is important who you make it for and who you choose to share it with.”

Infused with humour and wry observations about modern life, *Rēwena* is told in real time and was written to last as long as it takes to bake a loaf of rēwena (approximately 50 minutes). Bread is baked onstage in each performance and then shared with the audience afterwards. The Court's mainstage will be modified to create an intimate kitchen space only available to 70 people per performance.

An attraction for Gilchrist was that *Rēwena* shares Māori stories that aren't about trauma. “Maggie has her pain and struggles, but this story is warm, inviting and caring. We get to bring those Māori values to The Court in an intimate and immediate setting” she says.

Creating the play is a collaborative effort with Garrett which Gilchrist describes as “sharing ideas and weaving it all together. It's like making rēwena – we're creating the bug, feeding it, growing it and shaping it. I'm enjoying getting to know Maggie and looking forward to getting to know – and share - Kim's Maggie.”

Rēwena is one of six plays from Aotearoa in The Court's 2023 line-up, reflecting the theatre's commitment to provide opportunities that support local creatives.

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Rēwena runs 25 March – 22 April, followed each evening by *Be Like Billy?* These plays can be seen separately (discounts apply), or people can attend as a double bill. Tickets available from courttheatre.org.nz

“Rēwena is an unexpected and delightful treat, poignantly reminding us that those simple shared pleasures (the breads of life) are the things that keep us connected with our whānau and friends.”
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Cast

[Kim Garrett](#) Maggie

Creatives

[Tania Gilchrist](#) Director

[Matt McCutcheon](#) Set Designer

[Giles Tanner](#) Lighting Designer

Ticket Prices

Adult	\$32
Senior (65+)	\$30
Group (6+)	10% Discount*
Friends of The Court Theatre	\$30
Concessions (see website for details)	\$20

* Applies to Standard Adult, Friends, Child and Senior price tickets

Show Times

- Monday – Saturday 6:00pm
- Forum (incl. Cast and Crew Q&A) 3 April
- Matinees 1 and 15 April 4:00pm

Bookings: phone 0800 333 100 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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