

# MEDIA RELEASE

THE  
**COURT**  
THEATRE

20 August 2018

**For immediate release**

New Zealand Theatre Month at The Court Theatre  
1 – 30 September 2018

## Short description:

The Court Theatre is thrilled to be celebrating New Zealand Theatre Month this September with a range of events that showcase and celebrate the best theatre Aotearoa has to offer.

## THE COURT THEATRE CELEBRATES NEW ZEALAND THEATRE MONTH THIS SEPTEMBER

### IN BRIEF:

The focus is on home-grown works at The Court Theatre this September as New Zealand Theatre Month, created to celebrate and elevate Aotearoa theatre, begins.

The Court will be hosting a range of performances, including comedy *Mum's Choir* and children's show *Hansel and Gretel*; a rehearsed reading of Pacific Underground's *Fresh Off the Boat*; monologues at libraries across Christchurch in *The Court Theatre in the Shelves*, with a birthday party for *Scared Scriptless* being held in *Scared Scriptless: Birthday Bash*.

Budding performers will be strutting their stuff in a Drama Students Showcase and this year's Senior Theatresports™ Final, and for those who make their living in the industry, The Court is hosting The Artists' Tent and a Christchurch Hui for Women in Theatre.

New Zealand Theatre Month is being championed by Roger Hall, one of our most successful and well-loved playwrights.

"In my bones I felt this was something that should be done, needed to be done and could be done. We have a lot of theatre history to be proud of."

[New Zealand Theatre Month runs throughout September with a range of events being held and presented by The Court Theatre. The full schedule of events can be viewed here.](#)

### IN DEPTH:

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New Zealand Theatre Month is being championed by one of our most successful and well-loved playwrights, Roger Hall.

“At the beginning of last year, I thought ‘bugger it, I’m going to do it!’ Because in my bones I felt this was something that should be done, needed to be done and could be done. We have a lot of theatre history to be proud of.”

Here at The Court, the month will be acknowledged in a number of ways, with a range of events for both audiences and theatre practitioners running throughout September.

On The Court’s mainstage, heart-warming comedy *Mum’s Choir* will be running from September 15<sup>th</sup>, with *Hansel and Gretel* entertaining the kids in a silent-adaptation of the fairy-tale classic from September 29<sup>th</sup>. New Zealand’s longest running late-night comedy show *Scared Scriptless* will be hosting its own birthday party within the month, performing two very special 8pm shows on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> September – alongside its usual 10:15pm performances every other Friday and Saturday. To end New Zealand Theatre Month at The Court, Pacific Underground’s flagship production *Fresh Off the Boat* will be returning with a rehearsed reading of the play being performed on the 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Budding performers will be taking part in the month, with a range of The Court’s drama students (aged 7 – 16) performing a showcase of their work on the 16<sup>th</sup> September, followed by the Senior Theatresports™ Final on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September as The Court Jesters judge the South Island’s best young improvisors.

Stepping outside of The Shed in Addington, The Court will be bringing some theatrical magic into our libraries in *The Court Theatre in the Shelves*. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of September, local actors will be visiting 6 libraries across the city to perform monologues from their favourite New Zealand plays.

For those who make their living in the industry, The Artists’ Tent will launch the month on the 6<sup>th</sup> September, giving the creative community of Christchurch a chance to come together and connect, followed by a Christchurch Hui for Women in Theatre on the 20<sup>th</sup> September.

For Hall the state of New Zealand theatre is far different now than it was when he began his career – and with celebrations like New Zealand Theatre Month, is only getting better.

“I used to say when I first started that if it said ‘New Zealand play’ people avoided it. But now it makes no difference. We’ve come a long way - a New Zealand play isn’t a novelty now, it’s just another play. Which is how it should be.”

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[To read more, click here](#)

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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