

MEDIA RELEASE



29 October 2019

For immediate release

Matatihi: Maia's Journey of Bravery

Written by Holly Chappell-Eason and Rutene Spooner with Kim Garrett, Jane Leonard, Albany Peseta and Chris Reddington

Directed by Holly Chappell-Eason

Dates: 11 May – 12 June 2020

Location: Touring South Island Primary Schools

By arrangement with: Playmarket

Short show description:

Following its successful Canterbury tour, bi-lingual children's show *Matatihi: Maia's Journey of Bravery* is hitting the road! Retelling the legend of the Pouākai, this inspiring story of self-discovery is beautifully brought to life through music, puppetry, kapa haka, waiata and te reo Māori.

TE REO CHILDREN'S SHOW TO TOUR THE SOUTH ISLAND

Following its successful Canterbury tour, The Court Theatre's treasured children's show *Matatihi: Maia's Journey of Bravery* is hitting the road, touring South Island Primary Schools in 2020!

"We're hoping to reach children who aren't close to theatres and for whom it isn't easy to experience live theatre," explains Programmes Manager Rachel Sears. "It's a great opportunity for children to experience live performance – including music, storytelling, theatre, puppetry and awesome costumes..."

Running from May – June, schools can book a performance for their school now, with the team taking the show all the way down to Invercargill and right to the top of Nelson!

"For the past five years we've only toured to Canterbury Primary Schools," explains Sears. "This is a great opportunity to expose students further afield to te reo Māori and the myths and legends that relate to their home in the South Island."

The show retells the legend of the Pouākai, with brave Maia helping this lonely bird find friendship and figure out how to fly. Beautifully brought to life through music, puppetry, kapa haka, waiata and te reo Māori, this show inspires young people to be bold, proud of what makes them different and to carve their own path in the world.

"It's a story of friendship, overcoming adversity and believing in yourself, which are great messages for any children to be exposed to," says Sears. "This feels like a story that belongs to the whole South Island, which is why it's so exciting to be going on tour."

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The Court Theatre

PO Box 268

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

Email: admin@courttheatre.org.nz

www.courttheatre.org.nz

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Matatihi: Maia's Journey of Bravery will be performed at Primary Schools around the South Island from 11 May – 12 June 2020. [You can find out more and book a visit for your school here.](#)

Pricing

- \$600 for audiences up to 120
- For audiences over 120 - \$5 per additional child
- For audiences over 300 – no additional charge
- Maximum audience numbers for one show – 350
- There is no charge for teachers and school staff to attend the performance

Timetable

- Week 1 (11th May) – Timaru, Geraldine, Oamaru, Dunedin
- Week 2 (18th May) – Dunedin, Invercargill, Gore, Alexandra
- Week 3 (25th May) – Alextra, Queenstown, Cromwell, Wanaka
- Week 4 (1st June) – Hokitika, Greymouth, Westport
- Week 5 (8th June) – Nelson, Blenheim, Picton, Kaikoura

Bookings: phone 03 963 0870 or visit courteducation.org.nz

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

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:

Rachel Sears, Programmes Manager

The Court Theatre, 03 963 0901

rachel.sears@courttheatre.org.nz

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