

19
20

MERIDIAN
ENERGY
SEASON

THE
COURT
THEATRE



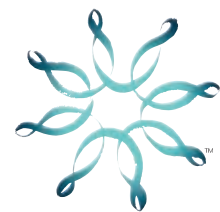
Lighting the
stage for the
19/20 season

Meridian Energy provides the power of opportunity as a major sponsor of The Court Theatre. We're proud as punch that our supporting role means communities can take centre stage and do more of what they love.

We're not here to steal the limelight – we're here to turn it on.



To join a power company that shares your passion
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meridian

WELCOME TO THE MERIDIAN ENERGY 2019/2020 SEASON



To paraphrase a really good playwright from Warwickshire – in our time we all play many roles.

Yes, Shakespeare knew a thing or two and it seems his 400-year-old wisdom and insight has never been more on point. Our lives have never been more fluid. This is a season of plays that celebrates the shifting richness of the human condition.

It is a season which includes invigorating plays from overseas with a stunning platter of New Zealand work; some proven and some brand new. The season is rounded out by some of the best scripts ever written. All of these plays, and the work of The Court company as a whole, allow us to offer you an artistically vibrant time in the theatre.

This company has a mission to create work that celebrates and questions our humanity. This season allows us the opportunity to do just that. Whatever you want from a theatre company our goal is to be there for you. It is our passion and purpose to create, reimagine, teach and present work for you, our audience.

And who is The Court audience? We welcome all New Zealanders and visitors to our theatre. We are especially excited to be recognised and supported by our world-famous Prime Minister and Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, The Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern.

Come along for the ride. We will work hard to ensure that you are glad that you did.

Ngā mihi

Ross Gumbley
Artistic Director

Prime Minister

MP for Mt Albert

Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Minister for National Security & Intelligence

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction



31 January 2019

From the Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister and Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2019/20 Season at The Court Theatre.

For almost half a century, The Court Theatre has offered people from all walks of life the opportunity to participate in the arts and be part of a creative community. The Court's community includes professional actors, directors and technicians, specialists in improv, writers and readers, young people learning from mentors and through the theatre's education programmes, and audiences who are seeing a production for the very first time. The spirit of this community was particularly evident after the devastating Canterbury earthquakes, with the theatre staging its first production just eleven months later in new premises.

As the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, I love seeing companies such as The Court inspire all New Zealanders to develop a love of the arts, and celebrate the diversity of our nation. I'd like to acknowledge all of those who volunteer at The Court, and thank them for their dedication and service.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Artistic Director Ross Gumbley on programming what looks set to be another exceptional season for the theatre.

I wish you all the very best for the season ahead!

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

NAU MAI HAERE MAI



Welcome to the Meridian Energy 2019/2020 Season at The Court Theatre.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors and funders and commend them for their support of high quality theatre in this region. By investing in The Court they are not only bringing a sense of belonging to our audiences of today, they are ensuring that there will be a future Court Theatre that continues to be accessible and encourage participation and enjoyment of this wonderful art form, for people of all ages.

Being part of the community is important for The Court, and we'd like to thank the Christchurch City Council for their continued partnership with us.

On the following pages you will see the exciting programme our artistic team have created for you. All of us at The Court celebrate the vision, innovation and experience of Artistic Director Ross Gumbley, and I am sure you will agree that he has again done a spectacular job in leading the programming of a season of enjoyment, not just on the mainstage, but through our Forge, children's, education and outreach programmes as well.

When you come to The Court, you are in the expert hands of so many people passionate about the job they do, ensuring that your theatre-going experience is excellent and memorable.

Thanks to all The Court Team, our Court Supporters, Foundation and Trust Boards, and to you, our audience.

Aku mihi

Barbara George

Chief Executive | Tumu Whakarae



3 - 24 August 2019

THE FATHER

Written by Florian Zeller

Translated by Christopher Hampton

Directed by Simon Bennett

Who are you?

DRAMA

Thrilling

Poignant

Challenging

There is a woman in Andre's flat claiming to be his daughter. But Anne lives in London now... Doesn't she? And Andre lives in Paris... Doesn't he? And where has Anne's sister, Elsie gone? Don't tell him she's dead. She isn't... Is she?

An international sensation, *The Father* is the most acclaimed new play of the decade, smashing our misconceptions of time, memory and dementia in this profoundly moving and darkly comic masterpiece.

Why we love this play

"*The Father* is a play which bristles with theatricality. It's a story which is best told on-stage. It takes an unlikely protagonist and with delicacy, compassion, edge and muscle, tells his story brilliantly."

Artistic Director, Ross Gumbley

7 September - 5 October 2019

THE PINK HAMMER

Written by Michele Amas
Directed by Anthea Williams

A Kiwi comedy that nails it

COMEDY

Lively

Touching

Hilarious

Show sponsor

CAYTON
DESIGN & PRINT EXCELLENCE

By arrangement with

NEW ZEALAND PLAYWRIGHTS
PLAYMARKET ORG.NZ
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Part of



The inaugural Pink Hammer Workshop is an absolute disaster.

Annabel, Helen, Louise and Siobhan turn up, looking forward to learning carpentry skills from a pioneering, female furniture maker... but instead they find Woody, an out-of-work, disgruntled builder who's less than impressed to find four sheilas amongst his claw hammers.

Not the sort of women to back down from a challenge, the group convince Woody to teach them the tricks of the trade in this hilarious and heart-warming Kiwi comedy that'll have you doubled over in laughter.

Contains some coarse language.

Why we love this play

"The Pink Hammer is Kiwi comedy at its best. It's quirky as all hell; it's very funny; it provides phenomenally strong roles for four women – and one guy! – but more than anything else, these are recognisable New Zealanders, which is why this is an outstanding play to produce in New Zealand Theatre Month."

Artistic Director, Ross Gumbley



19 October - 9 November 2019

FRESH OFF THE BOAT

Written by Oscar Kightley and Simon Small

Directed by Tanya Muagututi'a

Samoan life in the Big Smoke

COMEDY

Affecting

Uproarious

Emotive

In collaboration with



Show sponsor



By arrangement with



Charles isn't just arriving into New Zealand – he's arriving into another life. But the reality of Christchurch ain't the fantasy he was promised.

The fish factory he works at stinks, his nieces have no understanding of their Samoan culture or language and there's some Palagi hanging around his sister...

Alternately hilarious and sobering, this milestone Pasifika play tells a culturally challenging yet universally Kiwi story about family, culture shock and what we owe each other.

Contains violence and some coarse language.

Why we love this play

"*Fresh Off the Boat* is, historically, an incredibly important Pasifika play. It still works brilliantly and is perhaps even more poignant now than when it was written – as was shown when it was the star piece of writing in our 2018 *Indelible Ink* season."

Artistic Director, Ross Gumbley



23 November 2019 - 18 January 2020

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS

Written by Kenneth Grahame
Adapted for the stage by Alan Bennett
Directed by Ross Gumbley

One toad. A whole lot of trouble!

COMEDY

Charming

Sparkling

Loved

The serenity of the English countryside has been destroyed by the ear-splitting roar of a motor vehicle zooming past the riverbank, with local daredevil Toad behind the wheel.

Much to the disapproval of his furry friends, Toad's obsession with racing expensive cars puts the future of their home in peril when his misadventures lead to the wicked weasels taking over!

In Alan Bennett's sparkling adaptation of the treasured British classic, lovable characters Badger, Ratty, Mole and Toad are left with no choice but to plot a rescue mission to save the day – all before high-tea, of course!

Enchanting fun for the whole family, this whimsical summer spectacle is an adventure for all ages, packed full of humour, heart and magic.

Why we love this play

"Kenneth Grahame's best-loved classic is the perfect opportunity for The Court to express our exemplary design and production standards. This is a charming tale that the whole family can come to in a celebration of theatre."

Artistic Director, Ross Gumbley

Show sponsor





22 February - 14 March 2020

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

Written by Tennessee Williams

Directed by Melanie Luckman

"The human heart... it's curved like a road through the mountains"

DRAMA

Vivid

Revealing

Raw

Jaded Southern belle Blanche DuBois arrives in a sultry New Orleans, desperate for a place to stay.

Her little sister Stella takes her in, but tensions soon flare as Stella's brutish husband, Stanley, keeps a brooding eye on his new sister-in-law...

Heralded as one of the finest plays of the 20th Century, this Pulitzer Prize winning drama is a devastating masterpiece that promises a riveting and dangerous night out at the theatre.

Contains domestic and sexual violence.

Why we love this play

"This, simply put, is one of the greatest plays ever written. Its exploration of family and isolation has never really been surpassed. It's a theatrical tour-de-force that we can't wait to bring to our Court audience."

Artistic Director, Ross Gumbley

Show sponsor

CANTERBURY 94.5FM
THE BREEZE

28 March - 25 April 2020

LYSANDER'S AUNTY

Written by Ralph McCubbin Howell
Directed by Dan Bain with Hannah Smith

Bard in the bush

COMEDY

Magical

Inventive

Radical

In collaboration with



Show sponsor



By arrangement with



In this radical comedy, Lysander and Hermia, the lovers from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, run away to the forest... but things take a sharp turn along the way that lands them in the lap of Lysander's unconventional, untraditional and very Kiwi Aunty.

The world of Shakespeare is lovingly turned upside down as the highbrow meets the down-to-earth in this wonderfully quirky comedy.

The course of true love never did run smooth. Especially out in the sticks.

Contains some coarse language.

Why we love this play

"*Lysander's Aunty* is a Court commission; a brand-new New Zealand play. It will make you think deeply and it will make you laugh hard. It's an exploration of the role of gender in the arts as well as a knock-about good time."

Artistic Director, Ross Gumbley



9 May - 30 May 2020

HIR

Written by Taylor Mac

Directed by Elsie Edgerton-Till

Burn, baby, burn

COMEDY/DRAMA

Captivating

Caustic

Brutally Funny

Paige has a new philosophy: destruction.

Returning home from an overseas tour of duty, Paige's son Isaac soon finds himself in a different kind of warzone.

It's not the home he left: his sister is transitioning into his brother and his formerly abusive father has become a docile doll; force-fed oestrogen smoothies.

His mother is liberating the family from patriarchal concepts such as 'cooking' and 'cleaning'. This isn't a breath of fresh air; this is a hurricane.

Challenging, hilarious and gutting all at once, *Hir* is a breathless piece of theatre taking a blow torch to the status quo.

Contains some coarse language.

Why we love this play

"Taylor Mac's *Hir* is a timebomb of a play – and its time has come. It will explode onto our stage. Driven by incendiary characters this play is about the state of our brave new world."

Artistic Director, Ross Gumbley



13 June - 11 July 2020

RENT

Book, music and lyrics by Jonathan Larson

Directed by Lara Macgregor

Musical Direction by Richard Marrett

Measure your life in love

MUSICAL

Loved

Fierce

Heartfelt

Brave in the face of danger; loving when confronted by hate and hopeful against all odds, *Rent* is one of the most uplifting and beloved musicals ever.

This ground-breaking production follows a group of artists struggling and striving to follow their dreams in New York City against a backdrop of poverty, looming gentrification and the AIDS crisis of the 1990s.

A pop-culture phenomenon, this Pulitzer Prize winner is packed with high-energy musical numbers, including revered hits *Seasons of Love*, *Take Me or Leave Me* and *La Vie Bohème*.

Contains drug use.

Why we love this play

"Jonathan Larson's pioneering *Rent* is a work of diversity and friendship that is ripe to revive. It is a vehicle that will allow The Court to do what it does best: the creation of superb musical theatre."

Artistic Director, Ross Gumbley

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(Australasia)

THE forge AT THE COURT

KIA ORA



This year's Forge season is built on stories that speak to our need to be kind to one another. In *The Arsonists* we'll see the care and love between a father and daughter. In *Au Ko Tuvalu*, the love between siblings and the need to care for our world. In *A Christmas Carol*, the need to care more for people than money.

These reminders of that which is important, gently held in place by the astoundingly resilient and evergreen comedy pillars that are *Scared Scriptless* and *The Early Early Late Show*, creates a Forge season that exists as a counterpoint in form, content and scale to the Meridian Energy mainstage season but has nothing less important to say.

In the times we find ourselves in, in the increasing separation, segregation and partisanship of modern life, this Forge season says, "We are the same. We are human. Let us be kind."

I look forward to sharing this work with you.

Ngā mihi

Dan Bain
Associate Director

17 August - 7 September 2019

THE ARSONISTS

Written by Jacqueline Goldfinger

Directed by Dan Bain

From the ashes...

DRAMA

Haunting

Wistful

Stirring

M and H are master arsonists who never get it wrong – until they do.

Covered in ash, M hacks into the ground to bury their biggest secret yet: H's burnt body.

As M plucks at the strings of her father's guitar, playing the songs of her childhood, H claws his way back – which means something must be unfinished.

Full of haunting music performed live on stage, *The Arsonists* explores the bond between parent and child in this swelling, poetic drama.

Contains some coarse language.

Why we love this play

"In the dedication of *The Arsonists*, Jacqueline writes, 'This is a love letter to my father. He is not dead. It's a shame that some folks hold off 'til somebody dies to say how much they mean to 'em. I'm gonna go ahead and do it now.' I wish I'd thought to do the same. This will have to do."

Associate Director, Dan Bain



12 - 21 September 2019

AU KO TUVALU

Written and directed by Tavita Nielsen-Mamea

I am Tuvalu

DRAMA/COMEDY

Evocative

Bittersweet

Charming

Waves are lapping dangerously at the shores of the Pacific Island home to the world's first environmental refugees: Tuvalu.

Sitting just metres above the water that will soon swallow their home, three siblings hastily pack up their belongings as they prepare to flee to Aotearoa.

While Lifa and Maleko are excited, practising their English and getting ready to begin a new life in New Zealand, their sister, Fetau, doesn't want to say goodbye.

Following a family watching their history disappear before their eyes, *Au Ko Tuvalu* showcases the humour, pain and hope that comes from their unfathomable – yet imminent – situation.

Why we love this play

"In last year's *Ē Toru* development season, *Au Ko Tuvalu* showed itself as an essential piece of the conversation around climate change, taking the global and abstract and making it personal and relatable. Its bittersweet exploration of the effects of rising ocean levels on Pasifika peoples is comic, poignant and utterly necessary."

Associate Director, Dan Bain



30 November - 21 December 2019

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Written and directed by Dan Bain

Bah, humbug!

COMEDY

Magical

Chaotic

Joyous



Show sponsor



By arrangement with



Back by popular demand, join The Court Jesters this Christmas as they ambitiously recreate Charles Dickens' classic Yuletide tale with just two performers, one pianist and, of course, a little help from you, in the audience...

Packed full of brand-new jokes and interactive excitement, *A Christmas Carol* is a Christchurch Christmas tradition, returning for the fourth year of festive fun!

Fast, funny and magical, this hilarious comedy is perfect for families and staff parties alike. It's the perfect way to get yourself in the spirit of the season – and remember what Christmas is truly about. Comedy.

Why we love this play

"The harsher the world becomes the more I want my comedy to be kind. I love how *A Christmas Carol* has become a show that is entirely about audience participation – which apparently people loathe – that sells out year after year. That tells me we're doing it right. Kindly."

Associate Director, Dan Bain



The first Sunday of every month at 4pm

THE EARLY EARLY LATE SHOW

Directed by Dan Bain
Improvvised by The Court Jesters

Chaos for kids

COMEDY

Hilarious

Cheerful

Exciting

You loved this family-friendly favourite so much that we've decided to bring it back – monthly!

A previous highlight on the KidsFest calendar, *The Early Early Late Show* is now being performed on the first Sunday of every month, bringing the fun and chaos of *Scared Scriptless* to an all-ages audience.

Our clever cast of Court Jesters are the masters of fast, funny, improvised comedy. They'll create scenes, stories and songs on the spot with nothing but your ideas to inspire them.

The only show in town that both your seven and twelve-year-old will enjoy, *The Early Early Late Show* is unmissable comedy for tweenagers – and their grown-ups.

Why we love this play

"I love improvised comedy for kids. I love making it. I love performing it! Get it right and you stop being old. You're a kid again. You're doing what they do, structured comedic playing. It's blimmin' brilliant. (We won't say blimmin' in the show.)"

Associate Director, Dan Bain



THE COURT
jesters

Friday and Saturday nights at 10:15pm

SCARED SCRIPTLESS

Directed by Dan Bain
Improvised by The Court Jesters

Off the cuff and off the hook

COMEDY

Hilarious

Improvised

Gleeful

Every Friday and Saturday night, Christchurch's fastest, funniest comedians come together to perform *Scared Scriptless*; the comedy show that'll have you doubled over in laughter.

Combining the wit of stand-up, the exhilaration of theatre and your most brilliant – or brilliantly stupid – comedy prompts, *Scared Scriptless* is the longest running late-night comedy show in the country for good reason.

This improvised show delivers a new experience every week, whether you've seen the show a dozen times, or are experiencing the magical chaos of *Scared Scriptless* for the very first time.

Why we love this play

"Welcome to being part of the Forge programme, *Scared Scriptless*. You've been too long without a home."

Associate Director, Dan Bain

THE COURT
jesters



WELCOME TO THE 2019 COURT YOUTH COMPANY SEASON



The Court Youth Company is something special. It's a pathway for young people into the arts; a way for The Court to build relationships with emerging talent in Christchurch and a bridge for established theatre makers to connect with a young mindset. For our passionate company members, they get the chance to join a creative community, develop new friendships, learn new skills and become part of the industry.

An important component of their year is rehearsing and staging two productions. Our first piece, *Boudica*, will be a huge challenge, working with a text that speaks about the society we live in today whilst incorporating classical techniques that will inspire our young actors. The second piece, *Brainstorm*, connects us to other youth companies around the world and will enable a distinctive New Zealand voice to be part of this global project.

As a company, we are always trying to create work that is relevant, creative and exciting. We want to give a platform and a voice to the unique perspective that young people have on the world. We hope audiences of all ages will engage with the theatre we make and enjoy our fresh interpretation of the stories we tell.

This season offers you the chance to see the future of New Zealand theatre today.

Mā te wā

Rachel Sears
Programmes Manager



24 - 29 June 2019

BOUDICA

Written by Tristan Bernays
Directed by Dan Bain

Conquer or die

DRAMA

Bold

Brash

Fierce

"Rome calls us savages – wild, mongrel beasts. Well – let us show them just how wild we are!"

After her husband's death, legendary Iceni Queen Boudica's homeland was stolen; her body was broken; and unspeakable things were done to her daughters by the invading Romans.

Now she's back – and she's brought an army.

Boudica is a spectacle of monumental proportions, telling an ancient story of revenge and power in a relevant, invigorating and hair-raising fashion.

Why we love this play

"This play is epic but also relatable – it speaks to contemporary issues about migration, land ownership and belonging within the context of a historical revenge saga. This is one of the biggest productions we've ever done and I'm excited to see what our young creatives make of this task."

Programmes Manager, Rachel Sears

An Amateur Production of
Boudica by special arrangement
with New Zealand Play Bureau Ltd.



9 - 14 December 2019

BRAINSTORM

Created by Ned Glasier, Emily Lim and Company Three
Directed and devised by Rachel Sears and The Court Youth Company

86 billion neurons, connecting and colliding

COMEDY/DRAMA

Intimate

Relatable

Innovative

An Amateur Production of *Brainstorm* by special arrangement with New Zealand Play Bureau Ltd.

"This is a play about us. It's about our brains. And it's about you."

The growing brain has always been a mystery – until now.

Combining the research of neuroscientists and our performers' own stories, *Brainstorm* explores the chaotic brain chemistry operating inside the adolescent mind. Semi-scripted and semi-devised, this innovative and profound show offers up a chance to remember what it is to be a teenager – in all its frustrating, exhilarating and painful glory.

Why we love this play

"We've all been teenagers and perhaps sometimes we forget what that was like. I'm excited about how this play will speak to other young people but also to the parents and families of the performers. I hope this play brings people together in this shared experience."

Programmes Manager, Rachel Sears



Auditions 8 - 10 November 2019

YOUTH COMPANY 2020

Do you know someone who could battle it out onstage like warrior queen Boudica, or craft a story like our clever Brainstorm cast?

We're looking for 20 young performers (aged 17 – 21) to form the 2020 Court Youth Company; a theatrical education and performance ensemble which allows young theatre practitioners to take the next step in their performing arts education.

To join, you need to be committed, eager to learn, good at working with other people, interested in expanding your creative skills and, of course, have a love of theatre and performance.

We're looking for people who want to get professional experience, make exciting work and find their voice – is that you?

Find out more by visiting courteducation.org.nz/youth-company

JOIN THE COMPANY

Fresh

Vibrant

Creative

PLAYS FOR KIDS

Welcome to the most important part of the brochure.

You may be wondering why it's not at the front. That's just to trick dull people into not finding it. But you've found it. Come in, let me show you these great shows for kids. They're super exciting this season, I've got a bunch of people who have made some of my favourite shows in the past working on them right now. And believe me if they don't have great jokes and exciting adventures in them I will be sending them right back until they do, yessir!

We've wobbled back and forth here on what our plays for kids are and who they're for. Well, they're all on in the school holidays, so I think it should be shows for kids who are on holiday from school. That means if you're 5 – 8 you'll love it. If you're not that, or if you're a grown up, it might not be exactly for you. You'll probably still love it though. (Or you might love *The Early, Early Late Show!*)

I also think everyone should be able to see them, which is why every show has a relaxed performance for those with sensory needs. Lighting and sound are adjusted, you can move about, and there is a chill-out area in the foyer.

The Court's plays for kids theatre programme is a spark that ignites a life-long love of the theatre.

That is why this is the most important part of the brochure.

Dan Bain
Associate Director

10 – 20 July 2019

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (AND THE ROBBER!)

Written by Jeff Clark

Princess Lillian is home alone in her parents' castle... until she meets a talkative frog in the palace pond! There's no way a princess will ever be friends with a stinky frog - ew! - but then someone breaks into the castle! To stop this sneaky robber, the princess and the frog must work together in this brand-new adaptation of the classic fairy-tale. Can they do it?



2 – 12 October 2019

ESCAPE FROM HAUNTED HOUSE

Written by Brendon Bennetts
and Kathleen Burns

Help! Veronica the vampire is trapped in a haunted house and needs your assistance to escape! Frank, a friendly Frankenstein's monster, is eager to help but he has no brain and Veronica can't control him by herself... In this innovative, interactive kids show, the audience must help Veronica and Frank get away from Sally the Mad Scientist and *Escape from Haunted House*.

By arrangement with

NEW ZEALAND PLAYWRIGHTS
PLAYMARKET
AGENT. ADVISOR. BOOKSHOP

15 – 25 January 2020

LITTLE BO PEEP AND THE SHEEP RUSTLERS

Written by Jared Corbin

Little Bo Peep is the best shepherdess in the Wild West... until her prize-winning sheep go missing! They've been stolen by Billy the Kid and everyone knows he is one bad goat. Really baaaad. It's time for Bo Peep to saddle up and head on out to rescue her woolly flock, defeat Billy the Kid and maybe even win the Lan-Olympics while she's at it.





15 – 25 April 2020

THE FEROCIOUS ANIMALS PETTING ZOO

Written by Dan Bain

From Fighting Worms to Bloodsucker Bats, the animals of The Ferocious Animals Petting Zoo are adorable – and deadly! Professor Crouton travels the world trying to catch them all for his new zoo, but he must be doing something wrong because they won't stop biting him!

By arrangement with



8 – 18 July 2020

THE PIED PIPER

Written by Emma Cusdin

Rats! The town is full of rats and no one knows what to do! There are rats in cakes, rats under beds and rats up pants. If only there was someone who could get rid of all these hungry, mean rats... someone who happens to be passing through town. Someone really good at playing music... It's Pied Piper time!



Plays for kids are supported by



ON THE ROAD

In 2019 and 2020 we're stepping out of The Shed and into schools around the South Island with three touring productions. Melding important messages with the magic of theatre, these shows are set to excite, inspire and reignite the fun of learning in our local young people.

18 February – 22 March 2019 Canterbury High School Tour

CRASH BASH: REACTION

Written by Brendon Bennetts Directed by Ben Freeth

With a contemporary format to captivate teenage audiences, *Crash Bash: Reaction* highlights the consequences of bad driving decisions for young adults getting behind the wheel. Running in collaboration with the Christchurch City Council and New Zealand Police, this year's use of interactive technology and exciting AV design will see teenagers across Canterbury engaging with our cast live on-stage as they challenge common driving assumptions.



19 August – 13 September 2019
Canterbury Primary Schools Tour

O LE MALAGA FA'A'ATUA (THE JOURNEY OF THE GODS)

Created by The Court Theatre with Mana Tatafu, Talia-Rae Mavaega and Jake Arona and in collaboration with Y-Not

Inspired by classic myths and legends from Tonga, Samoa and Aotearoa, *O Le Malaga Fa'a'Atua (The Journey of the Gods)* follows demigod Māui's quest to prove himself worthy of becoming a fully-fledged god. Full of original music for children to learn and love, this multi-lingual production celebrates striving to be the best person you can be – god or not.

In collaboration with



11 May – 12 June 2020
South Island Primary Schools Tour

MATATIHI: MAIA'S JOURNEY OF BRAVERY

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

Pouākai doesn't know who he is – but he knows that everybody is scared of him. Brave Maia proves to be the exception when she finds this lonely bird and courageously decides to teach him how to fly. Retelling the legend of the Pouākai, this inspiring bi-lingual story of self-discovery is beautifully brought to life through music, puppetry, kapa haka, waiata and te reo Māori.

By arrangement with



We've chosen plays that we love the premise and promise of; inviting you into the early stages of their creation. At the end of three intense days, we present readings of the plays without any sets, props or costumes – just the playwrights' words and the actors' interpretations melding on our mainstage.

14 April 2019
LUNCHEON

The cameras are ready to catch all the glamour of the 1958 Academy Awards, the first Oscars to ever be televised. Four days before the ceremony, the five women competing for Best Supporting Actress get together for a 'cordial' luncheon. Sometimes the real show happens before the cameras are turned on.

NEW ZEALAND PLAYWRIGHTS
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19 May 2019
SCHOLARS

The shores of Samoa seem endlessly far away for young Tavita, who has left his home to attend school in New Zealand. A Pasifika perspective on friendship, family and culture shock, this epic play depicts the pressures on a Samoan family across three generations.

30 June 2019
THE BREATH
OF SILENCE

Jane is hearing things in her radio telescope dish – voices from a vast distance. Sprawling across three different eras, this intriguing drama follows an immigrant family struggling to make ends meet in 1850s Christchurch; secretive codebreakers in the 1950s; and radio telegraphers in the present day who are beginning to think they might all be linked...

The Breath of Silence
by arrangement with

NEW ZEALAND PLAYWRIGHTS
PLAYMARKET._{ORG.NZ}
AGENT. ADVISOR. BOOKSHOP



DARE TO DREAM DARE TO EXPLORE

Kia kaha te
moemoeā
Kia kaha te
hōpara

Push the boundaries of your imagination and unleash your potential through The Court Education programmes.

We nurture the future talent of New Zealand theatre and share the magic of the art form with the entire Canterbury community – regardless of age or experience.

Through our inspiring classes and workshops, experience the passion and the thrill of performing and unleash your creativity.

Our classes are fantastic opportunities to build confidence, learn how to express yourself, work creatively as a team and above all, have fun.

Choose your journey, with opportunities to discover multiple performance styles with a diverse range of expert tutors. You can learn improvisational skills from our hilarious Court Jesters, directing and devising work from our performance pros and much, much more.

We work with people who want to push themselves and discover something new in a safe and supportive environment. Our programmes enable participants to develop skills for life that can be used inside or outside the arts industry. We endeavour to make our classes as accessible to the wider community as possible through our scholarship programmes and support systems.

You can connect with us in a range of different ways – extracurricular classes, adult classes, school workshops, backstage tours, masterclasses, young companies and special performances... All you have to do is get involved.

Find your voice at courteducation.org.nz

The Court Education programmes
are generously supported by



MORE THAN YOU IMAGINE

WANT TO SEE IT ALL?

A subscription to our 2019/2020 season is the best way to catch all the glitz and glam of our thrilling season, saving on the cost of your tickets while you're at it.

PAY WHAT YOU CAN

Theatre is for everyone – which is why on one special night for each mainstage show, you'll be able to choose how much you'd like to pay for your tickets.

30 BELOW

If you're 30 years old or under, you're eligible for our \$30 tickets, helping to encourage the next generation of theatre lovers into our home.

STEP BEHIND THE SCENES

Our backstage tours are a fantastic way to uncover The Court's theatrical secrets, running publicly throughout the year, or by special arrangement for groups of 10+.

THE PERFECT PRESENT

Give your loved ones the gift of theatre with our Court Theatre gift vouchers, valid for any production over a 12-month period.

ACCESSIBILITY

We're equipped with a hearing loop, wheelchair spacing, we welcome guide dogs and if you're a KiwiAble Leisure Card holder (or a companion), you're eligible for discounted tickets. We also run special relaxed performances and communication friendly performances for specific productions – all to make your visit as easy and enjoyable as possible.



LET US COME TO YOU!

Sometimes, no matter how much you want it to be, the party just can't be at The Court Theatre. That's the time you turn to The Court Jesters, the team of good-natured, quick-witted comedians that make Christchurch laugh every Friday and Saturday night.

Most people request we come and perform THE SET which is our quick fire comedy show – it's like *Scared Scriptless*, but all about you and your guests. It's a great way to break up mains and dessert at your event, but of course some people want it to go longer, or shorter, or be in the afternoon with nothing to do with dinner, and we're happy to provide.

We offer event MCs to run your awards night, or host your conference and a big range of fun, larger than life interactive characters to break the ice with your guests and give them a good chuckle and something to chat about at the start of the night.

Also, this year we've just finished developing a puppet show for kids' birthday parties called *The Ferocious Animals Petting Zoo* and we can't wait to start taking the 'animals' on a bit of an outing.

If you can't come to The Court Theatre, let The Court Jesters come to you.

More details on everything we do – and we do a lot! - can be found at www.courtjesters.co.nz



MAKE A NIGHT OF IT

The pizza's hot and the wine's cold, so come down to The Shed to enjoy a delicious woodfired dinner from Base @ The Court and share a drink or two with a friend in our vibrant foyer.

Rod and his Base team are cooking up delectable, fresh creations every evening – including a brand-new pizza for each mainstage show that's sure to delight. We recommend arriving at least an hour before your production's start-time to order your slices of choice, whether you go for the classic margherita, the sumptuous Moroccan lamb or something a little bit different.

Not that hungry? Order a bucket of rosemary salted hot chips to share (or keep them all for yourself!) and sit down with your favourite drink from Giesens @ The Court for some pre-show gossip – or post-show commentary.

If you're more of a snacker, The Court Supporters' coffee bar has you sorted, with a mouth-watering selection of tasty treats and an in-house barista ready to whip up your favourite drink.

Whether you're in need of dinner, drinks, or that essential interval ice cream, we've got you covered.



COME WITH US YOU ARE PART OF THE COURT STORY

CREATE SOLUTIONS

Get behind a project by making a donation

The most unexpected items help us tell you great stories and reveal magical worlds. In 2018 we needed a forklift... what will it be next?

COME CLOSER

Become a Court Supporter

Take your journey with The Court further by joining The Court Supporters; the best way to volunteer, meet likeminded theatre friends and make The Court your own.

BEQUEATH OPPORTUNITIES

Include The Court Foundation in your will

By including us in your will, your legacy is our legacy; a place of gathering where audiences laugh, cry and jump for joy. What better way to be remembered?

MAKE BIG DREAMS HAPPEN

Donate with heart and generosity

Donating generously will take us to a future which is bold, wonderful and open for all – whatever it may be.

PARTNER WITH US

Become a corporate sponsor of The Court

Elevate your brand through a sponsorship partnership, adding value to your company as much as ours through brand exposure, ticket vouchers and much, much more.



PARTNERS & FUNDERS

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR



SEASON SPONSOR



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THE COURT COMPANY

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Ross Gumbley

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John Liddiard

Production Manager
Flore Charbonnier

Associate Director
Dan Bain

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Samantha McConnell

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Mally Goldberg

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Laura Tretheway

Graphic Designer
Nick King

Sponsorship Manager
Layla Moutrib

Programmes Manager (Education, Training & Jesters)
Rachel Sears

Kaihapai Toi (Māori and Pasifika Producer)
Vanessa Gray

Education Co-ordinator/
Head Tutor
Riley Harter

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Roanna Dalziel

Ticketing Manager
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Director of Philanthropy
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Workshop Supervisor
Richard Daem

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Anne Le Blond
Matt McCutcheon
Nigel Kerr

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Deborah Moor

Costume Technician
Hayley Douglas

Properties Manager
Julian Southgate

Properties Technician
Simone Wiseman

Head Stage Manager
Jo Bunce

Stage Manager
Erica Browne

Head Technician
Giles Tanner

House Technician
Matt Short

House Manager
Colin Swift

Barista
Petra Laskova

Front of House
Anthea Johnson

Avril Lockhead

Emma Cusdin

Fiona Haines

Juliet Robertson

Laura Wilson

Lisa Shannon

Rachel Pugh

Rebecca Radcliffe

Roisin Harris

Rosie Brailsford

Simone Wiseman

Sue Fraser

BASE @ The Court Manager
Rod Thompson

R & M Support
Terry Preddy

Theatre Chaplain
David Winfield

Jesters
Brendon Bennetts
Criss Greuber
Dan Bain

Emma Brittenden
Emma Cusdin
Gabby Wakefield

Henri Nelis
Kathleen Burns

Jarred Skelton
Jeff Clark

Kirsty Gillespie
Millie Hanford

Monique Clementson
Robbie Hunt

Scott Koorey
Vanessa Wells

JESTER MUSICIANS
Criss Grueber

Jack Page
Matthew Everingham

Tom Harris

JESTER APPRENTICES
Aaron Jelley

Briana McZant
Ciarán Searle

Frankie Daly
Maddie Harris

Riley Harter
Troy Buckland

ASSOCIATES
Bryan Aitken

Brian Gray
Derek Hargreaves MNZM

Eilish Moran
Elric Hooper MBE

Geoffrey Heath

Joe Hayes
Judie Douglass

Lynda Milligan
Maurice Kidd

Margaret McConney
Paul Barrett

Stewart Ross
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John Harrison ONZM

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TERMS & CONDITIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Although accurate at the time of publication, information in this brochure may be subject to change.
2. The Court Theatre reserves the right of admission. Latecomers may not be admitted to some productions.
3. Identification may be requested for discounted ticket/season ticket prices.

SEASON TICKETS

4. The Court Theatre will allocate the best available seats based on the patron's guidelines but cannot guarantee seat location.
5. Season ticket holders who wish to be seated with friends who are also booking season tickets are asked to specify their names on the application forms and/or post their forms in the same envelope.
6. If you have made a companion booking your seating allocation may change. Companion bookings and tickets booked outside of season tickets are charged at box office prices.
7. Productions staged outside of the mainstage have different seating plans than on the booking form. Some shows/venues may be general admission (ie: non-assigned seating).
8. For re-subscribers who are changing their usual night or changing the number attending, your previous seats may not be available. In this case the most similar available will be allocated.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Danielle Colvin Photography, Angela Pethig (makeup), Sarah Greenwood Buchanan (hair). Buzzy Bee image used with the permission of Lion Rock Licensing Limited proud supporters of Court Theatre

BECOME A SUPER SUBSCRIBER

Becoming a Super Subscriber is the best way to make sure you get to see the complete 2019/2020 Season — at the best price.

As a super subscriber you will receive:

- A ticket to each of our eight mainstage shows
- A ticket to each of our Forge add-on shows
- A programme for each of our eight mainstage shows
- A prepaid beverage for each of our eight mainstage shows from Giesens @ The Court

ALL SUBSCRIBERS ENJOY THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:

- Save up to 41% on the cost of your tickets!
- Get the first pick of the best seats in the house on the best nights - which you will retain for every show. For the following season, you have the right to renew those prized seats for another year.
- Get your tickets before they go on sale to the general public, ensuring your seats are secured for sell-out productions!
- By subscribing, you enable The Court to continue to bring the best theatre to Aotearoa.

9. Please choose only your preferred day of attendance — specific dates are not able to be selected for season ticket allocation. Season tickets can be changed to another date once that performance is on sale to the public.

EXCHANGES/REFUNDS

10. All tickets for exchange must be returned to The Court Theatre at least one working day prior to the performance date. Under no circumstances will tickets be exchanged after the performance date. Tickets are not transferable between plays.
11. Any request to change an existing season ticket or transfer tickets gives The Court Theatre the authority to change the location of the seats. Every effort will be made to reallocate the seats within the season ticket holder's guidelines but seat location cannot be guaranteed.
12. Refunds will only be made in accordance with the Consumer Guarantees and the Fair Trading Acts.

BOOKING INFORMATION

The preferential seat booking period for existing season ticket holders is open until 26 April 2019.

To book a Court Theatre season ticket please complete the booking form at the back of this brochure or complete an online form on our website.

For assistance with season ticket bookings, please contact The Court Theatre on 03 963 0870.

For full terms and conditions please see courtheatre.org.nz/terms

SEASON TICKET FORM

FOR OFFICE USE

1 PERSONAL DETAILS please complete in full

Name:		
Address:		
Postcode:	Supporter Membership No.	
Phone (home):	(work):	(mobile):
Email address:		<input type="checkbox"/> Please add me to your e-newsletter list

ATTEND AS A GROUP optional

☐ There are other season ticket holders I would like to sit with:

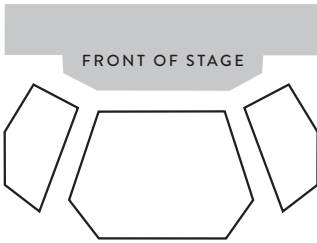
Names:	

Please note: If you have selected other people to sit with, your season ticket will NOT be processed until forms from ALL the ticket holders named have been received – it may be beneficial to send your forms in together. Please ensure you have specified the same show times.

2 THE SEATS

Draw a cross where you'd like to sit. If the exact seats aren't available, we'll reserve others close by, taking note of your preference for aisle, centre, front, or rear seats.

☐ I am a current season ticket holder and wish to retain the same seats for the same night. SEAT NO: _____



SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- ☐ I require _____ wheelchair seats (front row only)
- ☐ Hearing loop required.

Please note:
All patrons with accessibility requirements must report to the Chief Usher 20 minutes before performance time.

COMPANION PRICES

	Standard	The Wind in The Willows
Adult	\$56	\$65
Senior	\$49	\$58
Supporter U25	\$47	\$55
	\$30	\$30

FOR SEASON TICKET ENQUIRIES

please phone: 03 963 0870 or
email: seasontickets@courtheatre.org.nz

Please post this completed form to: The Court Theatre, PO Box 268, Christchurch 8140

Alternatively you can complete this form online at courtheatre.org.nz/subscribe for immediate processing of your order.

3 THE NIGHTS

Select the night you wish to attend.

- ☐ Mon (6.30pm)
- ☐ Mon Forum (6.30pm)*
- ☐ Tue (7.30pm)
- ☐ Wed (7.30pm)
- ☐ Thu (6.30pm)
- ☐ Fri (7.30pm)
- ☐ Sat (2.00pm)*
- ☐ Sat (7.30pm)

+ A forum is the opportunity for audience members to ask the cast and crew questions after the show

* MATINÉES

The Father	17 August 2019
The Arsonists	31 August 2019
Au Ko Tuvalu	14 September 2019
The Pink Hammer	21 September 2019
Fresh Off The Boat	2 November 2019
The Wind in the Willows	14 December 2019
A Streetcar Named Desire	7 March 2020
Lysander's Aunty	18 April 2020
Hir	23 May 2020
Rent	27 June 2020

TURN OVER >>

4 SUPER SUBSCRIPTION

Please indicate the number of subscriptions in the brackets below
I would like to be a SUPER SUBSCRIBER (See previous page for details)

Adult \$495 x [] Senior 65+ \$455 x [] Under 25 \$359 x [] Court Supporters Member \$439 x []

SUPER SUBSCRIPTION TOTAL = \$ A

OR I would like to build my own subscription Skip to section 6

5 BUILD YOUR OWN SUBSCRIPTION

Subscriber tickets — Minimum six shows each

	Ticket Type	QTY	Subscriber's Total	Programme Bookings (\$5)	Drink Package (\$9)	TOTAL
THE FATHER 3 - 24 August 2019	Adult Subscriber	\$47	\$			\$
	Senior 65+ Subscriber (ID required)	\$42	\$			
	Supporters Subscriber	\$40	\$			
	Under 25	\$30	\$			
THE PINK HAMMER 7 September - 5 October 2019	Adult Subscriber	\$47	\$			\$
	Senior 65+ Subscriber (ID required)	\$42	\$			
	Supporters Subscriber	\$40	\$			
	Under 25	\$30	\$			
FRESH OFF THE BOAT 19 October - 9 November 2019	Adult Subscriber	\$47	\$			\$
	Senior 65+ Subscriber (ID required)	\$42	\$			
	Supporters Subscriber	\$40	\$			
	Under 25	\$30	\$			
THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS 23 November 2019 - 18 January 2020	Adult Subscriber	\$47	\$			\$
	Senior 65+ Subscriber (ID required)	\$42	\$			
	Supporters Subscriber	\$40	\$			
	Under 25	\$30	\$			
A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE 22 February - 14 March 2020	Adult Subscriber	\$47	\$			\$
	Senior 65+ Subscriber (ID required)	\$42	\$			
	Supporters Subscriber	\$40	\$			
	Under 25	\$30	\$			
LYSANDER'S AUNT 28 March - 25 April 2020	Adult Subscriber	\$47	\$			\$
	Senior 65+ Subscriber (ID required)	\$42	\$			
	Supporters Subscriber	\$40	\$			
	Under 25	\$30	\$			
HIR 9 - 30 May 2020	Adult Subscriber	\$47	\$			\$
	Senior 65+ Subscriber (ID required)	\$42	\$			
	Supporters Subscriber	\$40	\$			
	Under 25	\$30	\$			
RENT 13 June - 11 July 2020	Adult Subscriber	\$47	\$			\$
	Senior 65+ Subscriber (ID required)	\$42	\$			
	Supporters Subscriber	\$40	\$			
	Under 25	\$30	\$			
						\$ B
						\$ C

FORGE ADD ONS	QTY	TOTAL
THE ARSONISTS 17 August — 7 September 2019	\$23	\$
AU KO TUVALU 12 — 21 September 2019	\$20	\$
A CHRISTMAS CAROL 30 November — 21 December 2019	\$15	\$
		\$ D

6 DONATIONS (Optional)

You will receive a receipt for tax purposes.
☐ Anonymous donation

Learn more about supporting The Court at [courtfoundation.org.nz/giving/](#)

Donation \$ E

7 TICKET TOTAL (B+C+D) or (A) \$ + Donation (E)

Total \$ + \$4 SERVICE & HANDLING

8 PAYMENT DETAILS

☐ I enclose a cheque payable to The Court Theatre Trust

OR

 Please charge my

Visa Mastercard

 (circle one)

Card number Expiry

Name on Card Signature



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