

# MEDIA RELEASE



13 February 2020

For immediate release

## [Crash Bash: What's the Rush?](#)

Written by Kathleen Burns

Directed by Ben Freeth

Dates: 10 February - 13 March 2020

Touring Canterbury High Schools

### Short show description:

*Crash Bash: What's the Rush?* is an interactive touring show exploring the risks of driving with Canterbury High School students and teaching young drivers how to make safe choices on the road.

## TOURING THEATRE SHOW RETURNS WITH AIM TO INSPIRE A NEW GENERATION OF SAFE DRIVERS

### IN-BRIEF

Fasten your seatbelts because *Crash Bash: What's the Rush?* is hitting the road this month.

Performers Monique Clementson (*Jesus Christ Superstar*) and Jake Arona (*Fresh Off the Boat*) are touring the interactive show around Canterbury High Schools to educate students about safe driving.

Led by Christchurch City Council, with funding support from NZ Transport Agency, *Crash Bash: What's the Rush?* is a 25-minute performance developed by The Court Theatre and NZ Police and highlights key road safety messages in an entertaining, informative and memorable performance.

The key focuses for the show this year are speed, intersections and seatbelts.

Talking about what audiences can expect, director Ben Freeth says, "We're focussing on speed, how that affects your braking distance and asking what's the point of speeding? Does it really get us there any faster? It's all psychological. We think going 10 kilometres faster will get us there five minutes quicker, but in reality, you'll only save 30-40 seconds."

For the Christchurch City Council, the *Crash Bash* programme makes a real difference in our community.

"We want young people to understand that the choices they make when they get behind the wheel of a car have consequences – potentially life changing ones," says Christchurch City Council Transport Operations Manager Steffan Thomas.

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The Court Theatre

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## IN-DEPTH

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One of the aims when creating the show was getting important information across to young people in a fun and enjoyable way. This year's production brings in a new aspect of theatre that Programme Manager Rachel Sears is particularly excited to share with the community.

"It's got a bit of musical theatre! The show has a real high-energy vibe and it's also interactive, which kids will love - there's a big game we play on-stage."

It's clear that the messages from *Crash Bash: What's the Rush?* need to be shared. A report from ACC and the Land Transport Safety Authority determined that excess speed on our roads is the single biggest road safety issue in New Zealand today.

According to the Ministry of Transport, in 2019 there were 353 road deaths in New Zealand, 56 of which involved young people aged 15-24.

Senior Constable and *Crash Bash* performer, Brent Cosgrove, believes that road safety is everybody's responsibility, but that it's important to get the message through to young people in a way they'll engage with.

"It's all well and good if I stand up as a police officer in uniform and say 'don't do this, don't do that', but if we can add in a lot of humour and we can get the message across - even to one young person - then we're doing our job."

For the Christchurch City Council, educating young people on the risks that come with dangerous driving is the key goal of *Crash Bash: What's the Rush?*

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## Cast



Performer

[Jake Arona](#)



Performer

[Monique Clementson](#)



Performer

[Brent Cosgrove](#)

## Creatives

Writer

[Kathleen Burns](#)

Director/Touring Stage Manager

[Ben Freeth](#)

Programmes Manager

[Rachel Sears](#)

AV Designer

Zac Beckett-Knight

Stage Manager – Rehearsals

[Scott Leighton](#)

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

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