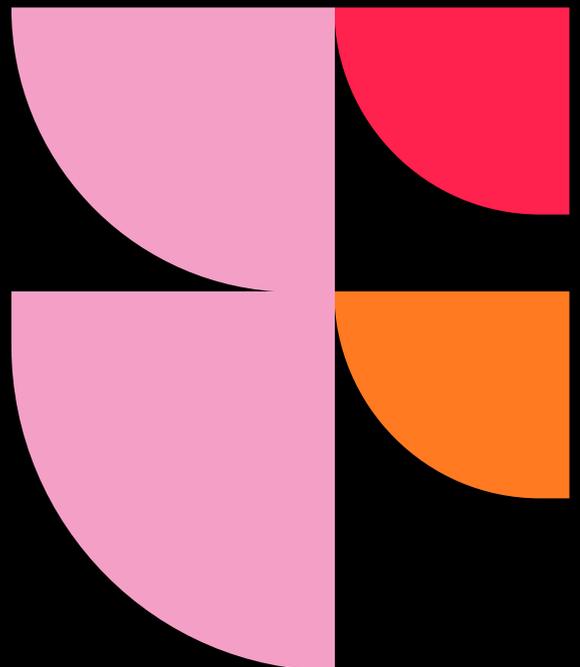
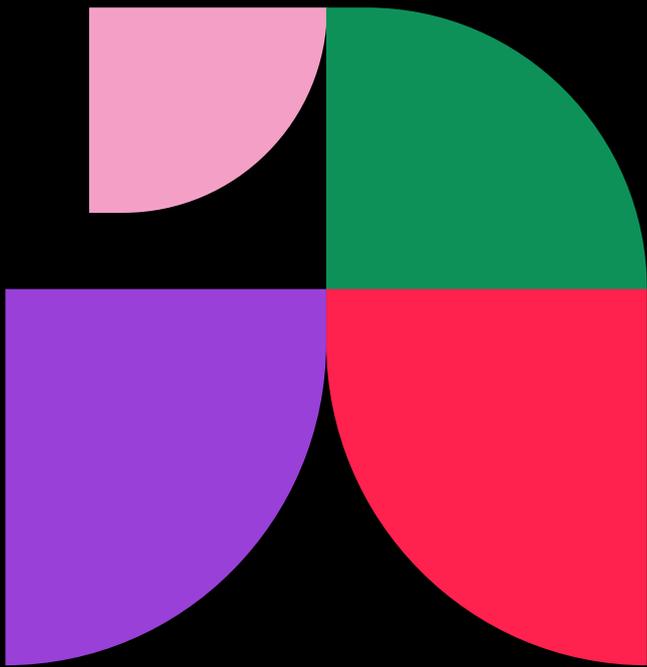


TE AHUREI
TOI O
TĀMAKI



AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL

6—23 o MĀEHE • MARCH 2025

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- City Encounters



The coming together of friends and strangers in a feast of shared experiences generates a special electricity. This energy of people and performers is Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival.

Take a seat inside one of our city's iconic venues, join us for a free outdoor or roaming event, visit an art gallery, have a kōrero, or simply hang out in one of our spaces. The Festival is yours to explore and have fun with. Everyone is welcome.

*Enjoy the journey.
Karawhina!*



What's On & When

This Festival Brochure is colour-coded by genre. You'll find a handy fold-out calendar of events in chronological order on page 56. The Festival is officially on between **6-23 March 2025**.

Where & How to Book

aaf.co.nz is your first stop for Festival info on booking tickets, getting to our venues, FAQs and more. We'll also be announcing additional events online.

Access & Inclusion

The following icons in this Festival Brochure and on our website indicate the accessibility of our events:

- Audio Described performance
- Open Captions available
- Relaxed performance
- Suitable for Blind & Low Vision audiences
- Touch Tours
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**e hono ana i a onamata ki
a inamata hei ārahi i a anamata.
connecting the past with the
present to guide the future.**



Kua whakaaturia e Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki tana kaha ki te hāpai i te reo Māori, i runga i te ngākau whakapuke, i tana tuku hōtaka i raro i te maru o Toitū Te Reo, o tētehi wāhanga o Tuia Te Muka Kōrero. Ka ārahi tēnei rautaki i tō mātou haepapa ki te whakaū i te mana o te ao Māori, e whai wāhi nei ko te tukunga o ngā hōtaka reo Māori, ko te whakanui i te reo Māori hei taonga, hei wāhanga whakahirahira hoki e rere māori ana i ō tātou ao i Tāmaki Makaurau nei.

Ko te whāinga o tā mātou mahere, ko te whai kia kitea, kia rangona hoki te reo Māori i te roanga o te Ahurei. Kua whakaurua e mātou te reo Māori ki ngā wāhanga katoa o te Ahurei — ki ngā ingoa o ngā whakaaturanga, ki ngā whakamārama kua whakamāoringia, ki ngā hōtaka reo Māori, ki te whakamahinga hoki o ngā kupu Māori kāore i whakapākehātia, otirā ko ērā kua whānui te whakamahia e te tokomaha o ngā tāngata i Aotearoa.

Mā te huarahi o ngā toi e pāorooro ai te reo ki ngā takiwā katoa o Tāmaki Makaurau – ki te Raki, ki te Tonga, ki te Rāwhiti, ki te Uru, ki te Puku anō hoki. Ko te taonga o te reo Māori kua tukuna iho mai i ngā whakatupuranga kei waenga pū, e whai wāhi ana ki ngā momo toi – ki te pūoro, ki te ruri, ki te whakaari, ki te waiata, ki ngā kōrero anō hoki, hei pāhekoheko mā ngā apataki o ngā pakeketanga katoa, nō ngā iwi katoa hoki, hei pārekarekatanga anō mō rātou.

**Putā noa i te mātārere ka
kitea te tohu harakeke.**



E tohu ana tēnei i tētehi hōtaka kei roto i te kaupapa o Toitū Te Reo, ā, e hāngai ana ki te whāinga kia rere māori te reo, kia tautokona hoki ngā ringa toi Māori i raro i te maru o te manaakitanga.

Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival has been proud to demonstrate its commitment to te reo Māori through the delivery of programmes under Toitū Te Reo, a component of Tuia Te Muka Kōrero, The Auckland Festival Trust's Māori Strategy. This strategy guides our responsibility to uphold the mana of te ao Māori, which includes the delivery of te reo Māori programmes, acknowledging the Māori language as a treasure, and as an integral and normalised part of our everyday lives here in Tāmaki Makaurau.

The aim of our plan is to ensure that te reo Māori is seen and heard throughout the Festival. We have integrated te reo Māori into all aspects of the Festival — show titles, translated descriptions, programmes delivered in te reo, and the use of kupu without English equivalents, especially those that have become inherent in their use by many New Zealanders.

Through the platform of the arts, te reo will resound in all areas of Auckland — North, South, East, West and Central. The taonga of the Māori language that has been handed down through generations presents itself front and centre, included into the art forms of music, poetry, theatre, waiata and kōrero, for audiences of all ages and backgrounds to engage with and enjoy.

**Throughout the brochure, you
will notice the harakeke icon.**



This designates a programme within the Toitū Te Reo kaupapa and aligns with the aim of normalising te reo or ensuring that Māori creatives are supported under the mantle of manaakitanga.



**Nau mai ki
Te Ahurei
Toi o Tāmaki
2025.**

**Welcome to
an exciting
new chapter
in the heart
of Tāmaki
Makaurau.**

**He tohu hou, he tirohanga hou, he kanohi hou,
he hikinga wairua kei mua i te aroaro.**

**A new look, a new vision, new faces and
a refreshed vitality await you.**

**For 18 days in March, we invite you to immerse
yourself in a vibrant tapestry of arts, culture and
community. Whether you're discovering the city
for the first time or rekindling your love for its
hidden gems, there's something for everyone.**

This Festival celebrates world-leading international artists alongside our local world-class creatives, gracing some of the most cherished and iconic venues in our city — many for the first time. From unconventional birthday celebrations, incredible stories of the everyday and the unimaginable, to Indigenous voices and endless tent music jams, we invite you to join in the festivities. This celebration of our rich culture, of artists and their remarkable skills, of the indomitable human spirit, and of everything wonderful about Tāmaki Makaurau, whether experienced in the heart of the city's arts scene or through our artists on tour, will aid in creating fun and lasting memories.

We are proud to partner with Performing Arts Network New Zealand (PANNZ) to welcome many national and international industry guests during the PANNZ Arts Market. In the Festival's first week, leading arts practitioners from across Aotearoa will take centre stage, showcasing their work to the world.

Our newly-launched identity has been greatly enriched through our collaboration with Colenso BBDO, bringing the key elements of this year's Festival — fun, festivity, inclusivity and respect — to the fore. The maunga, moana and iwi icons embedded in the design remind us of the unique place that is Tāmaki Makaurau.

During March 2025, you'll see deep connections with our city's arts community — many of whom we consider our whānau whānui, our extended family. To our supporters, artists and volunteers, thank you for making this Festival possible.

Me mihi ka tika ki te kähui hāpai, ki ngā kaiwhakangahau, ki ngā tūao hoki i ā koutou tautoko i te kaupapa whakahirahira nei. Whakanuia!

**Together, let's create unforgettable memories and revel
in the vibrant energy that defines Tāmaki Makaurau.**

**Nā mātou, nā
Te whānau o AAF**



FREE EVENT Toitū Te Reo

Festival Opening Whānau Friendly

waiata, kanikani & good vibes in the square

Kia Kori! Let's Move!

Betty-Anne
Thomas Stowers · Julia Deans · The Levites

Kia rite, kia kori, ka whai wāhi mai ai ki te rawerawe o te kaupapa whakatuwhera i te hui Ahurei ki Aotea Te Papa Tū Wātea. Hei kai mā te taringa ko te reo whakamīharo o te toki waiata, o Betty-Anne, ko te rōreka o te reo o Thomas Stowers, ko te reo whakakorikori hoki o Julia Deans, ā, hei tautoko ko te puoro mataora a "ngā ringapuoro taituarā taiea katoa i Ahitereiria me Aotearoa" (*Seven Sharp*), a The Levites. E kore e kāhore, mā *Kia Kori!* e pupū ake ai te ngao, e pātuki pai anō ai te manawa i ngā ia ka rangona, mā konei e waiata ai, e kanikani anō ai koe i te roanga o te pō. Tino kore nei koe e hiahia kia mahue koe!

Kick up your heels, get your boogie on and join the fun for the opening event of the Festival in Aotea Square. With powerhouse vocals from the phenomenal Betty-Anne, the smooth tones of Thomas Stowers and the rockin' voice of Julia Deans, backed with live music from "the hottest session musicians in Australasia" (*Seven Sharp*), The Levites, *Kia Kori! Let's Move!* is sure to get the energy flowing and the heart pumping to rhythms that will have you singing and dancing the night away. You won't wanna miss it!

 **Aotea Square**

 **Thu 6 March, 5.30pm**

 **1hr 45mins no interval.** Suitable for all ages.





SMASHED
THE NIGHTCAP

This den of bawdy excellence...
giv[es] out a vibe we all crave...
to be entertained. SYDNEY ARTS GUIDE

If you require delight,
distraction or debauchery,
look no further. ABC

a certified sydney festival hit

First time in Aotearoa

come early, stay late, keep kicking on

silly, sexy joy

your summer nights cabaret

Cabaret, Circus
Australia

7

SMASHED The Nightcap

Hey Dowling

Hosted by Victoria Falconer

ORIGINAL CONCEPT CO-CREATED BY
VICTORIA FALCONER & PETA SPURLING-BROWN

Thirsty for a fabulous night out? Let the hottest cabaret troupe out of Australia take care of that for you. For our most intoxicating Spiegeltent season yet, we're pinching ourselves that we've lured the queen of late-night variety, Victoria Falconer — award-winning performer, musician, MC and one of the most in-demand artists on the scene — across the ditch for a late summer of fast-and-frisky, saucy-as-hell, anything-goes circus-style cabaret. She's joined by her specially curated dream team of drag, burlesque, aerial and acrobatic stars, including some handpicked guests from our own backyard, and a rock 'n' roll live band to help you tear up the night!

 **Spiegeltent, Aotea Square**

 **Thu 6 — Sun 23 March**

 **1hr 15mins no interval.** Recommended for ages 18+.
Contains nudity, coarse language and adult themes.



TICKETS
aaf.co.nz



Supported by **COLENSO BBDO**

A Streetcar Named Desire

Scottish Ballet

BASED ON THE PLAY BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS • DIRECTOR: NANCY MECKLER
CHOREOGRAPHER: ANNABELLE LOPEZ OCHOA • ORCHESTRA: AUCKLAND PHILHARMONIA

Tennessee Williams. Blanche DuBois. Stella and Stanley Kowalski. You may know their names, but you won't truly know *Streetcar* until you've seen it as a ballet. Injecting dance and live music into the beating heart of this iconic play, Scottish Ballet has come up with something special — a vital, achingly intense tribute to the eternally misunderstood Blanche, who struggles to live her personal truth amid family turmoil in 1940s New Orleans. So moved were we by the depth of feeling and storytelling, that we just had to bring this exceptional production and dance company to Aotearoa.

 **Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre, Aotea Centre**

 **Thu 20 — Sun 23 March**

 **2hrs inc interval.** Recommended for ages 15+.

Contains depictions of suicide, addiction,
and domestic and sexual violence.

    (intro notes available)  

Presented by special arrangement with
The University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee.
A Streetcar Named Desire: Copyright © 1947, 1953
renewed 1975, 1981 The University of the South.

With support from
Platinum Patrons Andrew & Jenny Smith

Scottish Ballet
supported by  Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

We acknowledge Shona McCullagh for her introduction to Scottish Ballet and this work.



BERNIE HALDANE,
AAF Kaitohu Toi
Artistic Director says...

**I don't think I leaned back in
my seat for the entire show.
Absolutely beyond sublime.**

TICKETS
aaf.co.nz





aerial artistry, imagination & magic

it will make you gasp

celebrating female strength, agility & unity

a work of true scale by visionary aotearoa artists

Experiences
Aotearoa

11

Belle

A Performance of Air

Movement of the Human (MOTH)

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER: MALIA JOHNSTON

A defining experience of the Festival, this monumental collision of theatre and aerial transforms the Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre into a whole other world. An all-female cast exhibits spectacular strength and skill, emerging and vanishing from portals of light and shadow, all of it enveloped in a gorgeous soundscape. It's simply breathtaking. With captivating design and composition from the creative force that is Malia Johnston, Rowan Pierce and Eden Mullholand, in collaboration with Jenny Ritchie, *Belle* is a visual and atmospheric wonder that left us speechless — and we haven't been able to stop talking about it since. It's a performance of air, and so, so much more.

 **Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre, Aotea Centre**

 **Thu 6 — Sun 9 March**

 **1hr approx no interval.** Suitable for all ages.
Contains strobe lighting, bright light and haze.



Explodes with audacity...
Like being on the set of
an EPIC sci-fi movie. *STUFF*

Wonderous, other
worldly...It is a must see
performance. *THE POST*



Supported by

GRAND
MILLENNIUM
AUCKLAND

TICKETS
aaf.co.nz



First time in Aotearoa

hollywood nostalgia

the magic of a full symphony orchestra

a loving tribute to a musical legend

Gene Kelly

A Life in Music

Patricia Kelly
Auckland Philharmonia

CONDUCTOR: NEIL THOMSON (UK)

Gene Kelly – A Life in Music is a symphonic cinema tribute to the life and work of legendary dancer, director and choreographer Gene Kelly. Blending beautiful film clips from well-known MGM musicals with less-known pieces, including rarely seen television specials, the show is woven together with captivating, behind-the-scenes stories about the making of these magical works, shared by Kelly's wife and official biographer Patricia Kelly. This very personal journey into the unique landscape of music and dance is capped by the presence of Auckland Philharmonia, a jewel in our city's performing arts crown, whose magnificent orchestra plays live to Kelly's dancing on screen.

 **Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall**

 **Sat 15 March, 7.30pm**

 **2hrs 30mins inc interval.** Suitable for all ages.

Creator and host Patricia Kelly will meet-and-greet audience members and share memorabilia from the Gene Kelly Archives at this performance.



When I hear the name Gene Kelly, I'm immediately taken back to my childhood — watching the films on TV, studying the dance steps, being swept away by the music. This will be such a treat for audiences of all ages.

TICKETS
aaf.co.nz





World Premiere

First time in Southern Hemisphere

exclusive to the festival

african american excellence

one of the hottest companies of black creatives

Dance
USA 15

Lula Washington Dance Theatre

45 years of Creativity & Innovation

Since 1980, the cultural and dynamic force that is Lula Washington Dance Theatre has performed innovative, creative and provocative dance pieces from a number of choreographers, including their much-celebrated Founder and Artistic Director, Lula Washington. Works that fuse African and Afro Haitian styles alongside dance composition rooted in African American culture; and are set to upbeat and vibrant jazz, funky R&B and original beats, bring to life the stories of a company that hails from straight outta Los Angeles. Feel their passion and energy, witness the talents of this pioneering contemporary dance ensemble, and celebrate the international premieres of not one, but TWO brand new works. It will be the experience of a lifetime...and a whole lotta fun!

 **Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre, Aotea Centre**

 **Thu 13 — Sun 16 March**

 **2hrs approx inc interval.** Suitable for all ages.



When you see the power and polish of her modern dance troupe, it's easy to understand why Lula Washington is an iconic figure. *UCLA*

TICKETS
aaf.co.nz



Animal

Cirque Alfonse

DIRECTOR: ALAIN FRANCOEUR • MUSIC: DAVID SIMARD
LIGHTING STAGE DESIGN: NICOLAS DESCÔTEAUX

It's farm life, but not as we know it. Proudly from the funky backwaters of Quebec, Cirque Alfonse has cooked up a barnyard-themed circus stacked with the weirdest livestock, tractors and giant cowbells as stunt props, and a mechanical bull...just because. Did we mention the unbelievable acrobatic skills, edge-of-your-seat tricks and madcap comedy routines? What makes *Animal* such a winner of a show is the pure joy and unpredictability its most wholesome troupe of carnies brings to the stage — a multi-generational family of performers and musicians, from super young to sprightly in age, who just know how to put on a show.

 **Rangatira, Q Theatre**

 **Wed 19 — Sun 23 March**

 **1hr 15mins no interval.** Suitable for ages 5+.



Cirque Alfonse absolutely do it all...
It's the kind of show that you need to
see to believe — but even when I saw it,
I couldn't believe it! *SEE DO EAT* ☆☆☆☆

TICKETS
aaf.co.nz





World Premiere

a love letter to homeland music, memory & family

the latest play from one of our very best

a mixtape for maladies

By Ahi Karunaharan

DIRECTOR: JANE YONGE

The songs we connect to our memories just hit differently. Ahi Karunaharan, hands down one of our finest theatremakers, has picked 17 nostalgic pop tracks to chart the deeply moving journey of Sangeetha and her family from 1950s Sri Lanka. Taking us from innocent times through to decades of civil war, to a new life in modern-day Aotearoa, this unforgettable saga is a testament to the storytelling power of good music. After presenting a reading of *mixtape* in 2023, we are honoured to be uplifting Ahi's beautiful play and an all-South Asian cast to the main stage, where it deserves the biggest applause.

ASB Waterfront Theatre

Tue 4 — Sun 23 March

1hr 50mins no interval. Recommended for ages 12+. Contains themes of war and trauma.

Hit me in all the right places.
An incredible conclusion to
Ahi's sweeping trilogy of plays
about Sri Lanka and Aotearoa.

JADE McCANN, AAF
Kaiāwhina Tāhūhū
Executive Assistant says...

A collaboration between
Agaram Productions, Auckland Theatre Company
and Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival

TICKETS
aaf.co.nz



First time in Aotearoa

broadway blockbuster

like an epic stadium concert

a cultural & social media sensation



SIX the Musical

WRITTEN BY LUCY MOSS & TOBY MARLOW

WINNER: BEST ORIGINAL SCORE & BEST COSTUME DESIGN, TONY AWARDS 2022

NOMINEE: BEST MUSICAL THEATRE ALBUM, GRAMMY AWARDS 2022

Divorced, Beheaded. Relegated to history? Not a chance for the fierce Tudor wives of the infamous monarch, Henry VIII, as they re-write history. Under the musical influence of modern day pop icons including Beyonce, Britney & Alicia Keys, *SIX* is a funny, dynamic and inspiring mix of pop-culture, history lesson and musical genius. With a whole lot of tea to spill on their tragic ex-husband, these magnificent monarchs battle it out to decide which Queen will lead the band. *SIX* is a megadose of sound, lights and brilliant performances — a grand slam of a show conquering Broadway, the West End and multiple international markets. It is quite possibly the best night out you'll ever have!

The Civic

 Thu 27 February — Thu 20 March

 **1hr 20mins no interval.** Recommended for ages 10+.

Contains some adult themes including discussions of miscarriage and personal trauma of a physical and sexual nature. Production includes strobe effects, flashing lights, theatrical haze and loud music.

The right is reserved to add, withdraw or substitute cast as necessary.



Presented by
Louise Withers,
Michael Coppel
and Linda Bewick

By arrangement with
Kenny Wax, Wendy &
Andy Barnes and
George Stiles

The Auckland season of *SIX* is supported
by Auckland Live and the production is
made possible by Auckland Council and
the city centre targeted rate.



TATE FOUNTAIN, AAF
Kaiwhakahaere Hōtaka,
Kaiwhakarite Hōtaka
Programme Manager
& Producer says...

Utterly sensational. *SIX* will both
move you and get you moving
— bring everyone you know!

TICKETS
aaf.co.nz





it'll give you goosebumps

voices of joy & inspiration

honouring black history

Soweto Gospel Choir

HOPE

The majestic power of gospel. The spine-tingling anthems behind Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King's legacies. Swelling with pride, love and the fight for racial equality, this concert from Soweto Gospel Choir is a rare chance to witness one of live music's greatest wonders. We were so close to seeing the triple Grammy-winning choir at the Festival in 2020 and can't wait for the historic sound of South African freedom songs and African American civil rights music — including protest songs by James Brown, Sam Cooke, Stevie Wonder and Aretha Franklin — to raise the roof of the Auckland Town Hall.

 **Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall**

 **Tue 11 March, 7.30pm**

 **1hr 20mins no interval.** Suitable for all ages.

 (intro notes available)  

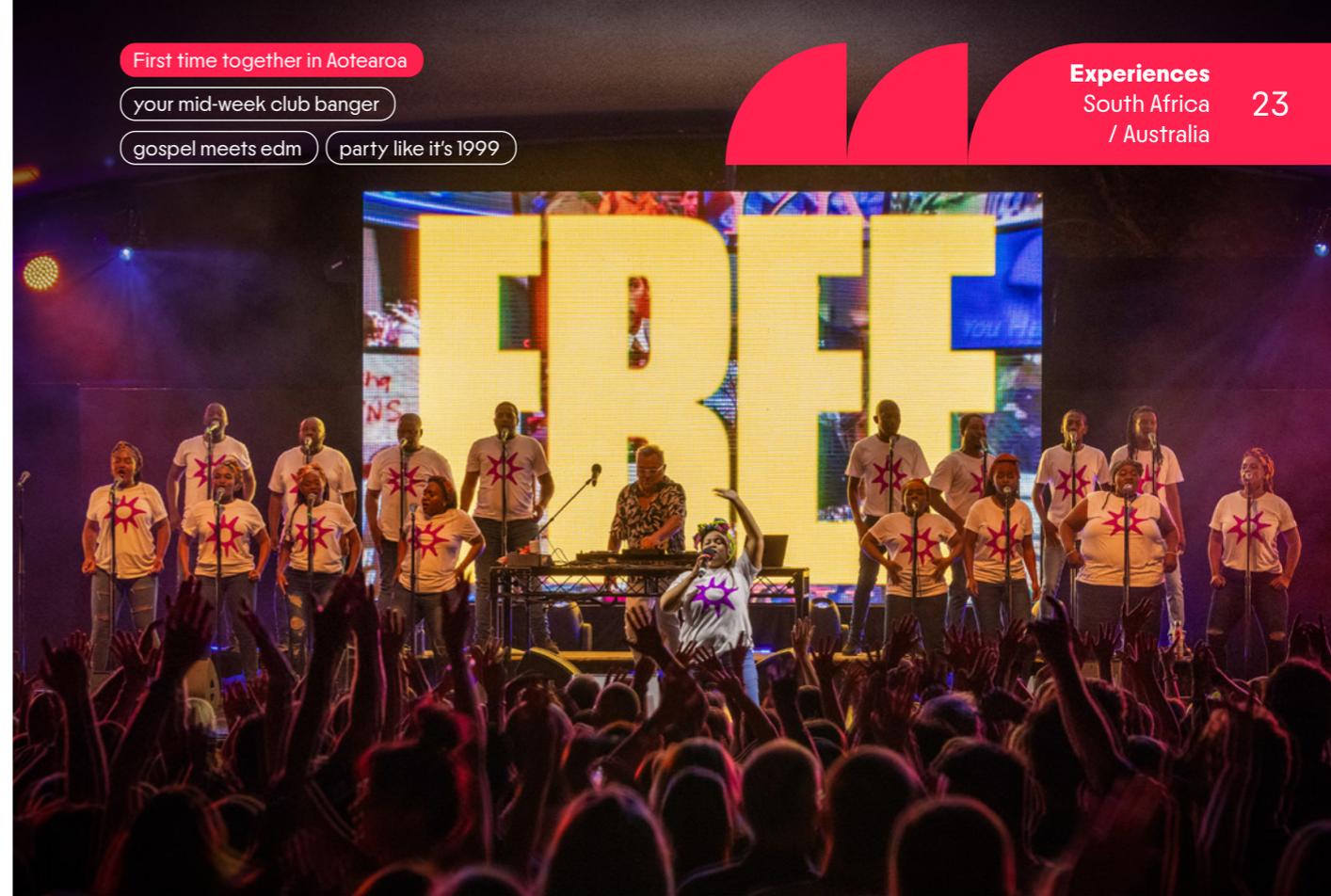
TICKETS
aaf.co.nz



First time together in Aotearoa

your mid-week club banger

gospel meets edm party like it's 1999



History of House

**Soweto Gospel Choir
DJ Groove Terminator**

Imagine a dance floor, the world's greatest gospel choir and a DJ set for the ages. That's *History of House* in a nutshell. Whether your vibe is disco funk, club classics, rave anthems or millennial electropop, this non-stop ride through three decades of dance music has you covered. Whoever had the brilliant idea to put the vocal power of African gospel singers behind one of Australia's biggest DJs sure knows how to bring the house down. From the first beat drop to the last, we know you won't be able to stop dancing — both inside a pulsing Auckland Town Hall and all the way down Queen Street afterwards.

 **Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall**

 **Wed 12 March, 8.00pm**

 **1hr 25mins no interval.** Suitable for all ages.

This is a standing and seated event.

TICKETS
aaf.co.nz



First time in Aotearoa

science meets the arts

hollywood herstory



HEDY! The Life & Inventions of Hedy Lamarr

Written and performed by Heather Massie

Did you know that a woman invented the tech behind WiFi? And that she was one of the biggest movie stars of her time? A crackerjack of a one-woman theatre show, *HEDY!* is the rollicking true yarn of Hedy Lamarr, whose bombshell looks — dubbed “The Most Beautiful Woman in the World” by Hollywood’s publicity machine — overshadowed her scientific genius. Creator Heather Massie not only embodies Hedy and a cast of (36!) Tinseltown greats with real spunk, but it’s her drive to inspire the next gen — especially women in STEM — that got us excited about bringing her message and Hedy’s story to young Aucklanders.

Rangitira, Q Theatre

Thu 13 — Sun 16 March

1hr 15mins inc post-show talk.
Recommended for ages 12+.

Each performance includes a 15min post-show talk with Heather Massie.



TICKETS
aaf.co.nz



Supported by



SCIENCE

Toitū Te Reo

te ao māori in the world of opera

the beauty of te reo & waiata in operatic voice



Toiere

RINGATOHU | DIRECTOR: KAWITI WAETFORD

RINGATOHU Ā-PUORO | MUSICAL DIRECTOR: ROBERT WIREMU • MĀTANGA REO | MĀORI LANGUAGE EXPERT: PĀNIA PAPA

Ka ōrua mai te waiata opera, te reo Māori me ngā reo waiti i tēnei konohete e waiatahia ai ngā kura waiata e nui ana te paingia. Ka tū te ihiihi, ka uruhau te mauri i a koe ka kawea ki ao kē i runga i te iere. Whakamahanahia tō korokoro kia whai wāhi mai ki tētahi waiata ngātahitanga kāore e rite ki tētahi atu. Mā *Toiere* koe e kawea ki ngā rangi o puoro hei taonga pūmau ki tō pūmahara, ā haere ake nei.

Operatic arias, te reo Māori and sublime vocal prowess blend together in this concert of treasured and popular waiata. Prepare to be entranced and transported to another realm. Prime your vocal chords for a sing-along like no other. *Toiere* will take you on a musical journey to be remembered for years to come.

Concert Chamber, Auckland Town Hall

Fri 14 March, 8.00pm

1hr 30mins no interval.
Suitable for all ages.



TICKETS
aaf.co.nz



Supported by



SCIENCE

Presented in collaboration with
E whakaaturia ngātahitia ana e mātou me

Supported by



Ngā Whakamāoritanga Translations

RINGATOHU | DIRECTOR: JASON TE KARE · KAITOHUTOHU | TE TUHINGA WHAKAARI | SCRIPT ADVISER: HĒMI KELLY

E whakahahaki ana a *Ngā Whakamāoritanga* i te hiranga o te ingoa o te tangata me tō te wāhi, ā, he kōrero tō tēnā, tō tēnā e whai tikanga ana, e whai hītori ana, e tūhonohono ana i ngā rā o mua ki ō nāiane. Kia tahuperatia, kia panonitia rānei ēnei ingoa, ka nakunakua, ka rehurehua, ka ngaro tonu rānei ngā aronga me ngā hononga o roto.

E toru ngā manga o te whakaari nei o *Translations* nā te kaituhi whakaari Airihi, nā Brian Friel i tuhi i te tau 1980, ā, kei ngā tau o te rautau 1800 i Airangi ngā kōrero o te whakaari. Ko ōna kaupapa, ko te reo, ko te tuakiri me te mana. I tuhia tuatahitia te whakaari nei ki te reo Ingarihi, ā, ko te manawataki o te reo Airihi me ōna kīwaha kei roto. I te tau 2022, i whakamāorihia te whakaari nei, i runga i te tono a Te Aka Aorere o Airangi, e Hēmi Kelly nō Ngāti Maniapoto, ā, he whakapapa Airihi hoki ōna.

Mā tēnei pānuitanga e kite ai koe i te rite o ngā hītori ā-ahurea mā ngā pūkenga o tētahi o ngā tino kaituhi whakaari o Airangi me tā te Māori titiro ki te ao kua tuituia ki te reo Māori. Ka whakakarekarehia ngā kare ā-roto e mina mai ai koe ki te roanga atu.

E whakaaturia ana i te taha o Auckland Live

Presented in association with Auckland Live

E tautokona ana e Foundation North, ā, e mihi ana ki a Shona McCullagh i āna mahi i te hōtaka whakawhiti Airihi.

Supported by Foundation North. We acknowledge Shona McCullagh for her work with the Irish exchange programme.

Ngā Whakamāoritanga speaks of the importance of names of people and names of places, each bearing a narrative that holds meaning, history and a connection between the past and present. When these names are distorted or changed, the meanings and connections held within are disjointed, blurred or lost completely.

Translations is a three-act play by Irish playwright Brian Friel, written in 1980 and set in 19th Century Ireland. It is a play about language, identity and power. Originally written in English, the dialogue reflects the idioms and rhythm of Irish speech. Fast forward to 2022 and at the request of the Embassy of Ireland in Aotearoa, the play was translated into te reo Māori by Hēmi Kelly of Ngāti Maniapoto and Irish heritage.

This reading will give you an insight into a shared cultural history through the skill of one of Ireland's great dramatists and a Māori worldview that's woven into te reo Māori. It will invoke many emotions and leave you wanting more.

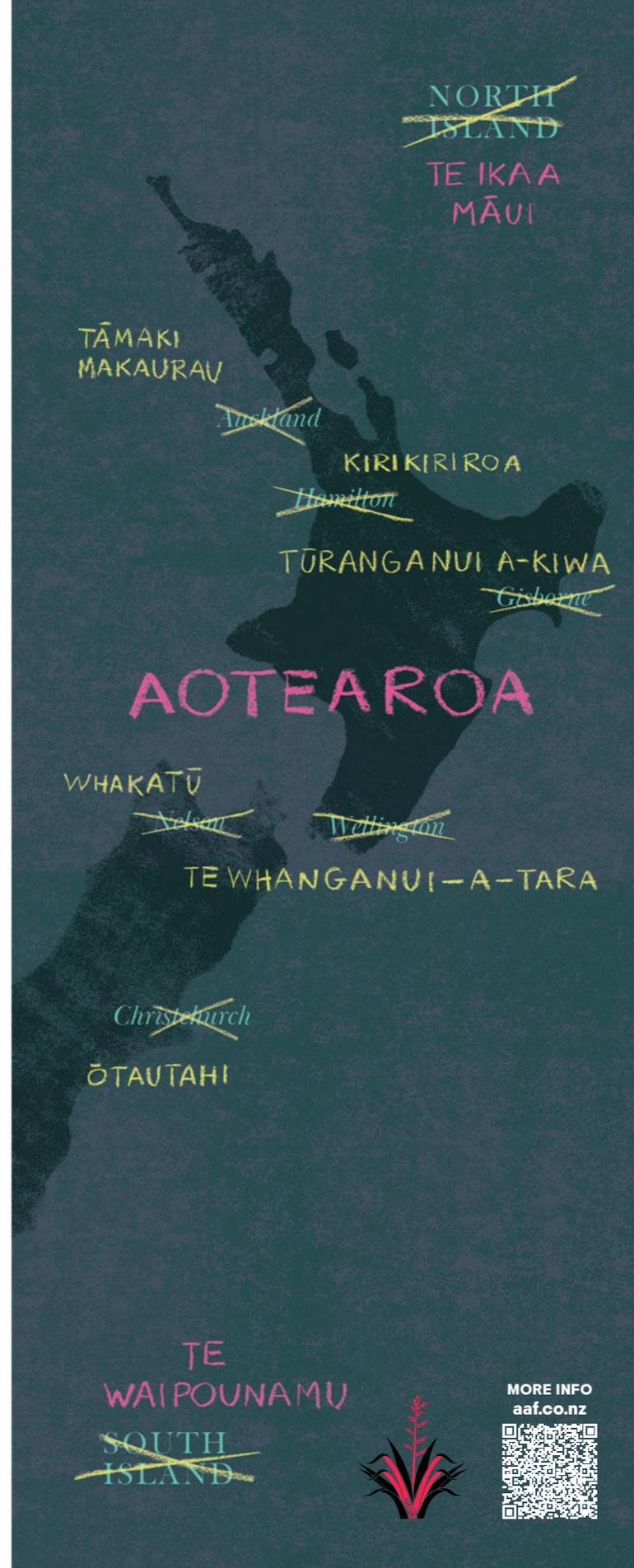
 **Herald Theatre, Aotea Centre**

 **Thu 13 — Sat 15 March**

 **1hr no interval.** Suitable for all ages.

 The Sat 15 March reading is followed by a panel discussion at 3.30pm.

 (intro notes available) 



MORE INFO
aaf.co.nz



INDIGENOUS MUSIC SERIES

Hei whakanui i te Tekau Tau a Te Kotahitanga o ngā Whenua o te Ao mō ngā Reo Taketake, e ngākau titikaha ana Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki kia rauhitia he puoro nā ētahi ringapuoro iwi taketake nō ngā whenua o te ao hei āpiti ki ngā pūkenga puoro nō Aotearoa nei. Whai wāhi mai ana ki te tuatahi o ngā Rāangi Puoro Taketake hei te tau 2025 ko ētahi ringapuoro me ētahi kaiwaiata-kaitito waiata nō ngā kāwai Creole, Hawai'i, Diné Navajo anō hoki. Kia rite mai kia kori tahi ki te puoro tautito o nāiane, kia pīoioi tahi ki ngā rangi nō Hawai'i, kia kani tahi hoki ki ngā puoro R&B, haukori, kōmanawa anō hoki.

In recognition of the United Nations Decade of Indigenous Languages, Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival is committed to curating music by Indigenous artists from around the world to complement our local Aotearoa talent. The inaugural Indigenous Music Series for 2025 includes musicians and singer-songwriters from Creole, Hawaiian and Diné Navajo heritage. Prepare to groove along to contemporary jazz, sway to Hawaiian tunes, and dance away to R&B, funk and soul music.

 **Spiegeltent, Aotea Square + Regional Tour**

 **Tue 18 — Sun 23 March**

 See pages 28–31.



Maya Piata

He mea whakaawe tana momo puoro nā ōna kāwai heke New Orleans Creole, nā tōna whakapapa Ngāti Tūwharetoa, me ōna tūāpapa ki Amerika, Mangumangu mai, Iwi Taketake mai anō, mā Maya Piata te whakaminenga e whakamīharo ki tōna ngangahau me tōna wana, he momo me uua ka rangona i tangata kē. Ki te Ahurei ka waiatahia e ia ētahi waiata nāna tonu i tito, me ētahi anō e rongonui pai ana, hei tuatahitanga māna ki Aotearoa.

With a musical style inspired by her New Orleans Creole heritage, Ngāti Tūwharetoa whakapapa, African American, and Native American roots, Maya Piata will delight audiences with her unparalleled effervescence and vitality. For the Festival, she performs a mixture of original and well-loved songs in Aotearoa for the first time.

**Spiegel tent,
Aotea Square**

Thu 20 March, 6.30pm

1hr 15mins approx.
All ages event.

**Also performing in Glen Innes,
Waiheke Island and Māngere.**
See calendar on page 56
for full regional tour info.



TICKETS
aaf.co.nz



Whiua ki te Ao

A celebration of waiata reo Māori

He wāhi nui tō te waiata ngātahi, tō te ngahau whai rakuraku, tō te karaoke, tō te patu tahi i ngā taonga puoro hoki nō te ahurea o Aotearoa. Whai wāhi mai ana ko ngā reo rōreka o Maisey Rika me tētahi kāhui pūkenga waiata rongonui, piri mai nō tātou ka hoki mahara ki ētahi waiata i rangona i ngā rā o tō ohinga. Mai anō i ngā waiata tawhito pēnei i a 'Pōkarekare Ana' me 'Tūtira Mai Ngā Iwi' ki ētahi waiata hou ake nā Maisey anō, ka mau tō aro mai anō i te tīmatanga noa.

Singalongs, guitar parties, karaoke and jam sessions are an inherent part of the culture of Aotearoa. Featuring the stunning vocals of Maisey Rika and a collective of acclaimed and talented songsters, join us as we take a musical journey through a selection of waiata that you grew up with. From classics like 'Pōkarekare Ana' and 'Tūtira Mai Ngā Iwi' to newer waiata from Maisey's own collection, you will be captivated from the get-go.

**Spiegel tent,
Aotea Square**

Fri 21 March, 6.30pm

1hr 15mins approx.
All ages event.

Lyrics available at this
sing-along event.



Aotearoa Songbook content
presented with support from



TICKETS
aaf.co.nz




Indigenous Music on the Move

the sounds & harmonies of hawaiian culture

relaxed summer vibes

Kulāiwi & Kaumakaiwa

FEATURING: KAWIKA KAHIAPO, LEHUA KALIMA ALVAREZ, SHAWN PIMENTAL · WITH: PONO FERNANDEZ, HULA

This talented collective of award winning, talented performers, singers, songwriters, composers and cultural leaders was formed to connect kānaka (Native Hawaiians) to 'āina (land) through mele (songs), the thread that binds the continuum of cultural knowledge. Soaring vocals, island harmonies, a folk vibe, and fun 'talk story' have won **Kulāiwi** four Hawaiian Grammys including Group of the Year, for their first album, *Native Lands*.

Award-winning singer and riveting performer **Kaumakaiwa**, from the renowned Kanaka'ole family, seamlessly melds Hawaiian culture and modern sensibilities in deeply powerful music and chant. A modern Hawaiian, she is a vibrant keeper of culture, and at the same time, an authentic innovator.

**Spiegel tent,
Aotea Square**

Sat 22 March, 6.30pm

1hr 15mins approx.
All ages event.

**Also performing in Waiheke
Island, Glen Innes and Māngere.**
See calendar on page 56
for full regional tour info.

(intro notes only)

TICKETS
aaf.co.nz


First time in Australasia

contemporary native american jazz

stories & traditions through music



Delbert Anderson Quartet

Jazz that tells the story of Diné culture is the jam of this wonderfully innovative group. Led by Delbert Anderson, a Navajo (Diné) trumpet master whose playing style channels the spirit of Miles Davis (who was of Cherokee ancestry), Delbert Anderson Quartet infuses traditional Diné 'spinning songs' with jazz improvisation, funk lines, hip-hop notes and soulful Latin grooves. Having one of the pillars of the Native American jazz scene visit Aotearoa is a privilege for the Festival's Indigenous Music Series, and we extend a warm welcome to the Quartet and its musical heritage drawn from Northwest New Mexico, the landscape and surrounding Indigenous tribes.

Spiegel tent, Aotea Square

Sun 23 March, 3.00pm

1hr 15mins approx. All ages event.

TICKETS
aaf.co.nz



An artist at the top
of her game...
It's thrilling to watch.
THE SCOTSMAN

Camille O'Sullivan Loveletter

In memory of her dear departed friends, Sinéad O'Connor and The Pogues' Shane MacGowan, and other legends that inspire, fan favourite Camille O'Sullivan returns to the Festival with this radiant new concert. Camille's reputation for stunning live shows and thrilling interpretations of great music is immense around the world, and here she'll sing from the heart and soul — and in the spirit of St. Patrick's Day — to honour her fellow Irish music icons along with songs by the late Leonard Cohen and David Bowie, and more. *Loveletter* also marks Camille's first Auckland Town Hall performance, a venue of breathtaking acoustics tailor-made for her most dramatic song renditions.

📍 **Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall**

📅 **Wed 19 March, 7.30pm**

? **1hr 30mins no interval.**
Recommended for ages 14+.
May contain haze.



TICKETS
aaf.co.nz



back by popular demand

sublime vocals, unbeatable stage presence

Irish music legends and more, celebrated

international women's day

tami sings for the sisterhood

the ultimate dedication to female country artists

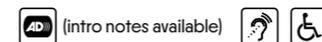
Tami Neilson The F Word Songs of Feminism in Country Music

Our award-winning country queen Tami Neilson and her hot rocking band not only perform a stonking setlist of country classics for your listening pleasure, but answer the burning question why songs of feminism were banned from country radio. With the help of Dr Jada Watson, this tongue-in-cheek exposé of gender inequality in country champions the female artists, from Dolly Parton to Patsy Cline to Loretta Lynn to The (Dixie) Chicks, who smashed stereotypes and soared to #1 despite the barriers. We can't think of a better way to celebrate International Women's Day than riding in boots-up and lassos-out for Tami's barnburner of a concert.

📍 **Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall**

📅 **Sat 8 March, 7.30pm**

? **1hr 50mins inc interval.** Suitable for all ages.



Supported by **THE BREEZE**

A barnstormin',
shit-kickin',
rollicking good time.
AMBIENT LIGHT



TICKETS
aaf.co.nz



If you don't know
The Necks...they
are, to put it simply,
magnificent and
unique. *THE QUIETUS*

outsider artists with a devout following

masters of long-form improv

no performance is ever the same



The Necks

The Necks, put simply, are one of *the* cult bands. *The New York Times* calls them the "Greatest Trio on Earth." Described as not quite avant-garde, minimalist, ambient or jazz, they're really a genre unto themselves — proudly their own thing in a world of trendsetting and attention seeking, which is a huge part of their secret charm. If you know The Necks, you just know. But if you've never heard their music, prepare for obsession. Touring to promote their new album *Bleed*, the Sydney-based group last played here in 2008, making this long-awaited return to Aotearoa a big deal for fans and the Festival alike.

 **Spiegeltent, Aotea Square**

 **Fri 7 March, 6.00pm**

 **1hr 50mins inc interval.** All ages event.



TICKETS
aaf.co.nz



scottish folk rockstars

First time in Aotearoa

phenomenal musicianship

an unrivalled live music experience



Talisk...are a life
affirming, blood
pumping, heart
filling, glorious
beast. *BRISTOL 24/7*

Talisk

Let us introduce you to a folk band about to take over the world. Scotland's Talisk are one of the best live acts in the UK and on the festival circuit right now, producing raucous crowd energy and stadium-sized sound with a mere concertina, fiddle and guitar. It's just Mohsen Amini, Benedict Morris and Charlie Galloway on stage with three acoustic instruments — and yet it's their indescribable ability to concoct the most addictive, trance-like explosion of folk that has propelled them to cult status. Whether traditional music gets your blood flowing or you're a headbanger at heart, this gig is for you.

 **Spiegeltent, Aotea Square**

 **Tue 18 March, 9.30pm**

 **1hr 30mins no interval.** All ages event.

May contain strobe and haze.



TICKETS
aaf.co.nz





friday night funk & soul

the sounds of pasifika

preserving culture through good music

Island Vibes

Pacific funk comes to the Spiegeltent courtesy of Island Vibes, a silky smooth summer-nights band immersed deep in the soul of the Pacific. Mixing stories, traditions and sounds to produce catchy live music that dives into the heart of Pacific cultures, this nine-member collective is led by artists who live and breathe their island roots right here in Tāmaki Makaurau. Performing both groove classics and raw original songs, Island Vibes channel the beauty and unstoppable spirit of le Moana-nui-a-kiwa on stage. We can't think of a better way to cap off your Friday night than with these guaranteed good vibes.

 **Spiegeltent, Aotea Square**

 **Fri 14 March, 9.30pm**

 **1hr 10mins no interval.** All ages event.



TICKETS
aaf.co.nz



Festival Closing

share the dance floor with nz's most prolific dance company

a time to dream, a time to celebrate, a time to dance



Black Grace

This Is Not A Retrospective

**Founding Artistic Director,
Neil Ieremia ONZM**

What better way to close out the Festival than with a party! In 2025, Black Grace hits 30 years and together with Auckland Live we've handed over the keys to the Great Hall to celebrate. Put on your best party outfit and your dancing shoes, as you will be given a rare opportunity to be amongst the action, a space where artist and audience connect. *This Is Not A Retrospective* is the ultimate interactive dance party, with the help of some of Black Grace's most awesome friends from the past three decades. Mark our words — this will be a night to remember.

 **Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall**

 **Sat 22 March, 7.30pm**

 **1hr 10min approx.** Recommended for ages 14+. Party will continue after main event until late.

Contains haze, strobe, partial nudity and offensive language (in music).



TICKETS
aaf.co.nz



First time in Aotearoa

hilarious & profound

personal & intimate storytelling

accessibility & inclusivity first

Brilliantly intersperses sign language with projected sounds and family memories...Mundy's engaging storytelling...is wholly inviting and generous. *ARTSHUB*

"No. I'm a CODA."

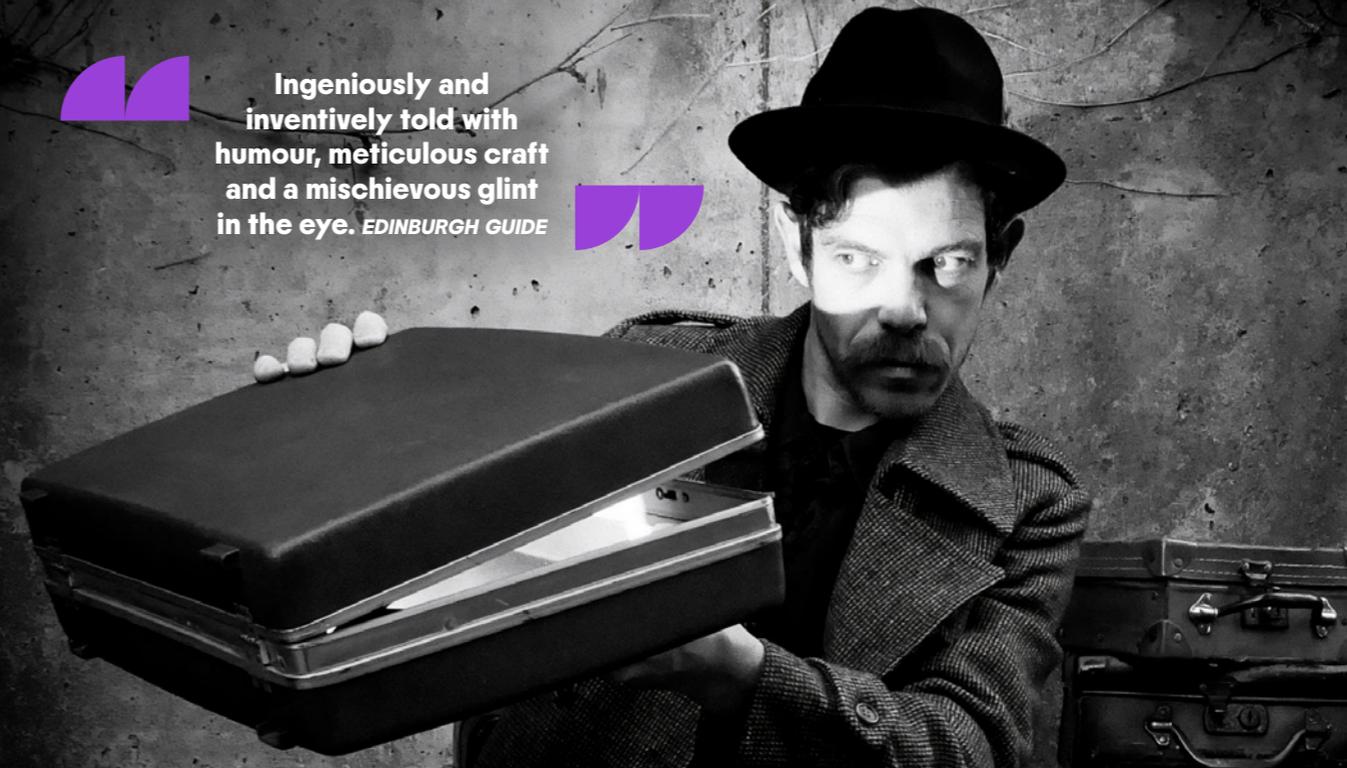


short stories wrapped into one delicious mystery box

big vision on an intimate scale

the coolest little theatre company

Ingeniously and inventively told with humour, meticulous craft and a mischievous glint in the eye. *EDINBURGH GUIDE*



Personal

Jodee Mundy Collaborations & Quiet RIOT
Written and performed by Jodee Mundy OAM

What's it like to live in a Deaf family, where using sign language is natural, in a society that sees only your family's disability with voyeuristic curiosity? One of the most poignant, engaging and perceptively funny theatre pieces we've discovered in a while, *Personal* is artist Jodee Mundy's story of being CODA (child of Deaf adults). Her experience as the only hearing person in a Deaf family—something she first realised when she was lost in a Kmart as a five-year-old — is cleverly portrayed through performance, storytelling, multimedia and animation, all with a lightness of touch that's truly captivating.

Rangitira, Q Theatre

Thu 6 — Sun 9 March

55mins no interval.
Suitable for ages 8+.



TICKETS
aaf.co.nz



Suitcase Show

Trick of the Light Theatre
Created by Ralph McCubbin Howell & Hannah Smith

Love to travel but hate the trip through customs? The cathartic dark humour behind this new show from absolute geniuses Trick of the Light Theatre (*The Bookbinder*) springs from the luggage contents of an unnamed traveller, whose suitcases raise the suspicions of an airport customs officer. If you don't know the brilliance of Ralph McCubbin Howell and Hannah Smith, *Suitcase Show* is the perfect introduction: a masterclass in miniature stagecraft, old-school tech wizardry and unbelievably good storytelling. Puppetry, shadow play, animation, intrigue, comedy — it's all there in tiny yet immense spoonfuls of theatrical joy.

Loft, Q Theatre

Thu 6 — Sun 9 March

55mins no interval.
Recommended for ages 12+.
Contains haze, flashing lights, and theatrical references to death and violence.

The Fri 7 March performance is followed by a post-show talk.



TICKETS
aaf.co.nz



chopin's serene compositions

a supreme international pianist in action

classical music to soothe the soul

Piers Lane – Nocturnes

Chamber Music New Zealand

Piers Lane is a charismatic master of classical piano — and seeing him play live is an essential concert hall experience. One of Australia's finest pianists, London-based Lane returns to Aotearoa to perform the complete cycle of Frédéric Chopin's beloved nocturnes — some of the most calming, dreamlike, richly emotional music ever composed.

 **Concert Chamber,
Auckland Town Hall**

 **Sun 9 March, 4.00pm**

 **2hrs 5mins inc interval.**
Suitable for all ages.

TICKETS
aaf.co.nz

FREE EVENT Whānau Friendly

keeping polynesian culture alight

Dance
Samoa / Aotearoa

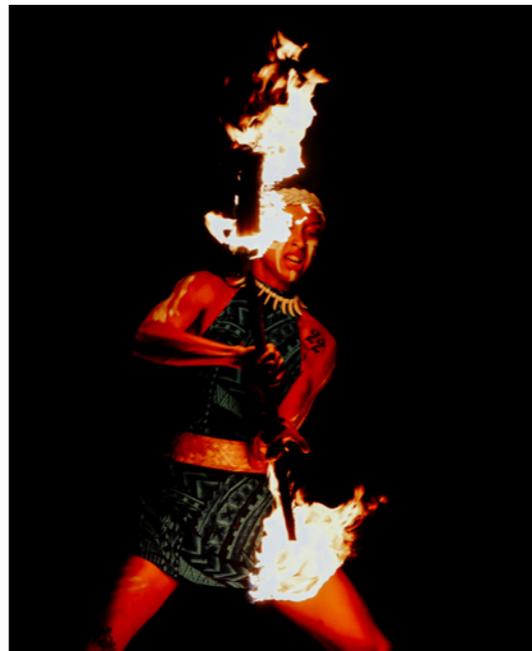
Siva Afi Festival

Now in its sixth year, the talents and skills of wāhine and rangatahi return to the fore, through the centuries-old traditional Samoan art form of *siva afi* — fire knife dancing. Sense the delight, feel the heat, and watch the flames spin as these skilled performers showcase their talents and compete for glory.

 **Māngere Arts Centre –
Ngā Tohu o Uenuku**

 **Fri 7 & Sat 8 March,
7.00pm to 10.00pm**

 Suitable for all ages. 

MORE INFO
aaf.co.nz

World Premiere

Toitū Te Reo

the incredible true story of te wehi ratana



ration the Queen's veges

Written by Te Wehi Ratana & Tainui Tukiwaho

DIRECTOR: TAINUI TUKIWAHO • PERFORMER: NGAHIRIWA RAUHINA

I te tau 2023, i tū te puehu i te rōpū o 'Te Waka Hourua' i tā rātou peita whakakino i te whakakitenga mō te tuinga reo Pākehā o Te Tiriti o Waitangi i Te Papa. He whakaari whakapiki wairua tēnei nā te kiriwhakaari takitahi, kua whai tūāpapa i te pono, otirā, e whakaahua ana i ngā wheako motuhake o te kaiwhakaoho mauri heke pari ā-taura, o Te Wehi Ratana, me te āhua e hua ai ko ngā panonitanga ki ngā wāhi me uaua ka pērā, nā runga noa i tētahi mahi kotahi.

In 2023, the group 'Te Waka Hourua' sparked public furore when they painted over the English Treaty of Waitangi exhibition at Te Papa. This uplifting one-man play is inspired by true events, sharing the remarkable experience of the abseiling activist Te Wehi Ratana and the story of how one action can inspire change in the most unlikely places.

 **Te Pou Theatre**

 **Wed 12 —
Sun 16 March**

 **1hr no interval.**
Recommended for ages 15+.

Contains coarse language and haze.

This show is performed in te reo Pākehā.

TICKETS
aaf.co.nz



FREE EVENTS

Whānau Friendly

City Encounters 43

CITY ENCOUNTERS

Lighting up the streets of Auckland city centre with excitement, beats, melody and movement.

Live music, hangout spaces, artist talks, family gatherings and art exhibitions are all part of the Festival's city centre takeover for 18 days in March 2025. From the time you get off the train or bus, or exit the carpark, until you are ready to head home after a great day out, we have a season of specially curated entertainment and activations on street corners and in public spaces. It's all within walking distance and is **FREE***, family friendly and fun for all.

 **Aotea Square + City Centre**

 **Thu 6 — Sun 23 March**

 Full lineup to be announced online.
Visit aaf.co.nz/city-encounters for the latest info.

**Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey is a ticketed event.*

Festival Garden
Music Stage
sponsored by

rova ▶ Let's play.

MORE INFO
aaf.co.nz





Encounter the **VISUAL ARTS** this March by visiting one of our gallery friends around Tāmaki Makaurau. International and Aotearoa artists exhibiting during the Festival (at the time of publication) include:

- The Arts House Trust, Pah Homestead** HILLSBOROUGH

13 March — 22 June

Toi Koru
Sandy Adsett

The Māori master of colour and kowhaiwhai, *Toi Koru* presents the first major survey exhibition of paintings by Dr Sandy Adsett.
- Artspace Aotearoa** KARANGAHAPE RD

1 February — 17 April

Prompts
Michael Parekōwhai & Lubaina Himid

Prompts will bring the artwork of senior artists, Michael Parekōwhai and Turner Prize-winning UK-based artist Lubaina Himid in contact for the first time.
- Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki** AUCKLAND CBD

7 December 2024 — 23 March

Olafur Eliasson: *Your curious journey*

Your curious journey by globally renowned artist Olafur Eliasson, marks the first solo showcase of the Icelandic-Danish artist in Aotearoa.

This exhibition is ticketed. Visit aaf.co.nz for info.

- Gus Fisher Gallery** AUCKLAND CBD

21 February — 10 May

Having it all all all

An exhibition of select video and performance art by artists associated with second-wave Feminism in America and Europe.
- Homestead Galleries, Corban Estate Arts Centre** HENDERSON

14 February — 29 March

Big sea, Small waves
Guy Howard-Smith

An exploration of the Anglo-Indian diaspora.

Hellenic
Sofia Atheniou

Carrying the past to the future — an exhibition influenced by the artist's Greek heritage.
- Te Tuhi** PAKURANGA

9 February — 13 April

96 degrees in the shade
John Vea

Presented as a video installation, *96 degrees in the shade* is a durational performance that explores ideas of impermanence and itinerancy through the entanglement of labour and access to shelter.

Hail
Lee Yanghee

Hail is a 4-channel video, 6-channel audio installation that explores people's response and moments of pleasure within the techno culture and underground club scene that expanded in South Korea from the late 1990s.



FREE EVENTS Visual Arts

Opposite: Sandy Adsett, *NGA MANU SERIES*, 1985. Acrylic on board 1050 x 1050mm. Collection of Aana Skipper.

- Studio One Toi Tū** KARANGAHAPE RD

7 February — 27 March

A Falling Canopy
Gabriel Gentner

Gentner's work captures the loss of Kauri trees in the North Island through contrasting landscapes, using sfumato to reflect their fading history in Aotearoa.

Ruminations: Encrypting My Mother Tongue
Antony Zemeke

Exploring the struggle of diasporic individuals to connect with their heritage, transforming shame into celebration through calligraphic abstraction inspired by Persian poetry.

Whispers from a Tree
Kendal Simich

Simich creates layered monotype prints from Ginkgo Biloba leaves, reflecting memory and connection, while incorporating leaves from descendants of Hiroshima's surviving trees, as symbols of hope and resilience.

RAW Studio: 20 Vessels
Roger Wyllie

This transformative ceramic series celebrates the beauty of imperfections in hand-built pieces, inspired by natural textures and evoking a deep connection to the earth and personal transformation.

The Ephemeral Nature of Impermanence
Akiko Diego

Exploring the fleeting nature of life and beauty through butterflies, symbolising transformation, personal growth, and a deep connection to nature and the cycle of life.

6 — 23 March

Artists on Artists

This group portraiture show features a diverse range of established and emerging artists from Aotearoa. Each artist is the subject of another artist's work — like links in a chain.



City Encounters 45

- Te Uru Waitākere Contemporary Gallery** TITIRANGI

16 February — 20 April

Soft Spot
Claudia Kogachi, Ming Ranginui, Erica van Zon

Soft Spot highlights three artists working with fibre-based materials in a range of forms, including rug making, embroidery and soft sculpture.

16 February — 25 May

Photosynthesisers: Women and the lens
Edith Amituanai, Juliet Carpenter, Fiona Pardington, Meg Porteous, Lisa Reihana, Marie Shannon and many more

Photosynthesisers: Women and the lens includes photographs and videos produced since the 1970s by women artists living in Aotearoa and Australia.

9 March — 25 May

Oil and Water
Jelena Telecki

Oil and Water reflects on the first two decades of Jelena Telecki's practice (2005–2025) through the development of a new suite of paintings.

16 March — 22 June

Maungarongo Te Kawa

Maungarongo Te Kawa (Ngāti Porou) is a takatāpui fabric artist who produces elaborate quilts and sculptures grounded in te ao Māori.

MORE INFO aaf.co.nz



FREE EVENT

Whānau Friendly

Piri mai ki tēnei kaupapa e kī pai ai te rā i ngā tini mahi rawerawe, whakahihiko anō mā te whānau!

Kia rongo koe i te wairua hihiri ka hua i te hui Ahurei i te kanikani, i ngā ngohe pāhekoheko, i ngā wāhi auaha anō e kotahi ai te whānau. He ara pai mutunga tēnei e ruku tahi ai te tamariki me te mātua ki te ao toi, ka whakanui tahi ai mā roto i te tākaro, i te kori, i te ahurea anō hoki.



Whānau Day

Join us for a sun-filled day of whānau fun and festival magic!

Experience the excitement of the Festival with dancing, interactive activities, and creative zones that bring families together. It's the perfect way for tamariki and parents to dive into the arts and celebrate through play, movement, and culture.

 **Aotea Square**

 **Sun 9 March, 10.00am to 4.00pm**

 Full schedule of activities to be announced online. Visit aaf.co.nz/whanau-day for the latest info.



MORE INFO
aaf.co.nz



Access & Inclusion

We believe everyone should have access to extraordinary arts.

Most of our venues have hearing loops, are wheelchair accessible and have accessible toilets and carparks.

We work with representatives from Deaf and disabled communities to identify the shows that are most suitable for audio description, NZSL interpretation and relaxed performances.

Our award-winning Access & Inclusion initiative provides low-cost tickets to members of our Deaf and disabled communities and the ticket for their companion is provided for **FREE**.

Look for the accessibility symbols on each event page in this Festival guide. For more information, visit aaf.co.nz/access.

? Bookings & Enquiries

 Email: access@aaf.co.nz

 Phone or Text: **022 1239 759**

 Easy-Read Booking Forms & Ticket Information: aaf.co.nz/access

Supported by  **FOUNDATION NORTH**
Pūtea Hāpaki Oranga
Funding to Enhance Lives 

With support from  **MOJO**  **AUDIO DESCRIBED AOTEAROA** 

With support from Platinum Patrons Andrew & Jenny Smith



Creative Learning

Toi Ako, Toi Auaha, Toi Ora.

Learning and creativity for the wellbeing of the arts.

Our lineup of shows for schools and students aims to reach tamariki and adult learners throughout the motu, making the arts accessible and fostering a desire to learn, appreciate and participate. Both special school matinees and public performances (with school allocation) can be booked directly through us.

To learn more about our **FREE** schools tickets, schools matinees, performances with pre/post-show talks, outreach/workshop opportunities, or access to education packs to link to your curriculum, visit aaf.co.nz/schools.

? Bookings & Enquiries

 Email: education@aaf.co.nz

 Website: aaf.co.nz/schools

Supported by  **FOUNDATION NORTH**
Pūtea Hāpaki Oranga
Funding to Enhance Lives 

With support from 

With support from Platinum Patrons Sir Roderick & Gillian, Lady Deane



Core Funders



Major Funder



Ngā mihi nui! A standing ovation for all the Patrons, Donors, Partners and Funders whose generosity lets us bring the work of great artists to this wonderful city.

Creative Partners



Funding Partners



Presenting Partner



Experience Partners



International Partners



Engagement Partners



Venue Partners



Accommodation Partners



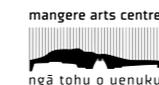
Sustenance Partners



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Since 2003, Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki
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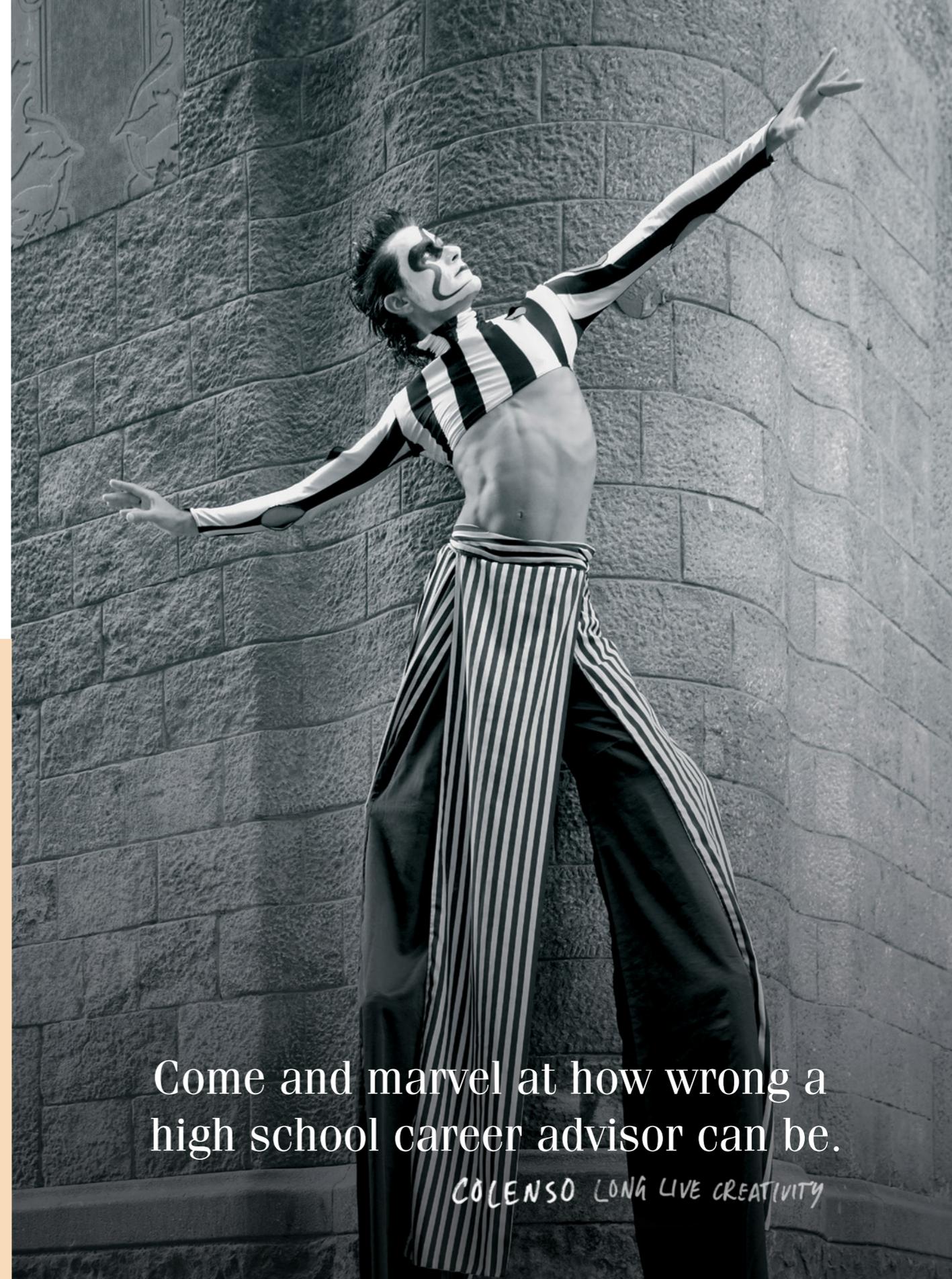
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Work with us to deliver works of scale, showcase
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Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival is a melting pot of shared experiences, live entertainment, whakaaro and kōrero every March.

For the love and vibrancy of Tāmaki Makaurau, we celebrate the best of arts and culture, for the people of this diverse city, by artists doing incredible things from Aotearoa and around the world.

The Auckland Festival Trust
Ph +64 09 309 0989
Email info@aaf.co.nz
Ground Floor
48 Greys Avenue
Auckland Central 1010

Plan Your Festival

Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival 2025 is yours to explore and have fun with. Everyone is welcome.



Planning a day of discovery, a big night out or a whole 18 days of Festival immersion? For detailed and up-to-date information to help you organise your Festival experience, visit aaf.co.nz/info.

On our website you'll find FAQs, venue locations, parking and public transport tips, venue access and accessible parking notes, plus a collection of our favourite restaurants, bars and accommodation providers.

Tickets

Booking online is the fastest and easiest way to purchase your Festival tickets. Simply click on the **Buy Now** button on an aaf.co.nz event page to be taken through to an official ticketing provider.



Some venues have phone, email and in-person booking services. For more information, visit aaf.co.nz/tickets.

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Read more about the our Access & Inclusion initiative on page 47.

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WHAT'S ON WEEK 1, 6–9 March	WHERE	PAGE	THU 6	FRI 7	SAT 8	SUN 9
Kia Kori! Let's Move!	Aotea Square	4	5.30pm	.	.	.
SMASHED – The Nightcap	Spiegel tent, Aotea Square	7	8.00pm	9.30pm	6.30pm	6.30pm
a mixtape for maladies	ASB Waterfront Theatre	19	From 4 March 7.00pm	7.00pm	8.00pm	4.00pm
SIX the Musical	The Civic	20	From 27 Feb 7.30pm	7.30pm	3.00pm & 7.30pm	2.00pm & 5.00pm
Belle – A Performance of Air	Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre, Aotea Centre	11	7.30pm	7.00pm	2.00pm & 7.00pm	5.00pm
Personal	Rangatira, Q Theatre	38	7.30pm	7.30pm	3.30pm & 7.30pm	3.30pm
Suitcase Show	Loft, Q Theatre	39	8.00pm	8.00pm	8.00pm	2.00pm
The Necks	Spiegel tent, Aotea Square	34	.	6.00pm	.	.
Siva Afi Festival	Māngere Arts Centre – Ngā Tohu o Uenuku	40	.	7.00pm to 10.00pm	7.00pm to 10.00pm	.
Tami Neilson The F Word – Songs of Feminism in Country Music	Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall	33	.	.	7.30pm	.
Whānau Day	Aotea Square	46	.	.	.	10.00am to 5.00pm
Piers Lane – Nocturnes	Concert Chamber, Auckland Town Hall	40	.	.	.	4.00pm

WHAT'S ON WEEK 2, 10–16 March	WHERE	PAGE	TUE 11	WED 12	THU 13	FRI 14	SAT 15	SUN 16
SMASHED – The Nightcap	Spiegel tent, Aotea Square	7	6.30pm	6.30pm	6.30pm	6.30pm	6.30pm & 9.30pm	6.30pm
a mixtape for maladies	ASB Waterfront Theatre	19	7.00pm	7.00pm	7.00pm	8.00pm	8.00pm	4.00pm
SIX the Musical	The Civic	20	7.30pm	7.30pm	7.30pm	7.30pm	3.00pm & 7.30pm	2.00pm & 5.00pm
Soweto Gospel Choir HOPE	Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall	22	7.30pm	.	.	.	.	.
ration the Queen's veges	Te Pou Theatre	41	.	7.30pm	7.30pm	7.30pm	7.30pm	4.00pm
History of House	Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall	23	.	8.00pm	.	.	.	.
Lula Washington Dance Theatre	Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre, Aotea Centre	15	.	.	7.00pm	7.00pm	7.00pm	5.00pm
HEDY! The Life & Inventions of Hedy Lamarr	Rangatira, Q Theatre	24	.	.	7.30pm	7.30pm	2.00pm	2.00pm
Ngā Whakamāoritanga Translations	Herald Theatre, Aotea Centre	26	.	.	7.30pm	7.30pm	2.00pm	.
Toiere	Concert Chamber, Auckland Town Hall	25	.	.	.	8.00pm	.	.
Island Vibes	Spiegel tent, Aotea Square	36	.	.	.	9.30pm	.	.
Gene Kelly – A Life in Music	Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall	12	.	.	.	.	7.30pm	.



**6–23 o MĀEHE
MARCH 2025**
aaf.co.nz/whats-on

Experiences Circus & Cabaret
Music Indigenous Music Series
Theatre Dance City Encounters

This calendar is correct at the time of publication. Visit aaf.co.nz for the latest info, including additional event announcements and the full City Encounters lineup.

WHAT'S ON WEEK 3, 17–23 March	WHERE	PAGE	TUE 18	WED 19	THU 20	FRI 21	SAT 22	SUN 23
SMASHED – The Nightcap	Spiegel tent, Aotea Square	7	6.30pm	6.30pm	9.30pm	9.30pm	3.30pm & 9.30pm	6.30pm
a mixtape for maladies	ASB Waterfront Theatre	19	7.00pm	7.00pm	7.00pm	8.00pm	2.00pm & 8.00pm	4.00pm
SIX the Musical	The Civic	20	7.30pm	7.30pm	7.30pm	.	.	.
Talisk	Spiegel tent, Aotea Square	35	9.30pm	.	.	.	.	.
Animal	Rangatira, Q Theatre	16	.	7.00pm	7.00pm	7.00pm	2.00pm	2.00pm
Camille O'Sullivan – Loveletter	Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall	32	.	7.30pm	.	.	.	.
A Streetcar Named Desire	Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre, Aotea Centre	8	.	.	7.30pm	7.30pm	2.00pm & 7.30pm	5.00pm
Maya Piata	Spiegel tent, Aotea Square*	28	🚫	🚫	*6.30pm	🚫	.	.
Whiua ki te Ao: A celebration of waiata reo Māori	Spiegel tent, Aotea Square	29	.	.	.	6.30pm	.	.
Kulāiwi & Kaumakaiwa	Spiegel tent, Aotea Square*	30	.	🚫	🚫	🚫	*6.30pm	.
Delbert Anderson Quartet	Spiegel tent, Aotea Square	31	.	.	.	.	.	3.00pm
Black Grace – This is Not A Retrospective	Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall	37	.	.	.	.	7.30pm	.



Indigenous Music on the Move.
For regional tour, see overleaf or visit aaf.co.nz/indigenous-music-series for the latest info.

FESTIVAL CITY ENCOUNTERS

Live music, hangout spaces, artist talks, family gatherings, art exhibitions and more. All part of the Festival's city centre takeover in March 2025.

WHERE

PAGES 42–45

WHEN

Aotea Square + City Centre

FREE EVENTS

6 – 23 March
Full lineup to be announced online. Visit aaf.co.nz/city-encounters for the latest info.

VISUAL ART CITY ENCOUNTERS

Olafur Eliasson – Your curious journey

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki

7 Dec 2024 – 23 March

Prompts – Michael Parekōwhai & Lubaina Himid

Artspace Aotearoa

FREE EVENT

1 February – 17 April

Artists on Artists

Studio One Toi Tū

FREE EVENT

6 – 23 March

Toi Koru – Sandy Adsett

The Arts House Trust, Pah Homestead

FREE EVENT

13 March – 22 June

More exhibitions to be announced online. See page 45 or visit aaf.co.nz/visual-arts for the latest info.

INDIGENOUS MUSIC ON THE MOVE

WHERE

PAGES 28, 30

WHEN

Maya Piata

Te Oro Music & Arts Centre, Glen Innes



Tue 18 March, 7.00pm

Kulāiwi, Kaumakaiwa & Maya Piata

Artworks Theatre, Waiheke Island



Wed 19 March, 7.00pm

Kulāiwi & Kaumakaiwa

Te Oro Music & Arts Centre, Glen Innes



Thu 20 March, 7.00pm

Kulāiwi, Kaumakaiwa & Maya Piata

Māngere Arts Centre – Ngā Tohu o Uenuku



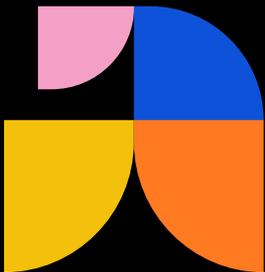
Fri 21 March, 7.00pm

FESTIVAL CALENDAR

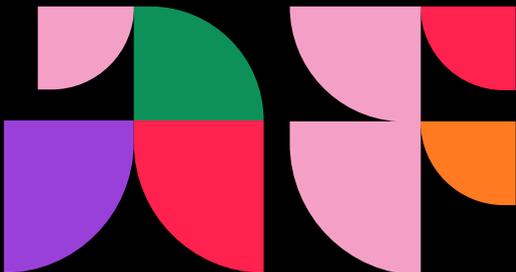




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AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL