



WTF!
2020

**WOMEN'S
THEATRE
FESTIVAL**

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S VOICES

22 AUG – 7 NOV

 **CIRCA**
THEATRE

04 801 7992

circa.co.nz/wtf2020



Women's Theatre Festival

Celebrating women's voices

22 August – 7 November

Circa Theatre is delighted to present the third **WTF! Women's Theatre Festival** beginning in August with ***Breaking and Entering***, a special writing workshop convened by award-winning playwright Angie Farrow (*The Blue Balloon*, Toronto; *Despatch*, USA; *Privitus*, Edinburgh; *Before the Birds*, *Leo Rising*, Auckland). **Readings** from the workshop will be held on Sunday 20 Sept at 2pm.

The Festival includes three other play readings, a development season of the second part of Lynda Chanwai-Earle's Antarctic trilogy entitled ***HOLE*** (22–26 Sept) and the NZ Premiere of Amelia Bullmore's hilarious and moving ***Di and Viv and Rose*** (16 Oct–7 Nov) featuring a top all-female cast.

WTF! 2020 also sees the return of Penny Ashton's smash-hit-one-woman show ***Promise & Promiscuity*** (12–29 Nov) and Hens' Teeth in December with ***The Older the Better*** (3–20 Dec).

The Circa Council has equal representation of men and women and has always championed equality. We are also addressing gender diversity with the children's show ***The Glitter Garden*** (30 Sept–10 Oct) creating a Festival which celebrates women's voices and opens the discussion to LGBTQI+ and the Rainbow community.

SPECIAL EVENT



WTF! 2020 FORUM – DR EMILY BEAUSOLEIL: THEATRE AND THE POLITICS OF LISTENING

Introduced by Jo Randerson

Monday 7 September 6pm

Circa One | \$20 each (includes dinner)

Limited seats available. Book now!

Join us for an evening with **Dr Emily Beausoleil** where she will share insights into the potent role theatre can play to foster listening, openness and shift in others. The forum will be introduced by **Jo Randerson** (Barbarian Productions) and draw on examples from recent Wellington theatre productions, followed by a light dinner, with drinks available for purchase. **Dr Emily Beausoleil** (PhD Political Theory) is a political theorist, who explores the conditions, challenges, and possibilities of democratic engagement in diverse societies, with a particular focus on artistic and embodied strategies to facilitate listening in politics.

PLAY READINGS



BERNHARDT/HAMLET

By Theresa Rebeck

Directed by Heather O'Carroll

Saturday 12 September 2pm | \$15-\$19

In 1899 Sarah Bernhardt decides she will play Hamlet – not the first time she has sought gender equality. LOUIS: Someone needs to talk her out of it. She's a great actress, but Hamlet?

It's grotesque. If Shakespeare meant for Hamlet to be a woman, he would have named the play "Hamlet Princess of Denmark". That's not what he wrote... Men playing women, that's all right. Women playing men. It doesn't work... It's a disgusting idea and you know it. *Featuring: Lara Macgregor, Simon Leary, Alex Greig, Neenah Dekkers-Reihana, Paul Waggott, Ralph McCubbin Howell and Nathaniel Lees.*



BREAKING AND ENTERING

Readings from the workshop

Curated by Kerry Palmer

Sunday 20 September 2pm | \$10



BREATHLESS

By Courtney Rose Brown

Directed by Hilary Norris

Saturday 26 September 2pm | \$15-\$19

After being highly commended for three years running, young playwright Courtney Rose Brown has taken the top prize in Playmarket's 2019 Playwrights b4 25 competition, with her

play **Breathless**. She says her goal is to create 'honest and thought-provoking New Zealand stories'. This award suggests she is well on her way. Courtney wrote **Breathless**, a powerful family drama, as part of her studies towards a Masters in Creative Writing from the Institute of Modern Letters at Victoria University of Wellington. The judges commented on Courtney's impressive ability to create nuanced and believable characters with maturity. *Featuring: Emma Katene, Janaye Henry, Stevie Hancox-Monk, Heather O'Carroll, Fergus Aitken, Sepelini Mua'au and Shay Tanirau.*

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WEDNESDAY TO COME

by Renée

Directed by Erina Daniels

Saturday 10 October 2pm | \$15-\$19

Four women. Four generations. One whānau. This landmark drama explores the effects of The Great Depression on a family, who face unemployment and a personal crisis when the husband and father dies in a relief camp.

Underlined with a rich vein of earthy humour, it is a powerful statement and a passionate celebration of the contribution women have made, and continue to make, to the evolution of Aotearoa New Zealand. *Featuring: Sunny Amey, Tanea Heke, Kali Kopae, Neenah Dekkers-Reihana, Tola Newbery, Cohen Holloway and Pehia King.*

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SHOWS

© Antarctic photo Lillian Ng 1999



HOLE

Written by Lynda Chanwai-Earle

Directed by David O'Donnell

Composer: Gareth Farr

Company: Ice Floe Productions Tapui Ltd

23-26 September

(5 shows only! Development season)

\$25 Preview – Tuesday 22 September

Circa One | Tues-Sat 7.30pm | \$25-\$35

A GREEN-POWERED black comedy about a scientist, an activist, a Navy SEAL, and one huge Ozone Hole. The second play in Lynda Chanwai-Earle's Antarctic Trilogy, *HOLE* builds on the innovative use of green-powered energy as used in the award-winning *HEAT*. *Featuring: Stevie Hancox-Monk, Sepelini Mua'au, Elle Wootton.*



THE GLITTER GARDEN

Written by George Fowler and Lori Leigh

Directed by Lori Leigh

30 September-10 October

Circa One | Tues-Sat 11am & 6.30pm;

Sun 4 Oct 4pm

All tickets are \$15 | Suitable for all ages

Become a Glitter Guardian for \$50 to support this show and help its artists flourish.

The Glitter Garden is a drag musical extravaganza for kids – the first of its kind in the world – featuring dazzling outfits, sickening moves, and fierce lip syncing. *"I made this show because everybody loves sparkles. And because if I had seen this show as a kid it might have changed my life"* — George Fowler. *The Glitter Garden* stars Hugo Grrrl, Eva Goodnight, The Everchanging Boy, Robin YaBlind and features an original score by Maxwell Apse.

Accessibility at Circa! We have a Relaxed Performance of *The Glitter Garden* on Tuesday 6 October at 11am. Please contact Access@circa.co.nz for more information!



PROMISE & PROMISCUITY

A new musical by Jane Austen and Penny Ashton

Directed by Ben Crowder

Company: Penash Productions

12-29 November

Preview 11 November

Circa Two | Tues-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 4.30pm | \$25-\$38

After a rapturous sell-out season in 2016, Penny Ashton's bonnet is back in this hilarious, one-(freakishly talented)-woman show, Penny tackles all of Austen's characters with song, dance and appalling cross-stitching. ***'Pride and Prejudice gone wild in the best way'***
★★★★★ — Rip It Up, Adelaide



NZ Premiere!



DI AND VIV AND ROSE

By Amelia Bullmore

Directed by Stephanie McKellar-Smith

Starring:

Jodie Dorday

Julie Edwards

Lara Macgregor

Produced by Fusion Productions

16 October–7 November

Circa One | Tues–Thur

6.30pm, Fri–Sat 8pm and Sun 4pm

\$25–\$52 Early Bird

tickets also available

‘Deliciously imperfect’

‘How do you want to live here? I mean we could come and go and lead separate lives. Or we could really live together. What do you think?’ – Rose

Rose (Julie Edwards) is a free-spirited art history student who sleeps with any boy she likes the look of. Her companions are Di (Lara Macgregor), a sports-loving lesbian who is taking business studies, and Viv (Jodie Dorday), a sociology student with a fierce work ethic. On the surface they seem unlikely friends but as Di, Viv and Rose’s friendship grows, we see how their solidarity precariously shifts over a 40-year time span. A funny and thoughtful exploration of friendship’s impact on life and life’s impact on friendship.

Di and Viv and Rose is a witty, vivid comedy that charts the steady, but sometimes chaotic, progression of three women’s lives and their ultimately enduring bonds.

This NZ Premiere sports a top NZ all-female cast and crew and is one not to be missed.

‘Di and Viv and Rose is a moving and surprising pleasure of an evening, that sends you out into the night with a lump in your throat’ — Michael Billington, The Guardian (London)

‘This is a powerhouse cast that any city in the country would find hard to beat. I have worked with them all and each has the power to dominate whatever stage they are on. As a trio, they will be incandescent.’ — Sir Roger Hall, CNZM, QSO

fusion
PRODUCTIONS



Special addition!



THE OLDER THE BETTER

Presented by Hens' Teeth

Thur 3 – Sun 20 Dec

Preview Wed 2 Dec

Circa Two | Tues–Sat 6pm and Sun 4.30pm

A show like you've never seen before – and may not see again.

Hens' Teeth presents *The Older the Better* showcasing the talents of **Coral Trimmer**, harmonica virtuoso, **Sunny Amey**, stand-up comedian, **Dame Kate Harcourt**, character actor. In common they have talent, skill, and age – they are all over 90. Supported by other Gold card performers, and on at Circa just before Xmas.



HENS'
TEETH
A SEASON OF WOMEN COMEDIANS

All information in this brochure is correct at time of printing but is subject to change.

WTF! is proudly supported by TACT

**THEATRE ARTISTS
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CIRCA THEATRE

1 Taranaki St, Wellington | 04 801 7992 | www.circa.co.nz/wtf2020