

TAINUI TUKIWAHO & TE WEHI RATANA

RATION

A STORY  
ABOUT ACTION,  
AROHA AND  
OUR TREATY.

THE

16 AUG — 13 SEP 2025  
CIRCA THEATRE

QUEEN'S

VEGES

 CIRCA  
THEATRE

  
TEPOU  
THEATRE

 creative  
nz  
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND · TOI AOTEOROA

TAHI

# RED RATION THE QUEEN'S VEGES

CO-WRITTEN BY TAINUI  
TUKIWAHO & TE WEHI RATANA

'FAMILY GUY' MEETS MĀORI  
THEATRE, IS IT GENIUS OR  
RIDICULOUS? YOU'LL NEED  
TO DECIDE...

In December 2023, the group 'Te Waka Hourua' set the country alight when they painted over the English Treaty of Waitangi Exhibition at Te Papa to read... 'No. Her Majesty the Queen of England the alien. ration the Queens veges.' This 'redaction action' provoked strong opinions across Aotearoa – some sang their praises, others called for blood. While all of the artists were charged, only one received prison time: Te Wehi Ratana.

This uplifting new one-man play is inspired by true events, and shares the remarkable experience of the abseiling activist during his 48 hours at Rimutaka Prison.



ration the Queen's veges is a story of how one action can inspire change in unlikely places. It is a story about the quiet voice of defiance that still burns within us even when we are silenced – a piece of gum and Brian, Te Wehi's ingenious cellmate, were all that was needed to fan the flames and hear them roar.

Praise for Ngahiriwa Rauhina:

*"Rauhina's performance is a shining star of this play."* - Art Murmurs

*"His performance is a tour de force and he zips through the multiplicity of characters and situations with consummate ease."*  
- Theatreview

## CREATIVE TEAM

TE WEHI RATANA  
TAINUI TUKIWAHO  
AMBER CURREEN  
EDEN WEBSTER  
NGAHIRIWA RAUHINA  
ROY IRO  
JANE HAKARAIA

NICOLE MARSH  
CONNOR MAGATOGIA  
MARSHALL RANKIN  
MICHELLE LAFFETY

WRITER  
WRITER & DIRECTOR  
DRAMATURG & CO-PRODUCER  
MARKETING  
ACTOR  
STAGE MANAGEMENT & VOICE  
LIGHTING, AV DESIGN  
& PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT  
SET, PROPS & COSTUME DESIGN  
SOUND DESIGN  
OPERATOR  
PUBLICIST



Circa Theatre is one of New Zealand's liveliest and most innovative theatres. Circa pioneered a collaborative system supporting creative artists who are the life-blood of our theatre. Circa Theatre is administered by a working council comprising: Neville Carson, Debbie Fish, Andrew Foster, Carrie Green, Carolyn Henwood, Ross Jolly, Simon Leary, Salesi Le'ota, Jamie McCaskill, Gavin Rutherford, Linda Wilson, Susan Wilson, Sepelini Mua'au.

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**Circa Theatre offers sincere thanks to the generous philanthropists and organisations who make it possible for us to continue to bring world class theatre to Wellington.**

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**CORE FUNDERS**



**Absolutely Positively  
Wellington City Council**  
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

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**Become a Circa Theatre Supporter**

All supporters play an important role at Circa Theatre and each gift makes a difference. For more information about becoming a Partner, donor or sponsoring a show at Circa Theatre, please contact our Philanthropy and Partnerships Manager at [partnerships@circa.co.nz](mailto:partnerships@circa.co.nz) or visit [circa.co.nz/support](http://circa.co.nz/support)

**THEATRE ARTISTS  
CHARITABLE  
TRUST**  
**CIRCA CREATIVES**

**FOUNDING SPONSOR**



**Circa Theatre** has been operating since 1976 and has gained a reputation as one of New Zealand's liveliest and most innovative theatres.

In 1987, Circa Theatre established the **Theatre Artists Charitable Trust (TACT)** to provide financial support to the creative artists (actors, playwrights, directors, etc) and help them achieve a viable income and career as professional artists. The support the artists receive from TACT through founding sponsor **Chapman Tripp**, as well as **Creative New Zealand**, and **individual donors** such as yourself, is vital to ensure we can continue to bring world-class theatre to Wellington.

**MAKE YOUR DONATION TODAY**

Any donation, big or small, is greatly appreciated. Simply visit [circa.co.nz/support](http://circa.co.nz/support) to donate by credit or debit card. Otherwise, make a payment through Internet Banking.

Account name: Theatre Artists Charitable Trust

Account number: 01-0505-0636362-00

Particulars: [Your name] | Payee code: [Your phone number] | Reference: Donation

Theatre Artists Charitable Trust is a charitable trust registered under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 (registration number CC28898).

***Thank you for your support  
Ian Fraser, TACT chair***

# TĀ TE KAITUHI WRITER'S NOTES

TE WEHI RATANA  
NGĀTI RAUKAWA & TE ARAWA

Excerpt from an essay in the pukapuka Te Waka Hourua Whītiki, Mātike, Whakatika!

I want to ask you a few questions:

- Do you believe that we can achieve what needs to be achieved within the confines of legal change making actions, ie; submissions, marching, voting, etc?
- Is our current society set up in a way that embraces positive social change through legal means whether it be legal protest or other forms?
- Did the people who created present society, and do the people who currently maintain it actually give a shit about anything other than wealth and power?

My answer to all 3 is unsurprisingly a solid no. Present society is a social construct. It has been pieced together with systems put in place by mostly wealthy, powerful, white men for at least the last 2000 years,



with no other purpose than to build wealth and power for those same men. While some people say the system is broken, I have a different thought. I am of the thinking that our current system, political and economic, is operating exactly how it was intended to, extracting all the wealth and resources from the masses and then they'll fuck off to Mars when they can extract no more.

It's time for us to try the other approach.

Since taking action at Te Papa Tongarewa I have spent time in prison and am still under very strict bail conditions. There are lessons that can be learnt from these current experiences. Lessons I can share to help others who want to do the same. I do not fear what will happen or when I take action, I fear what will happen if I don't.

Mauriora.

Te Wehi Ratana, Te Waka Hourua

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NGĀ MIHI | A PLAY IS MADE  
BY MANY PEOPLE.

TE POU THEATRE WOULD LIKE  
TO THANK EVERYONE WHO  
GENEROUSLY GAVE THEIR TIME  
AND REFLECTIONS IN THE MAKING  
OF THIS PLAY. ESPECIALLY ALL  
THOSE WHO WROTE TE WEHI A  
LETTER FROM RIMUTAKA.

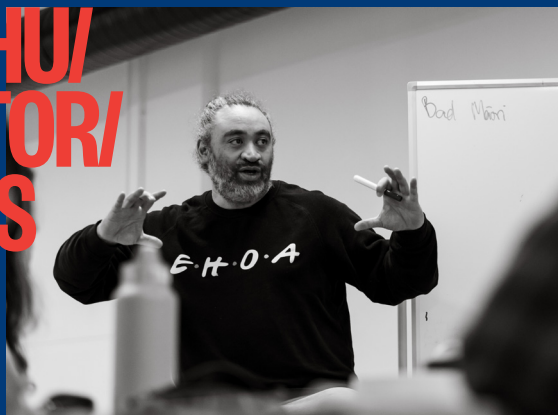
# TĀ TE RINGATOHU/ KAITUHI DIRECTOR/ WRITER'S NOTES

TAINUI TUKIWAHO  
TUHOE & TE ARAWA

When I first heard Te Wehi's story, I was inspired. Not just by the bold action taken at Te Papa—though that was undeniably cool—but by what unfolded afterward, in prison. The way something powerful and beautiful could emerge even in the most unforgiving of places.

To me, this story is like a sliver of light breaking through the heavy darkness that surrounds the Treaty—cutting through the meanness, the hate, the lies, and the deceit. People like Te Wehi and Te Waka Hourua stand in defiance of these forces, often forced to fight fire with fire. And as we all know, fire usually leaves nothing but ashes. But not this time.

At its core, ration the Queen's veges is an exploration of truth and lies. The way history is told, the way it is remembered, and the way it is conveniently forgotten. It's about uncertainty, about the feeling of being caught in a story bigger than yourself, where the ground keeps shifting beneath you.



But this isn't a lecture. You won't find musings on the Treaty or a rundown of modern politics. There are no carefully curated social media takes here—go online for that. What you will find is something absurd, something that unsettles and surprises, something that asks questions rather than offering easy answers.

This show is for those who need a break from weight of fighting for our rights to be - for those who know that, no matter what, we will always find a way to respond.

Good luck.

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Te Pou Theatre is a kaupapa Māori performing arts venue for all that supports the presentation and development of contemporary and community performing arts locally, nationally and internationally from our home in Waitākere, Tāmaki Makaurau. Te Pou Theatre is a kaupapa Māori theatre.

Ngā Kaitautoko

WE WOULD LIKE TO  
ACKNOWLEDGE OUR FUNDERS,  
PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS  
WHO TAUTOKO OUR MAHI.



# COMING UP AT CIRCA

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9 Aug - 6 Sept



## Cringeworthy: The 90's

### *A high-octane explosion of '90s nostalgia!*

Following the success of Cringeworthy '60s, '70s and '80s, this show pays homage to NZ music and culture in the last decade of the 20th century. Expect a 'rad' mix of local and international hits delivered with snappy dance moves, scintillating vocals and a generous dollop of cheesy comedy.

16 - 20 Sept



## Manage Your Expectations

### *You decide the ending...*

Manage Your Expectations takes the idea of the 'trigger warning' to its absurdist extreme using humour to question how 'informed' consent can really be and asking, 'How much do you really want to know?'. Through a unique blend of dance, clown and absurd philosophising, performer and audience engage in a deeply imperfect exchange, musing on the influence of context, identity and personal history.

23 Sept - 4 Oct



## Kiwi's Big Hararei

### *From the Land of the Long White Cloud to the Land Down Under!*

Kiwi is going on his first big holiday from Aotearoa across to the golden shores of Brisbane. He's got his backpack, a pocket full of worms, and a head full of dreams. Kiwi navigates air travel, hotels and conversations with marsupials as his world stretches from the home he knows, to the world over the horizon.

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# CHOUCHOU

Enjoy our new Cafe Bar and Brasserie at Circa Theatre – Chouchou.

Whether you're attending a performance at Circa or not, Chouchou is a stylish and inclusive space for you to dine, right in the heart of Wellington's vibrant waterfront. With outdoor seating if the weather allows, the new layout provides a sophisticated setting for lunch or dinner, pre- or post-show drinks, hosting clients, or an intimate night for two.

Enjoy innovative cuisine made from the freshest local ingredients.

Please contact us for reservations on [circa@chouchou.co.nz](mailto:circa@chouchou.co.nz)

Chouchou work in conjunction with Circa Theatre on pre-show packages with show bookings.

## FUNCTIONS VENUE

Host your next function at Chouchou and enjoy great food and service in a venue like no other. For enquiries please contact [circa@chouchou.co.nz](mailto:circa@chouchou.co.nz)



*Architects' impression*



# 2025 The Year of the Creatives

Now we have our fabulous upgraded building, we are fundraising for TACT to provide grants for our productions and enable our creative artists to blossom and thrive at Circa Theatre in the many and varied roles they undertake.

In 1987, Circa Theatre established the Theatre Artists Charitable Trust (TACT) to provide financial support to our creative artists and help them achieve a viable income and career as professional artists. The support artists receive from TACT through founding sponsor Chapman Tripp, as well as Creative New Zealand, and individual donors such as yourself, is vital to ensure we can continue to bring world-class theatre to Wellington.

***Please support our Creative Artists today!***



***Scan to donate***



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**CIRCA THEATRE**

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