

 CIRCA
THEATRE

2026

CELEBRATING

50 

YEARS

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THEATRE ARTISTS CHARITABLE TRUST

In 1987, the Theatre Artists Charitable Trust (TACT) was established. Its purpose – to provide support and encouragement to theatre artists, writers and practitioners, all in pursuit of excellence in the presentation of live theatre.

Since that time, TACT has been providing grants to theatre people involved in productions at Circa Theatre.

On a conservative reckoning, the number of those we've supported exceeds four thousand individuals.

Our founding sponsor is Chapman Tripp. Nearly 40 years on, they are still on board – an integral element in our work. We believe that 38 years of generous support makes this one of the most remarkable and unique sponsorships going round.

Circa has been presenting live theatre for 50 years now and we celebrate, with Chapman Tripp, the daring and innovation and creativity that go into making thrilling live theatre.

We offer our heartfelt thanks not just to Chapman Tripp but to all those donors who have given us support over the years.

Chair of the Trust – Ian Fraser

Founding Trustee – Dame Carolyn Henwood

TACT board – Mark Reese, Charlotte Bates and Debbie Fish.

PRINCIPAL SPONSORS



CORE FUNDERS





Circa Council left to right from top: Susan Wilson, Salesi Le'ota, Neville Carson, Linda Wilson, Ross Jolly, Carolyn Henwood, Andrew Foster, Simon Leary, Gavin Rutherford, Carrie Green, Jamie McCaskill, Debbie Fish, Sepelini Mua'au

HE WAKA EKE NOA

Circa Theatre recognises the mana whenua of the Wellington Region, Te Āti Awa, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika, and proudly upholds its partnership with Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

KIA ORA AND WELCOME TO CIRCA THEATRE'S 2026 SEASON — CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THEATRE!

Circa Theatre is proud to present our 2026 programme, marking 50 incredible years of bringing world-class theatre to Wellington.

Join us in our refreshed home, featuring the stunning new Café Bar and Brasserie Chouchou, and our vibrant waterfront facing façade that lights up the city.

To our loyal supporters, play sponsors, practitioners, Friends of Circa, and dedicated patrons — thank you. Your passion and generosity have made half a century of exceptional theatre possible.

All of us at Circa look forward to celebrating this golden anniversary with you and sharing another unforgettable year of live performance in the heart of Wellington.

Ngā mihi nui, The Circa Council





ROBIN HOOD THE PANTOMIME – RETURN SEASON

SIMON LEARY AND GAVIN RUTHERFORD

*Adventures of the original working class hero
and man in tights!*

DIRECTOR
Simon Leary

**MUSIC ARRANGED AND
DIRECTED BY**
Michael Nicholas Williams

2 – 11 Jan
Circa One

Tues – Sat 6.30pm
Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$60
Family Pass available
Early Bird tickets
available

Robin Hood steals from the rich and gives to the poor in an oldie timey place where people are struggling and homeless and the landed gentry hoard the money all for themselves – Wellington 2025.

Robin must stop the Evil Sheriff from running roughshod over the citizens! But this quest is far from easy... there's archery, swordfights, and a lot of dance numbers to get through. Our hero is grateful for help from spies on the inside: Maid Marion, and her bolshie Nanny (Pantomime Dame Jthan Morgan).

Come one and come all to see the slings and arrows of outrageous panto!

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
PLAYMARKET
HE ROPU TAUTOKO KITO
WHAKAKARI'S 150 YEARS



THE GLASS MENAGERIE

BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

“Isn’t it funny, the tricks your memory plays?”

COMPANY
St. Louis Blues

DIRECTOR
Colin McColl

DESIGN
Tony Rabbit
Nic Smillie-Starling
John Gibson

24 Jan – 22 Feb
Preview 23 Jan
Circa One

Tues – Sat 7pm
Sun 4pm
Special midweek matinees
Thu 12 Feb, 1pm
& Thu 19 Feb, 1pm

\$25 – \$60
Early Bird tickets
available

Acclaimed American playwright Tennessee Williams penned emotional powerhouse hits like *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Baby Doll*, *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* and *Suddenly Last Summer*, but it was his tender and autobiographical “memory” play, *The Glass Menagerie*, that catapulted him from obscurity to international fame.

The Glass Menagerie follows a family trapped by dreams and delusions in 1930s St Louis. Times are tough. Amidst the turmoil of a changing world, solo mother Amanda Wingfield, a faded Southern belle, is hellbent on finding a better future for her emotionally fragile daughter, Laura, while her restless son, Tom, is caught between his duty to his family and his desire for freedom.

Deftly blending humour and pathos and suffused with the eloquent poetic language that became Tennessee Williams’ trademark, *The Glass Menagerie* is an achingly beautiful study of four people struggling to conform to the expectation of others.

Featuring Simon Leary as Tom and Hera Dunleavy (*Blithe Spirit*) as Amanda, with Jackson Burling as “The Gentleman Caller” and exciting newcomer Ashley Harnett as Laura, this is a rare opportunity to experience the urgent relevance of Tennessee Williams’ haunting and uncompromising masterwork.

“Will lodge in your mind and soul for years to come” – The Observer

“Spellbinding theatre at its very best”
– New York Times



D' THINGS N SUCH

PRESENTED BY THE GENTLE BOYS

It's the kind of bonkers show that leaves you breathless, bonded, and somehow cackling with strangers

COMPANY
Gentle Boys

13 – 28 Feb
Circa Two

Tue – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm
Matinee Fri 27 Feb 1pm

\$25 – \$49
Early Bird tickets
available

PŌNEKE, NZ
FRINGE
ARTS FESTIVAL

D' Things N Such is Wellington's freshest, wildest and most unhinged theatrical experience since someone slapped corned beef and Nutella on toast. This absurd, high-energy, non-linear show is a chaotic collision of physical theatre, nonsense comedy and emotional whiplash. Four fearless FOB clowns with a broken compass lead audiences through a never-ending game of theatrical tag, where intense moments are created and then gleefully abandoned.

Born from a desire to rewire how we experience theatre, DTNS blends live theatre with the rhythm of TikToks and reels, bringing the energy of your screen to the streets and stages of Pōneke.

This is a disaster on purpose. Get lost with us and maybe leave with abs.

"You just got to watch it, it's crack up, it's so fucking crack up"

"A child's imagination on steroids, multiplied, and evolved into a masterclass of absurdism, funniness and playfulness"

Mild Coarse Language
Heavy Audience Participation



AN HONEST CONVERSATION

A High Risk Dance Duet

COMPANY

Java Dance Theatre

10 May, 12 Jul, 11 Oct
Circa Two

Sun 7pm

\$25 – \$49

An Honest Conversation has the intimacy of a private conversation between friends, and the excitement of highly physical dance and returns to Circa in 2026 for three unique shows. Dance duos will talk, dance and attempt to be as honest as possible in completely improvised one-hour duets.

Sacha Copland, 44, is a choreographer who has created more than 20 full-length dance theatre works, and now she wants to talk. Sacha also wants to dance. Sacha will try to be honest while she dances and talks.

Dancer/choreographers Tiaki Kerei and Natalie Hona have already been brave enough to commit to conversations. These fearless artists can't make any promises, but they will dance, talk and try to be honest.

“Somewhere between stand-up comedy, a physical competition, an intergenerational back-and-forth and a celebration of mauri/life force” – Jonty Hendry

“I have never really seen anything like it before; the connection with the audience was electric” – Sameena Zehra

“The audience loved it – the terrain of the conversation and the honesty exhibited was compelling” – Theatreview

PRESENTED IN
ASSOCIATION WITH

40
YEARS
**AOTEAROA
NEW ZEALAND
FESTIVAL OF
THE ARTS**

PHOTO: MOUCE YOUNG



WEREWOLF

Wed 25 – Sat 28 Feb, 7pm
& Sun 1 Mar, 4pm
Circa One \$30 – \$45
Company: Binge Culture

Attention: Multiple new occurrences are now

confirmed and verified. Healthy citizens must report to their safehouses by sunset and shelter in place.

Your designated safehouse is Circa Theatre.

Three ill-equipped wardens keep watch over a makeshift community who must learn to work together. But as the threat outside takes shape, the atmosphere inside begins to turn.

Inspired by the classic game of deception, *Werewolf* is a gripping blend of thriller and comedy that pulls you into an immersive world of suspicion, survival, and uneasy laughter.

With heart-pounding sound design, razor-sharp performances, and a daring, darkly funny style, this international cult hit asks: When night falls – who do you trust?

“Has people screaming in terror one minute then giggling like children the next” ★★★★★ – British Theatre Guide

PRESENTING PARTNER

PANNZ

PHOTO: MAEVE O'CONNELL



DRAG BRUNCH WITH THE TĪWHAS

Sat 7 Mar, 10am – 12pm
Circa Foyer
\$70 (includes brunch)

Get out and get glam – kick off your day with sparkle and sass on the waterfront.

Drag Brunch brings music, games, lip-sync magic, with breakfast served by the fabulous Chouchou team at Circa. With The Tīwhas leading the entertainment, all you need is your appetite, your crew, and good vibes.

“A high-energy Drag Girl band” – Theatreview

Suitable for family audiences, parental supervision required for under 16s.

This performance includes bright lights, loud music and may involve interaction with some lucky members of the audience.



**BARBARIAN PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS PRESENT**

SPEED IS EMOTIONAL

BY JO RANDERSON

ADHD – it's so hot right now!

CREATIVE TEAM
Isobel MacKinnon
Bekky Boyce
Steven Junil Park
Elliot Vaughan

11 – 29 Mar
Circa One

Tues – Sat 7pm
Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$45

**All performances are
relaxed, and audiences
may enter or leave at
any time.**

**NZSL and audio described
performances available.**

Suitable for all ages.

BARBARIAN

creative*nz*
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND / TOI AOTEAROA

Local creative powerhouse Jo Randerson (ONZM) unpacks their diagnosis, neurodivergent parenting, sad songs, men taking their time, and so much more in this highly lauded “funny as hell” theatre extravaganza. Finally having its home premiere as part of Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts, this incredible mahi is so much more than a performance – it’s a revelation.

Jo Randerson has a brain that never stops and a fountain of restless energy fuelling their fiercely funny artistic voice. Who knew?! that this fountain was fed by something they had diagnosed in their 40s alongside their son: ADHD.

In *Speed is Emotional* Jo bares their soul, sharing the exhilaration, exhaustion, joy, and absurdity of living and parenting with neurodivergence. Jo weaves their punk poetic magic into a beautiful comedy about transcending labels and living with a voltage so high it’s going to blow the mains.

“...a livewire plunge into the chaos, colour, and comedy of living a neurodiverse life”

– Blackguard Media Reviews



THIRTY-SIX

BY LEAH NANAKO WINKLER

Ask me – if you dare

COMPANY
Kavanah Productions

DIRECTOR
Yael Gezentsvey

7 Mar – 4 Apr
Preview 6 Mar
Circa Two

Tues – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm

\$25 – \$60
Early Bird tickets
available

KAVANAH
PRODUCTIONS



WILL GLICKMAN AWARD

Jenny and David meet on a tinder date. She wants a one night stand, and he wants to go through the 36 questions that are meant to lead to love... What unfolds is a night of daring and divulging. Of holding back and holding on. It's not about happily ever after, it's about all the people we meet along the way.

Starring Fern Sutherland (*Brokenwood Mysteries*), Niwa Whatuira (*M3gan 2.0*) and Anya Tate-Manning (*PSA*).

Inspired by one of the most esteemed Modern Love articles from *The New York Times*, "The 36 Questions That Lead to Love".

Winner of Best New Play in Bay Area Will Glickman Award 2025.

Set and Costume Design by Shiloh Dobie,
Lighting Design by Marcus McShane,
Sound Design by Daniel Elliott and
Chris Ward.

"A rom-com with an irreverent streak, Thirty-Six is a fun, flirty, occasionally dirty romp. Maybe bring a date. You'll definitely learn something about each other by the end of the evening" – KQED

R16 Contains explicit language, drug use and sexual references.



HELP! A MONSTER ATE MY STORY

BY RUTH PAUL

Ruth Paul's enchanting picture book characters come to life on stage!

CREATIVE TEAM

Charlotte Yates
Fifi Colston
Ruth Paul

DIRECTOR

Jacqueline Coats

PRODUCER

Emma Robinson

7 – 18 Apr

Circa Two

Tues – Sat 11.30am

& 1.30pm

Sun 12 Apr

1.30pm & 3pm

Q&A – 10 Apr after

1.30pm show

\$20

Under 2s free

Family pass

(4 tickets) \$70

The delightful words and pictures of award-winning Wellington author Ruth Paul (*Lion Guards the Cake, Stomp, Anahera, I Am Jellyfish*) have thrilled young readers for many years. Now all the fun is coming to the stage in a brand-new play for children.

With your HELP! Ruth and favourite characters LION, JELLYFISH, T-REX and KIWI will join forces against the MISH-MASH MONSTER to stop it eating their stories!

Romping through the April school holidays, these fun-loving characters sing songs by Ruth Paul and Charlotte Yates, with costumes by WoW veteran Fifi Colston and stage direction by Jacqueline Coats (*The Adventures of Tahi & Kowhai, Party Pigs!*) in a celebration of creativity, imagination and collaboration.



RIDE THE CYCLONE

MUSIC & LYRICS BY BROOKE MAXWELL & JACOB RICHMOND
BOOK BY JACOB RICHMOND

Buckle up for the ride of a lifetime!

DIRECTOR
Ben Tucker-Emerson

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Hayden Taylor

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Joshua Tucker-Emerson

10 Apr – 9 May
Preview 9 Apr
Circa One

Tues – Sat 7pm
Sun 4pm

\$30– \$68

Darkly funny, wildly imaginative, and surprisingly heartfelt, *Ride the Cyclone* is the viral musical phenomenon that has taken the world by storm.

In this hilarious and exhilarating story, the lives of six teenagers of the St Cassian Chamber Choir are forever changed after they board a doomed rollercoaster ride.

Thrown into the abyss, they awake to find an ominous mechanical fortune teller offering them the chance to compete for the prize ... to return home in one piece.

Now confronted with their darkest desires, shameful secrets and each other, the characters in this “supremely witty ... and just plain delightful” (New York Times) musical make a uniquely uplifting and outrageous case for what makes a life worth living.

Aotearoa, New Zealand Premiere.
Produced by WITCH Music Theatre.

★★★★★ “...utterly charming, utterly bonkers, and utterly wonderful...”
– ArtsHub Australia (2024)

★★★★½ “combines teen existentialism, and sophisticated wit and theatricality”
– Sydney Morning Herald (2024)

Mature humour and content, including coarse language and sexual references.

WITCH

Originally Produced
in Canada by Atomic
Vaudeville

By Arrangement with
ORiGiN™ Theatrical on
behalf of Broadway
Licensing



TALAUCAKA & TOE FAI!

BY EMELE UGAVULE

*From memory to data, from body to archive —
imagining a future where remembering is rebellion.*

DIRECTOR
Emele Ugavule

COMPANY
Studio Kiin

2 – 16 May
Preview 1 May
Circa Two

Tues – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm

\$25 – \$45



Step into the fractured future of *Aqua Nullius*, a speculative Pasifika futurism play series by Emele Ugavule, where memory, data, and ancestry collide. This double bill presentation – *Toe Fai!* and *Talaucaka* – weaves together two interconnected worlds that imagine futures shaped by ecological collapse and technological empire. Drawing from an Indigenous Pacific perspective, *Aqua Nullius* reclaims the right to imagine beyond colonial timelines, exploring futurism, memory, and digital colonialism through embodied storytelling and collective resistance.

"Stirring something deep within our Indigenous spirit, striking the very core of who we are. Shaken, but in a good way... your message is what our generation urgently need. We believe in the power of your message – to awaken others, to inspire protection of what's ours – before it's too late." – Tokelau in Tech

"Making the trip down from Auckland was worth it. It was an awesome weekend and a great performance from everyone involved" – Audience member



WHAKAPAPA

BY WILLY CRAIG FRANSEN

Tracing origin

DIRECTORS

Jamie McCaskill
& Paul McLaughlin

COMPANY

Taki Rua Productions

23 May – 13 Jun

Preview 22 May

Circa Two

Tues – Sat 7.30pm

Sun 4.30pm

\$25 – \$60

taki rua

creative nz
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND / TOI AOTEAROA

Taki Rua presents the world premiere of *Whakapapa*.

An uncle and his niece, stuck in MIQ, on their way back from two different cities in Australia to visit their ailing Koro, remind us what it was like when Aotearoa experienced “covid times”. Now, part of this country’s own whakapapa, *Whakapapa*, the play, delves into historical whānau truths – unearthing memories and surprises that cause pleasure, pride and pain. This story, set in one of the most challenging times of our recent history, where contact tracing tracked the whakapapa of our movements, reminds us through comedy, music and excellent storytelling, just how unprecedented those times really were.



MODERN GOD

FOOTNOTE NEW ZEALAND DANCE

Six influencers collide in a high-energy dance-theatre work exploring fame, consumerism, and our digital obsessions.

**DIRECTOR &
CHOREOGRAPHER**
Jeremy Beck

15 – 23 May
Preview 14 May
Circa One

Fri & Sat 7pm, Sun 4pm
Q&A 12pm Tue 20 May
Q&A 12pm Wed 21 May

\$25 – \$60
Early Bird tickets
available



Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Footnote New Zealand Dance present the return season of the critically acclaimed *Modern God*. Stunts will be attempted. Records broken. Memes made. Content consumed. Advertising sold. Lives ruined. Heroes formed. This high-powered show, straddling the realms of contemporary dance and physical theatre, delves into the intricate web of global internet culture. It's a unique opportunity to dissect our interactions with the online world, from its absurdity and speed to its utility and potential dangers.

"Breathtaking tour de force of artistry"
– The Post

"Modern God is immediate. It's urgent and overwhelming. Bloody. Its concerns are with the now; the intersections between social media, capitalism, and us." – Jack McGee, Art Murmurs



JULIA

BY JOANNA MURRAY-SMITH

Not now, not ever.

One speech. Millions of voices.

COMPANY
BRAVE Theatre

PERFORMED BY
Lara Macgregor

DIRECTOR
Mel Dodge

30 May – 27 Jun
Preview 29 May
Circa One

Tues – Sat 7pm
Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$60
Early Bird tickets
available

In 2012, Julia Gillard delivered a speech that ricocheted across the world.

Julia brings the woman and the moment to the stage in a gripping one-woman performance that puts us inside a very public storm and reveals the life and pressures that led to it.

Against a backdrop of progress and pushback on gender equality, *Julia* takes on fresh resonance here in Aotearoa. This is more than one woman's story. It's a sharp, human look at power, conviction, and what it costs to stand your ground and say, "not now, not ever" in a world that still questions women who lead.

"Julia is an intoxicating and fascinating experience that hits something deep and resounding within us" – Time Out

"It builds like a storm"
– Sydney Morning Herald



THE TĪWHAS PRESENT: MĀREIKURA

Celebrate Matariki in Spectacular fashion with the family of queens you know and love!

COMPANY
The Tīwhas

Dame Jthan
Jthan Morgan
Slay West
Levi Waitere
Pānia
Raureti Ormond
Tina Coco Couture
Te Hāmama Hohua
Kree Matthews

NGĀTI TĪWHA
Hayden Taylor, Tom Knowles, Kate Anderson, Marshall Rankin, Hami Hawkins, Emma Katene, Taylor-Rose Terekia

3 Jul – 11 Jul
Preview 2 Jul
Circa One

Tues– Sat 7pm
Sun 6pm

Dinner and show packages and pricing will be announced on our website in early 2026

THE TĪWHAS!

“Me aro koe ki te hā o Hine-ahu-one.”

This Matariki, The Tīwhas present... MĀREIKURA – a bold celebration of Wāhine Māori. From the celestial realms to the frontlines of history, we honour the trailblazing women who have left a beauty mark on the face of te ao!

Join Ngāti Tīwha, as the Queens – Dame Jthan, Slay West, Pānia and Tina Coco Couture – ignite the stage with the fire of Mahuika in this soul-stirring night of concert!

Channelling the essence of our mothers, sisters, aunties and nans, we pay tribute to the women who have shaped our lives.

This is our love letter to the unbreakable spirit of wāhine.

Witness the majesty of MĀREIKURA.

Light refreshments will be served after the show, included in ticket price. Proudly supplied by Chouchou and Circa Theatre.

“Absolutely fabulous, the best night out! The show gets better every year!”

– Zhali Fainga’a, audience member
2024, 2025

“Stunning display of culture, talent, mana, drag, and takatāpuitanga”

– Elizabeth Malama, audience member
2025



WIEMU'S TABLE

BY CATRIONA TIPENE & RYAN CUNDY

A heart-worming tale for the whole whānau!

DIRECTOR
Catriona Tipene

COMPANY
Horse With No Name,
GRIDLEY by Victoria

4 – 18 Jul
Circa Two

Tue – Sat
10am & 11.30am

\$20
Under 2s free
Family pass
(4 tickets) \$70



HORSE
WITH NO NAME

GRIDLEY
by victoria

Wiremu the worm and Kere the kererū are preparing a surprise 100th birthday party for their mate, Tiaki the tuatara. And you're invited!

Come join these two buddies as they prepare for the big day. They're making a list and checking off all the important things a party should have: there's cake and kai, there's music and kanikani.

Wiremu and Kere will have to work together to make this party fit for a spritely tuatara! But don't worry – Wiremu has invited his Nan along to help prepare the kai for the table, and you can help out too, right?!

A celebration of manaakitanga and whānaungatanga, *Wiremu's Table* is about putting in the mahi for those we love!

Acclaim for *Kiwi's Big Hararei* (Circa Theatre, 2025): “*Kiwi's Big Hararei lights up Circa Theatre with a smart mix of humour, music and inventive storytelling*” – Deborah Rea, Theatreview

Acclaim for *Trees, Bees and Me* (2024): “*I don't even know where to start in telling you how absolutely captivating, magical and real this show is*” – Tania Du Toit, Regional News

PHOTO: STEPHEN ACOURT



LOCAL LIBRARY

BY DAVE ARMSTRONG

An overdue new comedy from Dave Armstrong

COMPANY
Armstrong Creative

DIRECTOR
Conrad Newport

STARRING
Peter Hambleton

DESIGNER
William Smith,
Tungsten Projects

25 Jul – 22 Aug
Preview 24 Jul
Circa Two

Tue – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm

\$25 – \$60

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
PLAYMARKET
HE RŌPŌ TAUTOKO TŪTŪ
WHAKAARI O AOTEAROA

Paul Homewood is a prickly retired widower who enjoys walking dogs and reading the speeches of Winston Churchill. Helen Nielsen is an uptight, divorced librarian who enjoys singing in a choir and reading the novels of E Annie Proulx. When Helen catches Paul ripping off the system at her suburban library, she bans him. He can only return if he reads a book that she recommends. Could a friendship develop from this book war? And who are the shady figures threatening to disrupt Helen's drag storytime? *Local Library* is an affectionate comedy about love, libraries, loneliness, local bodies, busy-bodies and the bloody city council.

“Armstrong’s ability to write a drama that is both contemporary and universal puts him at the top of the league table of Kiwi playwrights” – New Zealand Listener



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS ELECTION MELTDOWN

BY THOM ADAMS & JAMIE MCCASKILL

Fast-paced unhinged political satire

DIRECTOR
Carrie Green

PSA is created by
James Nokise and
Anya Tate-Manning

1 – 29 Aug
Preview 31 Jul
Circa One

Tue – Sat 7pm
Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$60
Early Bird tickets
available

Aotearoa's longest running political satire series, Public Service Announcements, is back at Circa Theatre to crash another election party!

From the depths of bureaucracy, from the bowels of the Beehive, amidst the rise of a three-headed taniwha, protests and strikes... another election looms and the politicians swarm.

Coalitions crumble, loyalties burn, Winston probably survives another term somehow and the nation faces a meltdown it really didn't vote for.

Irreverent and rowdy, PSA delivers up-to-the-minute raucous political comedy and features Pōneke's funniest performers.

“Devastating satire where all are game and few escape” – Theatreview

“High octane comedy packed with ferocious talent, crafting peerless silliness from consistently current events” – Scoop



JUDY'S ENCORE

The show that should have been

**WRITTEN BY AND
STARRING**
Ali Harper

MUSICAL ARRANGER
Tom Rainey

PIANIST
Francis Meria

GUITAR/HORNS
Blair Latham

COMPANY
Ali-Cat Productions Ltd

29 Aug – 26 Sept
Preview 28 Aug
Circa Two

Tue – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm

\$25 – \$60
Early Bird tickets
available

Ali-Cat
PRODUCTIONS Ltd

TAHI

It's 1967, and Judy Garland is back, ready to rewrite the narrative and reclaim her legacy after the heartbreak of her previous Australian tour. With her iconic voice, razor-sharp wit, and legendary resilience, Judy steps onto the stage once more, determined to captivate hearts and silence the critics.

Award-winning Ali Harper stars in the role of Judy and channels the music and charisma of the legendary Hollywood star.

Performing over 20 of Garland's hit songs, including "Get Happy", "The Trolley Song", "The Man That Got Away" and the Academy Award-winning song "Somewhere Over The Rainbow".

As the curtain rises, one question lingers: can Judy's indomitable spirit carry her through to the final bow? Be there to witness the magic, the drama, and the triumph of a true star.

"Ali Harper's depiction of Judy Garland is superb; I felt transported to another time. Harper has written a piece of art."

– Kineta Knight for Chris Lynch Media

"Ali Harper is sensational as Judy Garland! A thoroughly satisfying theatre experience has been created for us!"

– Theatreview



BECOME A FRIEND OF CIRCA

Annual Membership – \$75

Express your love for theatre by taking up a \$75 annual membership to our Friends of Circa programme. An affordable way to support Circa Theatre, you will receive:

- Two tickets at our special Friends price (\$40 per ticket) for the first two weeks of each production
- A monthly newsletter with special access to behind-the-scenes content
- Access to our exclusive Booking Service where Box Office staff will call to arrange your tickets
- Invitations to Q&As with artists and performers, and other special events
- 10% discount on Circa merchandise
- Invitation to join our social group where Friends can discuss the latest Circa shows
- Automatic entry into our Friends of Circa monthly giveaway of two Circa Theatre tickets

BECOME A SUPPORTER OF CIRCA THEATRE

Partners, donors and sponsors play an important role at Circa Theatre and every gift makes a difference. To become a donor, or to join Friends of Circa, please contact us in one of the following ways:

- Online by visiting circa.co.nz/support-us
- Box Office by calling us on 04 801 7992 or by emailing circa@circa.co.nz
- In Person by visiting Circa Theatre, 1 Taranaki Street, Wellington



UNCLE VANYA

BY ANTON CHEKHOV

Chekhov's masterpiece of love, loss, and the ache of unrealised dreams

**DIRECTED AND
DESIGNED BY**
Andrew Foster

12 Sep – 10 Oct
Preview 11 Sep
Circa One

Tue – Sat 7pm
Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$60
Early Bird tickets
available

In the heat of summer, Sonya and her Uncle Vanya while away their days on the remote family farm, visited occasionally by the local doctor.

When Sonya's celebrated father suddenly returns with his charismatic new wife, declaring his intention to sell the house, the polite façades crumble and long-repressed feelings emerge with devastating consequences.

Anton Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* is a masterpiece of modern drama – an aching, darkly comic portrait of wasted potential, thwarted love, and the quiet heroism of endurance. Written at the turn of the 20th century, its emotional truths remain startlingly fresh, speaking to our own age of uncertainty and longing.

“...a masterclass in emotional subtlety, where the silences speak louder than the words” – The New York Times

“More than a century after its premiere, Uncle Vanya still feels startlingly modern” – The Times

“Uncle Vanya remains one of the most psychologically acute and emotionally resonant plays in the theatrical canon”
– The Telegraph



TOM KNOWLES & JED PARSONS

Every “why” is an adventure waiting to happen!

STARRING

Tom Knowles and Jeff Parsnips

29 Sep – 10 Oct
Circa Two

Tue – Sat
10am & 11.30am
Sun 4 Oct
1.30pm & 3pm

\$20
Under 2s free
Family pass
(4 tickets) \$70

Kids ask the best questions. “Why is the sky blue?” “Why do we dream?” “Why does Dad always wear socks with sandals?” In *But Why, Dad?*, no question is too silly, too big, or too confusing to turn into a song! Hot on the heels of the smash-hit “All The Things I Wish I Could Be”, this Kiwi kids’ comedy concert dives into emotions, discoveries, mistakes, and mysteries – with plenty of laughs along the way. A riot of music and curiosity that proves asking “why” is the best superpower of all – even if Dad doesn't know all the answers! Every “why” is an adventure waiting to happen!

"Funny, fast-paced, and full of heart"
– Theatreview

“...subtle nods for adults tucked among the big beats for kids” – Theatreview



GOOD MORNING



GOOD AFTERNOON



GOOD EVENING



GOOD FUN



GOOD FUNCTIONS

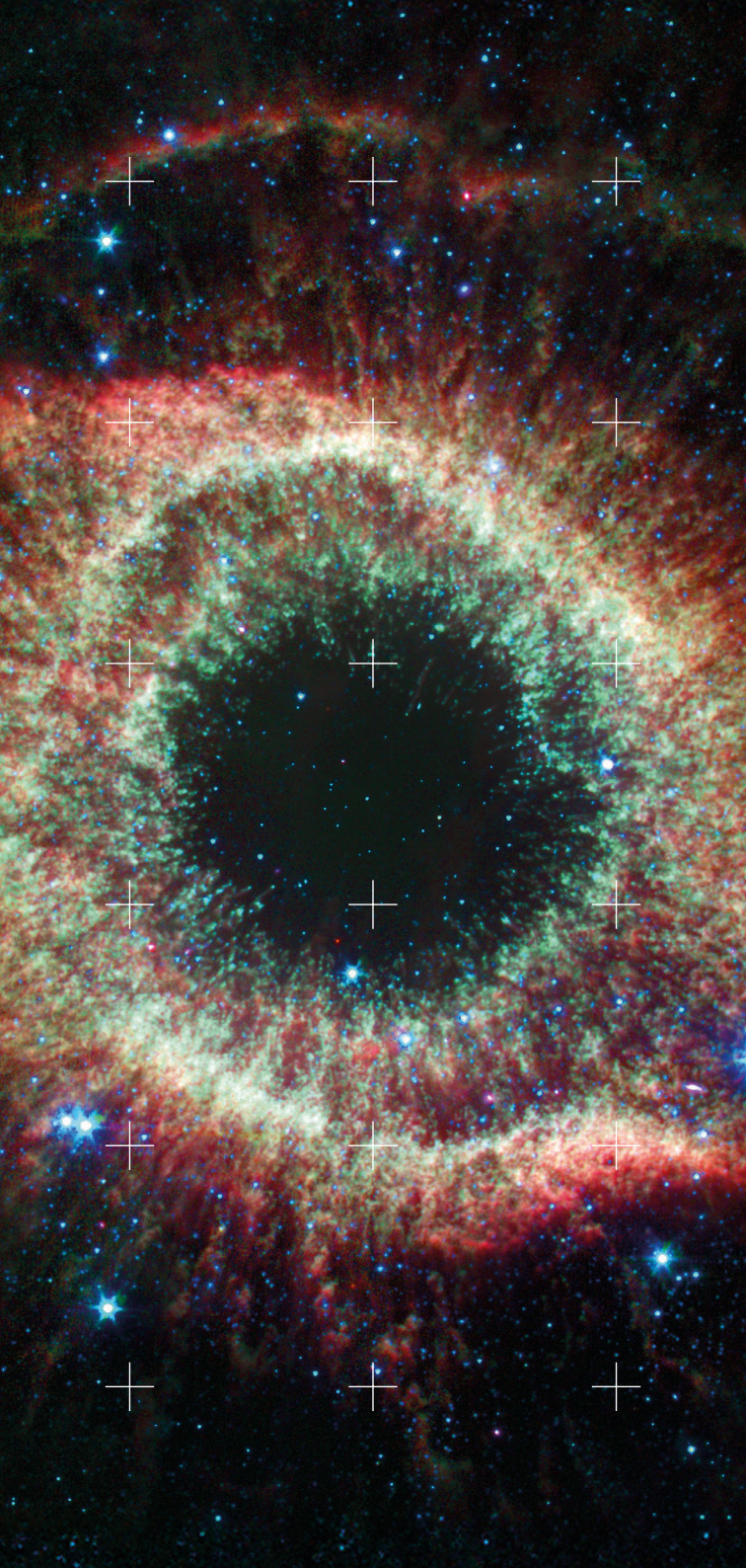


GOOD TIMES

CHOUCHOU

www.chouchou.co.nz





AFTER GOD

BY STUART MCKENZIE

Hope is an act of defiance

DIRECTORS

Miranda Harcourt
& Stuart McKenzie

CAST

Including
Michael Hurst,
Carrie Green
& Byron Coll

COMPANY

Afterimage Films Ltd

SET DESIGNER

Mark McEntyre

COMPOSER

Andrew Thomas

17 Oct – 14 Nov

Preview 16 Oct

Circa One

Tue – Sat 7pm

Sun 4pm

\$25– \$60

Early Bird tickets
available



An urgent meditation on hope and meaning in an age of crisis, *After God* springs from intimate interviews with theologian and cultural critic Mark C Taylor, a provocative voice in the post Death-of-God movement. (Is there such a movement? Yes.)

Part inquiry, part revelation, part road-trip, playwright Stuart McKenzie weaves together the voices of spiritual leaders, seekers, taxi drivers, and even his own mum, asking the question, How do we live when old certainties die?

Bold, heartfelt, funny, and surprising – the eclipse of God, but also the pursuit – *After God* propels us to the edge of our deepest concerns, glimpsing infinity in finitude.

“Confronting, enlightening, comedic, tragic – and essential in every respect...” – John Smythe, Theatreview

“Primal, beautiful, must-see, have-to-feel theatre...” – Simon Sweetman, Sounds Good



AUSTEN FOUND

LORI DUNGEY & PENNY ASHTON

The Undiscovered Musicals of Jane Austen

STARRING

Lori Dungey
Penny Ashton
Jamie Burgess

18 Nov – 20 Dec
Preview 17 Nov
Circa Two

Tue – Sat 7.30pm
Sun 4.30pm

\$25 – \$45

Before Penny Ashton's *Sense and Sensibility* and *Promise and Promiscuity* there was *Austen Found*, the improvised best-selling musical that started it all. Penny is delighted to now bring it to Circa Two, along with her original partner in bonnets – founder of the Improvisers, star of *LOTR* and *M3GAN* – Lori Dungey. And all on Austen's 251st Birthday. Huzzah!

Addicted to Darcy? Bonkers for Big Balls? Aren't we all! Join Ashton (*Olive Copperbottom*, *The Tempestuous*), Dungey (*The Dinner*), and twinkle fingers Jamie Burgess, as they swoon, romp, and pianoforte their way through Austen's world. Charming suitors, meddlesome mothers and surprisingly well-educated girls will all paint a vivid picture in song, dance and passionate handholding.

Complete sell out Wellington Improv Fest, Adelaide Fringe and NZ International Comedy Fest.

Opening preview is a fundraiser for Pet Refuge. We will donate 50% of profits to domestic abuse survivors and their pets.

"An excellently executed, hilarious and side-splitting bit of nonsense to create tears of joy" – ODT

WE BELIEVE THEATRE IS FOR EVERYONE

Access Discounted Tickets

Circa offers an access price of \$25 per person for blind or low vision patrons, wheelchair users and deaf or hard of hearing patrons, plus free of charge for a companion. Service dogs are allowed.

Access Shows

We offer relaxed performances, audio described and NZSL performances, we are also part of the hidden disability's organisation Sunflower Lanyards. For more information on parking and access to Circa, visit www.circa.co.nz.

Child Tickets

For ages 18 and under tickets are \$25.00. Children's shows are a flat \$20.00 per seat.

\$30 for Ages 30 and Under

To encourage more youth to attend more live performance shows, we offer \$30 tickets to ages 30 years and younger.

Early Bird Tickets

Select shows offer Early Bird ticket discounts for two weeks – stay updated via our e-newsletter or social media.

Sunday Specials

On the first Sunday performance on a show season, select shows offer a discounted price.

Choose Your Price Nights

Shows offer a flexible pricing scheme, with tickets ranging from \$15 to \$65, allowing attendees to pay what they wish within that range so that everyone can enjoy the theatre.

Show Preview Nights

Preview nights are discounted rehearsal performances the week before opening and available on select shows, giving audiences an early look and helping shape the final show.

Group Bookings

Group discounted pricing is available, please check with Box Office for more details.



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: THE PANTOMIME

SIMON LEARY & GAVIN RUTHERFORD

A magical menagerie

DIRECTOR
Gavin Rutherford

21 Nov – 20 Dec
Preview 20 Nov
Circa One

Tues – Sat 6.30pm
Sun 4pm

\$25 – \$68
Family Pass available
Early Bird tickets available



She is beauty, she is grace... she's ended up in an awfully strange place.

Belle is on a quest to heal her unwell father. To save him, her books lead her to a magical rose on the grounds of a mysterious castle just outside the quaint village of Wellingville. But when she arrives, Belle seems to disturb a monstrous Beast with bad manaakitanga. As the castle comes to life, Belle must navigate challenges her books didn't prepare her for.

Zut alors! For the first time ever, the Circa Theatre pantomime goes to France with another fresh take on a family favourite. Featuring spectacular songs, goofy gags, and a spellbinding story for all ages.

A sell-out every summer, do not miss this magical night at the theatre.

Reviews from *Sleeping Beauty* (2024):

“Classic family fun for all ages ... creates a nebulous, magical world”
Art Murmurs

“A fast-paced show driven by some serious star power” – The Post

PLAY READINGS

Celebrating 50 years of Excellence in Theatre from New Zealand and Around The World

WE PROUDLY PRESENT "SIX OF THE BEST"

On select Saturdays throughout the year, we are pleased to offer a series of rehearsed play readings. These gems have been selected from over 1,149 productions from 1977 to 2012.

25 April has been purposely selected because Circa's official opening was the 23 April 1976 (Shakespeare's birthday). We will be celebrating after the play reading with birthday cake and drinks.

Tickets \$25 – \$30



MIDDLE AGE SPREAD

By Roger Hall, directed by Susan Wilson |
2pm Sat 25 Apr, followed by cake and drinks

First performed at Harris St in 1977, directed by Michael Haigh, starring Dorothy McKegg, Grant Tilly, Jane Waddell, Ray

Henwood, Donna Akersten and John Reid. Three couples attend a dinner none of them wants. This brilliant and poignant tragicomedy remains a significantly relevant social commentary. An award-winning classic that is still a powerful theatrical experience.



BERT AND MAISY

By Robert Lord, directed by Katherine McRae |
2pm Sat 6 Jun

First performed at Harris St in 1986, directed by Susan Wilson, starring Grant Tilly, Alice Fraser, Jon Brazier, Jane

Waddell, Timothy Bartlett. Bert, a retired carpenter, brings home a young stranger. He and his wife Maisy take on a jaunty new lease of life, but their unconventional behaviour is regarded with horror in small town New Zealand.

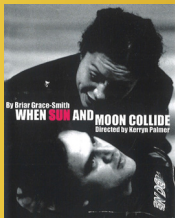


THE HOMECOMING

By Harold Pinter, directed by Ross Jolly |
2pm Sat 27 Jun

Harold Pinter's most iconic play, *The Homecoming* unfolds around the dynamics of a dysfunctional family. The play explores themes of power, sexuality

and a toxic family feud with dark humour uniquely Pinteresque. First performed at Harris St in 1992, directed by Ross, starring Michael Haigh, Brian Sargent, Peter Vere-Jones, John Wraight, Bruce Phillips and Perry Piercy.



WHEN SUN AND MOON COLLIDE

By Briar Grace-Smith, directed by Carrie Green |
2pm Sat 11 Jul

First performed in Circa Two in 2004 (11–26 June) with Toby Leach, Jamie McCaskill, Olivia Robinson and Angela Green. Isaac runs a tearoom in the middle of nowhere where he watches life and cars pass by his window each day until he finds himself embroiled in something very sinister.



PENINSULA

Written and directed by Gary Henderson |
2pm Saturday 8 August

First performed in Circa One in 2012, starring Michele Amas, Laura Hill, Paul McLaughlin, Phil Vaughan and Jason Whyte.

Michael Hope is ten years old and sleeps on a volcano. But not all volcanoes are extinct. Not everything is above ground.



DEATH OF A SALESMAN

By Arthur Miller, directed by Andrew Foster | 2pm Sat 19 Sep

First performed in Circa One in 2006 directed by Susan Wilson, starring George Henare and Jennifer Ludlam. Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* is a quiet storm of a play – an intimate portrait of a man chasing success in a world that's quietly slipping out of his grasp.

Two new plays for 2026:



DIRTY MINDED LITTLE GIRLS

Written and directed by Lori Leigh | 2pm Sat 10 Oct

Fact blurs with fiction in this imagined reunion of two estranged women, once infamous. Inspired by one of Aotearoa's most sensational crimes – the Pauline Parker and Juliet Hulme case.



SIGNIFICANT OTHERS

By Evangelina Telfar, directed by Lia Kelly |
2pm Sat 14 Nov

Queer best friends Freddie, Lennon and Connolly have never had any interest in dating. When one of them unexpectedly dives into a romantic relationship, they are forced to ask if they will be able to hold onto their Significant Others – or will this pull them apart?

We are delighted to announce

AN AUDIENCE WITH SIR SAM NEILL

IN CONVERSATION WITH IAN FRASER

Sunday 22 Feb 2026 at Circa Theatre

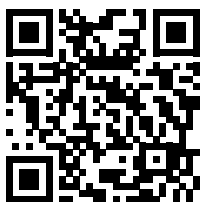
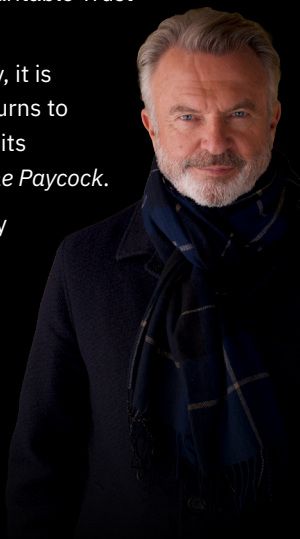
Fundraising for 'Theatre Artists Charitable Trust'

More event details to come.

As Circa marks its 50th anniversary, it is especially fitting that Sam Neill returns to the theatre where he performed in its inaugural year, 1976, in *Juno and the Paycock*.

Sam has been nominated for Emmy and Golden Globe awards and has won two Silver Logies. He was appointed OBE in 1991, and DCNZM in 2006. He was knighted KNZM in 2022.

Sam lives in the South Island and is the Proprietor of TWO PADDOCKS wines.



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local artists Theatre
Artist's Charitable Trust**

www.circa.co.nz/support-us

CIRCA THEATRE

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