

Theatre New Zealand

Adult Residential Summer Theatre School

PRINCIPAL TUTORS



Bryan Aitken: Acting

A former Associate Artistic Director and original company member of *The Court Theatre*, Christchurch, Bryan has worked as an actor or director for most of New Zealand's major Theatre Companies. He has been awarded a *QEII Arts Council Travel Grant*, a *Trustbank Arts Excellence Award* and the *1990 Commemorative Medal*, for his work with youth.

While a director/dramaturg for the NZBC, he adapted many stage plays for radio, wrote for children's programmes and acted for Downstage Theatre. He has also held positions as Artistic Director of *The Arts Employment Scheme*, Artistic Director of the *RoadShow Trust* and Course Director for the *Diploma in Performing Arts, Nelson Polytechnic*.

Bryan has been a guest Lecturer & Tutor at *Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts*, in Perth (WAAPA) and the *National Academy of Singing and Dramatic Art*, in Christchurch (NASDA). He also received study leave with Opera Australia. Bryan continues to freelance as a Director, Dramaturg and Tutor. His productions are as diverse as the epic musical *Les Miserables* to the works of Harold Pinter and Roger Hall. He is an Associate of *The Court Theatre* and a Life Member of *Theatre New Zealand*.



Lara Macgregor: Directing

Lara has worked as an actor, director and performance coach in New Zealand, Australia and the United States of America. She studied acting in New York with the iconic Uta Hagen, Anthony Abeson and Alec Reubin, appearing in over thirty productions throughout the USA. Lara holds a Post-Graduate Diploma in Directing from the *National Institute of Dramatic Art* in Sydney (NIDA) and has also directed throughout Australia, New Zealand and America.

As Associate Director of *The Court Theatre* she directed many new works including; *The Tutor*, *Saving Grace*, *On The Rocks* and *My Name is Rachel Corrie*.

Her five years as Artistic Director of *Fortune Theatre* Dunedin, saw her mount many New Zealand Premiers alongside theatre standards. These include: *Red*, *In The Next Room (The Vibrator Play)*, *Punk Rock* and *The Caretaker*. Her critically acclaimed production of *The Curious Incident of The Dog in The Night-time* at *The Court* received an extended season, a rare occurrence.

Over the past two years Lara has worked across all disciplines at; *The Auckland Theatre Company*, *Centrepont Theatre*, *The Actors' Programme*, *South Pacific Pictures*, *Otago University Theatre Studies*, *The Court Theatre* and *NASDA*.



Laurence Wiseman: Youth Theatre

A graduate of NASDA and Canterbury College of Education, Laurence has been HOD Drama of *Linwood College*, *Aranui High School* and is currently Head of Drama and Dance at *St Andrews College*, Christchurch.

Directing and choreographing credits include *Guys and Dolls*, *Anything Goes*, *West Side Story*, *Urinetown* and *Cabaret*, all youth-based productions. He also won the New Director Award, Best Adult Production and Best Overall Production with *Bent* in 2008, at National Finals of Theatre New Zealand's *TheatreFest*. He has taken part in *The Court Theatre* script development workshops. Laurence has also been guest lecturer at Canterbury College graduate Drama Teachers programme.

Performance highlights include featured roles in *Beauty and the Beast*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *The Full Monty* for *Showbiz Christchurch*. Laurence specializes in working with youth.

He plays piano, composes and creates innovative ensemble-based productions, pushing the boundaries to show just what youth are capable of achieving in performance.