

T h e a t r e N e w Z e a l a n d
Te Pūtoi Whakaari o Aotearoa

Fostering Community Theatre across Aotearoa/New Zealand



**Theatre New Zealand 2024 TheatreFest
GENERAL INFORMATION**

Ka whakatairanga, ka whakatītina, ka ārahi anō hoki a Te Pūtoi Whakaari o Aotearoa (TNZ) i ngā rōpū whakaari ā-hapori, ā-rangatahi hoki i roto i ngā āhuatanga katoa o Te Ao Rēhia.

TE KAUPAPA: THEATRE NEW ZEALAND

- Theatre New Zealand represents community and educational theatre groups across Aotearoa NZ.
- Through advocacy, initiatives, workshops and the annual *TheatreFest*, Theatre New Zealand (TNZ) promotes, fosters and mentors community and youth theatre in all its aspects. These include performance, production, staging, design, and script creation.

TE ARONGA: PURPOSE OF *TheatreFest*

To improve theatre standards by:

- providing each participating group with feedback on its work in respect of creativity, technique and production choices
- offering constructive feedforward to performance groups for further development
- helping audiences better understand the components of theatrical production
- encouraging friendship, learning, sharing, and communicating through theatre practice

NGĀ WHĀINGA: OBJECTIVES OF *TheatreFest*

Participants will:

- Increase their knowledge and confidence through performance and education (Whakangungu)
- observe and support the work of other groups (Manaakitanga)
- develop relationships with other participants and groups (Whakawhanaungatanga)

TE RAUPAPA: STRUCTURE OF *TheatreFest*

- There are two levels to *TheatreFest*: - Local and Regional plus ShowCase; a festival of the top presentations coming through *TheatreFest*
- At Local *TheatreFests*, there is a talk from the stage by the adjudicator, a 10-minute Greenroom discussion and a written report.

- The Adjudicator recommends to the organisers those presentations to be advanced to the regional level.
- There are 4 Regional *TheatreFests*: 2 in the North Island, Upper and Lower and two in the South Island, Upper and Lower.
- A panel of two adjudicators from Local *TheatreFest* reassesses the Regional *TheatreFest* presentations and recommends 6 presentations to be invited to perform at ShowCase.
- The only adjudications at Regional TheatreFest are a team talk via Zoom within a week of the Regional *TheatreFest* and a written report.
- Local *TheatreFests* can offer a non-competitive section where theatre groups or schools may enter the Local *TheatreFest* and receive an adjudication but choose not to be selected to perform at regional level.
- If a Local *TheatreFest* is not being held within a groups/school's region or the group/school is not able, for whatever reason, to attend a local *TheatreFest* in their region, then they may enter a *TheatreFest* in another region but only with the consent of *TheatreFest* National Coordinator, or, they may have their presentation adjudicated at their own venue and be considered for selection to a Regional *TheatreFest*.
- ShowCase is a festival of theatre where the 6 top presentations from the Regional TheatreFests are invited to perform. No form of adjudication takes place at ShowCase and no awards are given out.

THEATREFEST: HE AHA NGĀ PAINGA? WHY GET INVOLVED?

- *TheatreFest* allows individual work and the production to develop through impartial views of an ANZDA Accredited Adjudicator.
- *TheatreFest* adjudication focusses on creativity, direction, staging and acting.
- *TheatreFest* facilitates networking within the community theatre environment, including societies, directors, educators and practitioners in all fields of theatre.
- *TheatreFest* is an ideal forum for practising stage craft in a supportive atmosphere, whatever the experience level. Newcomers and young people can mix, work, and learn from each other and from more experienced and seasoned practitioners.
- *TheatreFest* is an open forum: any form of presentation is accepted, that it is 50 minutes or less in duration, regardless of genre, style or author and can include music and dance and is not restricted by cultural or content boundaries.
- *TheatreFest* is an open format that treats participants and audiences with several styles of theatre in one evening.
- *TheatreFest* recognises endeavour, enterprise, and excellence.
- *TheatreFest* progression to Regional level or ShowCase brings prestige to a group.
- Groups/schools participating in *TheatreFest* are offered one hour's free guidance online on a subject of their choosing eg directing, scenography, devising, costuming, touring, creating websites.

He aha te hua mō ngā kura? What's in it for schools?

- Students see that there is a theatre-life beyond school.
- Foster and develop inter-school and wider community relationships through theatre and raises the profile of a school's drama programme in the community and nationally.
- Allows projects from a drama programme to be entered in a forum beyond school.
- Supports performance requirements across Levels 1-3 NCEA Drama Standards.
- Ensemble or devised class projects are eligible for entry.
- Progressing on to the Regional or *TheatreFest* ShowCase inspires teams to step-up.
- Travelling to other centres places Performing Arts on a par with sporting activities.

- Recognition awards can stand alongside those of sporting achievements.

TE MĀKOHAKOHA: THEATREFEST ADJUDICATION

- Adjudication is an educative process for both the teams and the audience. Comments are intended to be constructive and educative.
- Adjudication allows reflection on an outsider's professional opinion.
- Adjudication is a two-way conversation to better understand feedback.