

Theatre New Zealand

Te Pūtoi Whakaari o Aotearoa

THEATRE AT ITS BEST
Whakaari Kairangatira

FESTIVALS and AWARDS Information Booklet

2025 Dates

Local Region 1
Dargaville - 2nd August

Local Region 2
Hamilton - 25-26 July
Taupo - 9 August
Tauranga - 2 August

Local Region 3
Napier - 26-27 July
Manawatu - 9-17 April
Pahiatua - TBC
Gisborne - TBC

Local Region 4
Masterton - 19-20 July
Wellington - 25-26 July

Local Region 5
Blenheim - 12-13 July

Local Region 6
Christchurch - 2-3 August
Timaru - 16-17 August
Westport - 26 July

Local Region 7
Dunedin - 19-20 July
Queenstown - 26-27 July

Regional Dates
23-24 August
• Auckland • Palmerston North
• Nelson • Dunedin

ShowCase
Hamilton - 19-21 September



Set your theatre vision into motion today!



SHOWCASE (Celebration)

"Theatre is the only way to run away without leaving home."

Each team performing receives:

- **The prestigious "Golden Koru" plaque (TNZs highest accolade)**
- **Certificate of achievement for each participating team member**
- **\$250.00 per team (Drama Development Trust Award)**
- **Book of Honour placement**



PRESIDENTS TRANS TASMAN TROPHY ONE ACT PLAY COMPETITION BETWEEN Victorian Drama League (Victoria, Australia) and Theatre New Zealand

One team performing at ShowCase will be selected to represent TNZ for the Presidents Trans Tasman Trophy. This fun event is held between Victoria Drama League, Melbourne and Theatre New Zealand.

The selected teams will compete against each other on the weekend of ShowCase and recipient of the trophy will be determined by the deliberation of the respective presidents or nominated seconds. The following year a team will be selected to represent TNZ at a festival in Victoria.



Theatre NEW ZEALAND

NATIONAL THEATRE NEW ZEALAND AWARDS

*“Set a goal that commands your thoughts, liberates your energy
and inspires your hopes.” “Whāia te iti kahurangi.”*

Up to three Nominations per category are announced prior to ShowCase. Award recipients are announced at the TNZ Dinner/Awards Evening held at ShowCase and will be live streamed nationwide to our theatre Community.

Each nominee will receive a certificate of nomination.

Awardees are drawn from the participating Local One Act Play festivals and the TNZ Local & Regional TheatreFest. All awardees must be a member of TNZ or a member of a TNZ group/society.

National Performance Awards

- **Best Set Design**
- **Best Lighting Design**
- **Best Sound Design**
- **Best Costume Design**
- **Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy/Farce**
- **Best Supporting Actor in a Drama**
- **Best Actor in a Comedy/Farce**
- **Best Actor in a Drama**
- **Best Performance of an Ensemble**
- **Best Director**
- **Best Use of Original and/or Live Music**
Michael Norris Perpetual Award
- **Best Production of a New Zealand Play**
Doug Clarke Memorial Award (2025)



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National Achievement Awards

- **Seeding of Creative Potential**
He Pito Aranui Award (Māori Pacifica)
- **Contribution to Backstage Achievement**
David Brockett Memorial Award
- **Playmarket Writers Award:** New work from Aotearoa New Zealand.
Pounamu Award donated by Nannette Wright, in recognition of Olga E Harding who, for many years, was actively involved with the British Drama League (BDL) and who, after the formation of NZTF, became one of its Presidents. The Award is generously sponsored by Playmarket.

National Service Awards

- **Meritorious Award Certificate**
Awarded to an active member of one or more Theatre New Zealand member groups for at least 25 years and who has been active in productions on stage, backstage, front of house or administratively for this time.
- **Theatre New Zealand Hall of Fame Award**
Member Companies are invited to send written nominations (500-1000 words)



Every member company can submit nominations to The TNZ Executive of people they believe best represent someone who encapsulates everything that theatre means to us.

This person must have shown the spirit of kindness and endeavour, as well as being an outstanding contributor to their company and the TNZ theatre community as a whole.

This person can be behind the scenes, on stage, in the office, in the foyer, but absolutely has to be someone who has contributed over and above for a sustained period of time to the development of TNZ and Community Theatre in New Zealand.

We want the champions, the ones who make us smile, who we know will be there if we need them, and who are there even without us asking and the ones who blow us away with their talent, regardless of the field. The awardee will be announced at The TNZ Awards evening and will be presented their award.



REGIONAL FESTIVALS

Regional TheatreFest is now considered to be a significant regional celebration of theatre. At the regional level and following the performance, there will be an immediate five-minute adjudication from the stage and then a ten-minute Greenroom discussion with the adjudicator. Following the Regional TheatreFest, each team will receive written feedback, and awards will be given out as highlighted below in the same categories as with previous festivals

TheatreFest Regional Awards (Recognising) / He Tohu Kairangi

"If we chase perfection we can catch excellence." "Poipoia te kākano kia puawai."

- **Certificates of Participation**
- **Excellence in Acting**
- **Excellence in Directing**
- **Excellence in Ensemble Playing**
- **Excellence in Overall Design**
- **Excellence in Use of Music (Recorded or Live)**
- **Excellence in:**
 - Production of a New Zealand Play
 - Production of a Comedy/Farce
 - Production of a Drama
 - Overall Production





LOCAL FESTIVALS

Local TheatreFest continues as we have done for many decades, the chance to try out new ideas, get some new plays going, invite more people and have fun remain. The opportunity for feedback, travel and competition continues as a part of TheatreFest. There is no change to this model, the local Festival remains autonomous, hosted by local groups.

Current practices at Local Festivals will continue: the accredited adjudicator will provide adjudication from the stage (5 minutes) the 10-minute Green Room and the follow up written report. Support for getting the local festival in place will be provided by your Regional Representative, and the TheatreFest Advisor.

Awards will be given in the same categories as with previous festivals.

TheatreFest Local Awards (Encouraging) / He Tohu Kairangi

“We only fail when we fail to try.” “He iti hau marangai, e tū te pāhokahoka.”

- **Certificate of Participation**
- **Magic Moment**
- **Distinction in Acting**
- **Distinction in Directing**
- **Distinction in Ensemble Playing**
- **Distinction in Overall Design**
- **Distinction in Use of Music (Recorded or Live)**
- **Distinction Award**
 - Production of a New Zealand Play
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