



# Theatrefest

Create - Perform - Grow

## Bring NCEA to life through TheatreFest

Community and Youth Theatre Three-Tier Festivals - Schools are invited to enter! Perform at your Local Festival with the chance to advance to your Regional Festival - or even get selected to perform at the culmination National event - ShowCase



New Plymouth Boys' High School - Recipients of the prestigious 'Golden Koru' at ShowCase 2024

### Why Choose TheatreFest?

#### NCEA Aligned:

Integrates with Level 1, 2, and 3 Drama standards, including scriptwriting and directing.

#### Hands-On Learning:

Real-world experience in acting, directing, scriptwriting, and production.

#### Community and Growth:

Connect with peers and professionals nationwide.

#### Technical Skills:

Perfect for Entertainment and Event Technologies standards.



**TheatreFest** is open to all community and school theatre groups, offering a nationwide three-tier system for theatrical presentations and development. The process commences with groups participating in adjudicated performances at the **LOCAL** level. Here, they share, observe, and learn from experienced community practitioners and one another. Each Performance is provided with constructive and valuable feedback for the development of the work and the artists performing in it. Selected performances advance to the next level, participating in one of the four **REGIONAL** TheatreFest events. From these four Regional TheatreFest gatherings, 5-8 outstanding performances, from across the country, are chosen to be showcased at TheatreFest **NATIONAL ShowCase**. This final event aims to celebrate the excellence of community and youth theatre for any given year.

This document advocates for using TheatreFest as a platform for NCEA teaching, learning and Assessment.

TheatreFest provides a unique opportunity to integrate NCEA standards into a dynamic and practical learning environment. By participating in the festival, students gain hands-on experience in various aspects of theatre production, from collaboration, devising and acting to scriptwriting, directing and technical design. This experiential approach not only enhances their understanding of the subject matter but also allows them to apply their skills in a real-world context.

The new **Level 1** NCEA Drama standards (AS91941, AS91942, AS91943) align perfectly with TheatreFest's creative and performance opportunities. **AS91941** allows students to engage in creative strategies to develop original material, making it an ideal fit for those writing and devising plays for the festival. **AS91942** focuses on performing a scripted role, providing a natural extension into rehearsals and live performances during the festival. **AS91943** enhances students' ability to critically respond to theatre, which can be applied by attending and analysing the diverse range of performances seen at TheatreFest events. This blend of creative participation, performance, and critical engagement complements the festival's dynamic environment.

Involvement in TheatreFest also aligns seamlessly with Level 2 and 3 NCEA Drama standards. At **Level 2**, standards like **AS91213** (applying drama techniques) and **AS91218** (performing a substantial acting role) are enhanced as students refine their skills through rehearsal and live performance. At **Level 3**, standards such as **AS91512** (interpreting scripted text) and **AS91517** (performing a substantial role) enable students to tackle advanced projects. The festival's emphasis on live theatre experiences naturally complements **AS91518** (understanding live drama) and **AS91520** (directing a full performance), offering Level 3 students the chance to apply their learning in a public forum.

Across all three levels, TheatreFest facilitates a practical and immersive learning environment, allowing students to develop, test, and showcase their abilities. Many schools and teachers already utilise TheatreFest in their programmes, and Theatre New Zealand is well-positioned to offer guidance and support on how this integration can be achieved in any school setting. This makes the festival an invaluable tool for hands-on theatre education at every level.

Furthermore, TheatreFest provides an ideal context for students across all levels to develop their scriptwriting and directing skills. With standards at **Level 1** encouraging participation in creative drama, students can start exploring basic scripting and performance roles, while **Level 2** and **Level 3** students deepen their engagement through complex scene writing, directing, and substantial performance roles. This progression ensures that as students move from Level 1 to Level 3, they can refine their techniques and push creative boundaries, building a strong foundation for scriptwriting and directing within a collaborative and practical environment.



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### **Scriptwriting (2.8/3.8):**

TheatreFest is an excellent platform for students to develop their scriptwriting skills. For Level 3 students, the festival provides the opportunity to craft an entire play, while Level 2 students can focus on writing individual scenes. The rehearsal process is invaluable for students as it allows them to see their work in action, identifying what works and what doesn't, which is critical for the revision and editing stages. The feedback received from the adjudication complements the internal marking and moderation process, encouraging students to refine their scripts with a more critical eye, knowing their work will be evaluated by someone unfamiliar with their ideas.

### **Directing (2.9/3.9):**

TheatreFest also serves as a powerful tool for developing directing skills, particularly for Level 3 students who can work on more extended scenes. The festival setting provides a real-world deadline, pushing students to hone their directing abilities while receiving external feedback. This experience is crucial for students interested in the broader aspects of theatre, allowing them to experiment with innovative staging, including movement sequences, lighting, and special effects. The feedback from the festival can be incorporated into their portfolio, enriching their overall reflection and providing a foundation for further improvement, especially for those who advance to higher levels of competition.

## Entertainment and Event Technologies:

TheatreFest is an exceptional platform for delivering Levels 1, 2, and 3 Entertainment and Event Technologies Unit Standards, with a significant portion of the learning occurring within the school during the development phase and rehearsals. This phase allows students to explore and refine their technical skills in areas such as lighting, sound, makeup, costume, props/scenic elements, and production/operations roles.

**At Level 1 (Unit Standards 26686-26691)**, introduce students to foundational knowledge and basic practical skills. During rehearsals, students apply these basics, setting the stage for more advanced work. When performances begin during TheatreFest, these skills are tested, allowing students to see the impact of their work in a live setting.

**At Level 2 (Unit Standards 27699-27704)**, the standards delve deeper into design, development, and technical execution. Much of this learning occurs as students develop their ideas and collaborate on more complex aspects of production. TheatreFest performances challenge these students to refine their designs and solve real-time issues, providing valuable feedback for continued learning.



Kuranui College 2024

**At Level 3 (Unit Standards 32366-32375)**, students engage in advanced design and realization, pushing the boundaries of their technical expertise. The development phase involves leading projects, innovating in technical roles, and preparing for the festival. During TheatreFest, their work is put to the ultimate test, as they manage sophisticated setups and respond to live performance dynamics.

This approach ensures that TheatreFest not only supports but enhances the NCEA learning objectives across all levels, providing a rich context for students to develop, test, and realize their ideas in a live performance environment.

## Broader Educational Benefits:

The most significant advantage of participating in TheatreFest is the opportunity it provides for a wide range of students to engage in meaningful performance experiences. Unlike full school productions, TheatreFest allows more students to take on significant roles, whether on stage or behind the scenes. This inclusive approach gives students a deeper understanding of production processes and the challenges of bringing a show to life. They develop essential skills such as time management, project coordination, and effective communication with both peers and theatre professionals.

## Community Building and Networking:

The regional and national festivals offer students the chance to connect with like-minded peers from across the country, fostering a sense of community and belonging. For students from rural or smaller schools, this interaction with students from larger or urban schools broadens their perspectives and reinforces their connection to the wider theatre community. Additionally, meeting adults and theatre companies during the festival helps students build networks that can lead to future opportunities in community theatre and beyond.



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In conclusion, TheatreFest is more than just a performance opportunity; it is a comprehensive learning experience that supports NCEA standards while fostering personal and professional growth in students.

## Engage Youth Today and Build Tomorrow's Audience

### 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**  
Auckland - 23-24 August  
Palmerston North - 23-24 August  
Nelson - 23-24 August  
Dunedin - 23-24 August

**ShowCase**  
Hamilton - 19-21 September