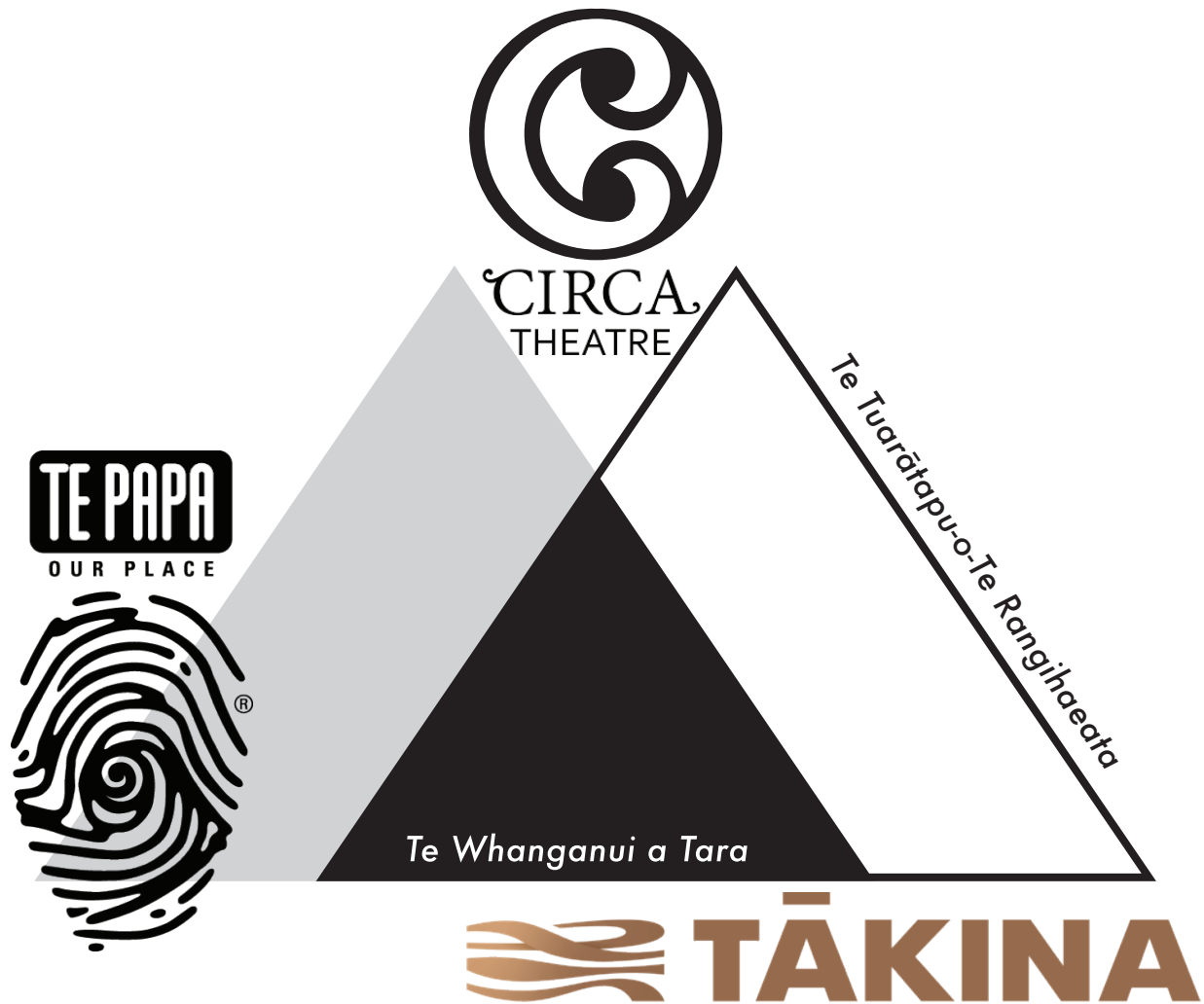


Theatre New Zealand

Te Pūtoi Whakaari o Aotearoa



AITA/IATA International Theatre Festival Wellington 2027

During the 2023 AITA/IATA World Festival in Hungary, Theatre New Zealand President, was asked by the President of AITA/IATA Mr Aled Rhys-Jones (Wales) if we (Theatre New Zealand) would be interested in pursuing the idea of New Zealand hosting this International Theatre Festival in March 2027.



AITA/IATA President's Letter To Whom It May Concern:

I write as the President of the International Amateur Theatre Association (AITA/IATA asbl), to confirm that Theatre New Zealand is an Associate Member of AITA/IATA whose current President is Paul Percy.

AITA/IATA was founded in Europe in 1952 to bring amateur theatre makers together. It has grown steadily since that time and now has members in over 60 countries who come together to celebrate their art and love of theatre.

AITA/IATA assists in hosting international theatre events in collaboration and partnership with local organisations around the world. Our next scheduled event is the World Festival of Children's Theatre which will take place in Lingen, Germany in June 2025. This will be followed by the Mondial du Théâtre – an international festival of amateur theatre which will take place in Monaco in August 2025.

Every AITA/IATA International Festival welcomes theatre groups from around the world to perform, take part in theatre workshops, network and learn from each other's cultures and theatre practices.

The Council of AITA/IATA have met, considered and approved an outline proposal from Theatre New Zealand to host the AITA/IATA International Festival in Wellington in 2027. It is anticipated that a small AITA/IATA delegation will undertake a visit to New Zealand and Wellington in the beginning of 2025 with a view to viewing venues, accommodation etc.

However, at the next AITA/IATA Mondial du Théâtre to be held in August 2025 (outline details [HERE](#)) and during the AITA/IATA General Assembly, Mr. Paul Percy will formally propose to delegates that New Zealand hosts this prestigious event in 2027. The right to host will be at the discretion of the Monaco 2025 international membership assembly.

Aled Rhys-Jones,
President AITA/IATA

PORTUGAL



FRANCE



Background

The **International Amateur Theatre Association** (AITA/IATA asbl) is a worldwide non-governmental organisation of Member (National Centres) and Associates dedicated to promoting understanding and education through amateur theatre. Founded in Belgium in 1952, its members operate in more than 60 countries on 5 continents, making AITA/IATA the powerful voice of the global amateur theatre community. The current President is Mr Aled Rhys-Jones from Wales and the organisation's Secretariat is in London, England.

AITA/IATA actively encourages and unites amateur theatre groups, community theatres and organisations working with amateur theatre makers and individuals throughout the world who love creating and making theatre in their free time. People and organisations we link with, work with and for children, with young people and with adults.

AITA/IATA is dedicated to the artistic, cultural and educational rights of human beings across the globe and advocates on behalf of all, regardless of nationality, language, cultural identity, ability, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background or religion.

AITA/IATA brings people together by offering meeting places, so that they can share knowledge and practice within the field of theatre in order to deepen understanding, develop practice, create new opportunities and strengthen the global amateur theatre sector. AITA/IATA aims for openness and inclusivity.



“Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, he toa takitini.”

“My success is not mine alone, but of many.”

A fitting whakataukī that aligns with Theatre New Zealand’s kaupapa and relates to the strength of a community bound by its history and collective effort. These words further emphasise Theatre New Zealand’s commitment to unity and collaboration essential in the theatre arts community.

Our tohu, the koru design, often associated with the iconic New Zealand silver fern, symbolises the unfurling fern frond and represents new beginnings, growth, and renewal for Te Pūtoi Whakaari o Aotearoa.

As the koru unfolds with grace and strength, Theatre New Zealand aspires to cultivate an inclusive, dynamic artistic community, celebrating the continuous cycle of creation and cultural expression inherent in the koru’s form. The extended line or stem of the koru embodies how historical community theatre work forms the foundations for contemporary kaupapa.

As the koru unfurls, it draws strength from this base, much like a new theatrical initiative built upon the rich legacy of past community endeavours. This line ending in the koru is the landscape connecting to the past, enriching present and future creative pursuits, ensuring that the evolution of community theatre remains grounded in a strong tradition while continuously fostering innovation and inclusivity.

Wellington 2027 (Te Whanganui a Tara)



CIRCA
THEATRE

TĀKINA

We are welcoming the world to celebrate community theatre in Te Whanganui a Tara 2027. Our weeklong Festival will schedule twelve carefully selected international performances, plus two performances as a national showcase of New Zealand community and cultural theatre. In addition to the festival program, we will present an off-programme to showcase Māori/Pasifika performances and a World assembly on Community and cultural theatre.

We are proud to offer in conjunction with this Festival, a special world cultural presentation to celebrate the momentous 75th anniversary of AITA/IATA. This significant milestone is envisioned to involve all participating teams and will be a moment of pride for our global Community. This performance will be live-streamed worldwide to AITA/IATA membership countries, further amplifying the sense of cultural and Community celebrations.

The Festival organises free workshops led by leading New Zealand and international theatre practitioners and 'colloques' that will be held daily about each production and are open to the public. By the decision of AITA/IATA asbl. The International Amateur Theatre Festival is non-competitive, and no prizes or monetary awards are given to the participating companies.

Paul Percy - BA MFA (CP), Festival Director

Paul has a strong background in theatre, particularly community theatre. He has worked in arts administration, as well as various roles in theatre including writing, directing, technical theatre, and management. Paul's accomplishments extend to scenography. Paul's academic background includes holding a BA majoring in Theatre and English Literature and a Master of Fine Arts (Creative Practice) from Victoria University (2017-2021).

With over 30 years of professional activities in theatre and performance, Paul's expertise is extensive. His love of theatre began when he performed in *Earth & Sky* by Jenny McLeod in 1969 and then appeared on stage as a chorus member for his local amateur theatre company in *My Fair Lady* 1979.

Paul's career includes international directing and playwriting assignments across all mediums of theatre throughout the Asia Pacific region. Paul has written two musicals in collaboration with Michael Vinten and over fifty Plays for youth. These have been performed in schools and community venues across New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

Paul is a published playwright, represented in part by Playmarket NZ. Paul is the artistic director of Bacchus Theatre Trust, a New Zealand-based theatre charity, and a passionate advocate for Community and cultural theatre and is the current President of Theatre New Zealand – which promotes all forms of theatre on the community stage.

