**2024 Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts Programme – LARGE PRINT**

**23 February – 17 March 2024**

**Pōneke/ Wellington**

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**AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS**

Planning the 2024 Aotearoa New Zealand of the Arts was initially daunting, given the 2022 programme’s significant cancellations due to the pandemic. How to craft an offering to overcome the past four years’ events and restore the Festival’s extraordinary legacy?

I pondered on boundaries, the fall of the Berlin Wall, Robert Frost’s ‘Mending Wall,’ and the concept that nature persists, reclaiming places when we look away, even briefly.

Art will always find a way. I like to think we have summoned ngā hau e whā (the four winds) of Te Whanganui-a-Tara to set out from the harbour swirling around the globe and back, inviting artists to join us. The Festival united artistic giants with artists forging new paths and provides a platform for some of our best-loved performers. In curating this programme, I’ve explored themes of resilience, curiosity, community, transcendence, and wonder – daily pursuits for our artists.

Let there be no boundaries. When you lose all sense of self, the bonds of a thousand chains will vanish. Lose yourself completely, return to the root of the root of your own soul.

* *RUMI*

Nā runga i ngā piere nuku i ngā tau kua tītaha, te mate urutā, te whakakorehanga i te tau 2022, he wero nui te whakahoki anō i te taurima nei, kua whā taue ngaro ana, ki tōna taumata tika. Nui te whakapau kaha ki te whakarite i tētehi hōtaka anō. I whakaaro ake au ki te taiao, ā, ko toko ake te kōrero ngarongaro he whetiwara, toitū tonu te taiao, toitū tonu ngā toi. Me ko ngā Hau e whā ahau e pupuhi ana ki ngā tōpito katoa o te ao, ki te toro atu ki ngā kaitoi o tēnā rohe, o tēnā rohe kia piri mai. Koinā tā te whetiwara nei, he tō mai i ngā ringa toi tohunga o te motu, o te ao whānui hoki.

Ko ngā whakaaro mō te Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of Arts, ko te aumangea, ko te mahira, ko te hapori, ko te whakapiki pūkenga, me ngā mahi o te ia rā ā ō tātou ringatoi.

**Marnie Karmelita**

Creative Director

Mere Boynton

Director Ngā Toi Māori

Haere mai, haere mai, haere mai e ngā hau e whā, Nau mai piki mai, kake mai kōtou ki te Hui Ahurei Toi o Aotearoa New Zealand.

Haere mai, haere mai, haere mai e ngā hau e whā. Nau mai piki mai, kake mai kōtou ki te Hui Ahurei o Aotearoa New Zealand.

We, the whānau at Tāwhiri, are proud to present the 2024 Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts programme which is an uplifting and beautiful collection of performing and visual arts that speak to the time we live in and offers hope, joy, reflection, and connection.

As Director Ngā Toi Māori, I have gathered artists and creatives who have led the way and whose storytelling I love for its craft, audaciousness and connection to our ancestral collective consciousness and memory. Whether it be stories of giant taniwha, of whenua, ancestors, nannies, aunties and stinging redemption. These are the stories I have collected in my kete (basket) to share with you, to delight your senses, heart, mind, and soul.

Mā tou rou, mā tāku rourou ka ora ai te iwi – With your food basket and my good basket the people will thrive.

Poho kererū ana mātou te whānau o Tāwhiri ki te whakaatu i te hōtaka o 2024 Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts. He kohinga toi whakaari, toi ataata, ātaahua ake nei hei whakapiki i te wairua. He mea whakakōrero i ngā āhuatanga o ēnei rā, he mea whakaū i te tūmanako, i te whai whakaarotanga, i te hononga, i te hari me te koa.

I roto taku tūranga hei pou Toi Māori, kua tōia e au ngā ringatoi rangatira, e ū ana, e whai hononga anō ana ki ngā whakaaro me ngā kōrero a ngā tūpuna. Kōrero taniwha mai, kōrero whenua mai, kōrero whawhai mō te tika mai, aha atu, aha atu. Koinā ngā momo kua raua ki taku kete hei kai mā ō koutou hirikapo, tinana, wairua. Mā tō rourou, mā taku rourou, ka ora te iwi.

Together, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our former Executive Director Meg WIlliams, Angela Green interim Executive Director, and the entire Tāwhiri team for their passion in bringing this programme to life.

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

THE WĒTĀ FX SEASON OF

**TANIWHA TIME MACHINE**

Dreamgirl Art Collective

...a talented trio of artists and friends who are exciting in their own right, but even more powerful as a collective.

* *ENSEMBLE*

Two special visitors are travelling back into the Wellington Waterfront when Te Whanganui-a-Tara was a lake cut off from the sea...

Ngake and Whātaitai, the legendary taniwha who formed the landscape of Te Whanganui-a-Tara, haven’t seen each other since they ended up in different worlds, unable to reconnect.

Until now that is, as the starts have aligned, and Dreamgirls Art Collective have weaved their artistic magic to reunite the duo through the *Taniwha Time Machine –* bringing them back together to the here and now to meet you.

Renowned for their “breathtaking and purposeful” (Ensemble) artworks across Aotearoa, Dreamgirls Arts Collective will transform Wellington Waterfront, bringing kōrero tuku iho (stores of the past) of Ngake and Whātaitai to life in a way that only they can – larger than life, bursting with colour, complete with a disco dance floor.

And that’s not all, a sparkling phone booth created by cameo Dreamgirl Coco Solid (Ngāpuhi/Samoa) beckons – lift the receiver, dial into the ‘Hotline to the Divine’ and see what happens... you could find yourself connecting with a whole new dimension.

He kōrero mō Ngake rāua ko Whātaitai.   
E hoki whakamuri ana ki te wā e nohoi tonu ana Ngake rāua ko Whātaitai kiu te roto o Te Wai Mānga, koia ko Te Whanganui-a-Tara i mua tana huringa hei moana...

Ko Ngake rāua ko Whātaitai ngā tipua nui nā rāua te rohe o Te Whanganui-a-Tara i hanga ki tā tātou e kite nei i aianei rangi. Ā nō mai anō ā mohoa nei, kua kore rāua i ite i a rāua anō.

Ērangi ināianei, kua tika ngā tohu, kua honohia anōtia rāua ki a rāua i roto te mahina toi a Dreamgirls Art Collective e kīia nei ko *Taniwha Time Machine –* kia taea ai e tātou te tūtakitaki ki a rāua.

Rongonui te ohu kaitoi nei i ā rātou mahi toi huri noa i Aotearoa. Ka whakarākeitia e rātou te Ara Moana o Pōneke ki ngā kōrero mō Ngake rāua ko Whātaitai, He tūranga wāea anō hoki keiu reira e kīia nei ko te ‘Hotline to the Divine,’ nā cameo Dreamgirl Coco Solid o Ngāpuhi me Hāmoa i hanga, ka hono pea koe ki tētehi ao hou katoa.

WHEN: Fri 16 Feb – Sun 10 Mar

WHERE: Wellington Waterfront

FREE

UNITED KINGDON

**JUNGLE BOOK REIMAGINED**

Arkam Khan Company

Experience this timeless tale like never before, as one of the most innovative dance companies in the world, Arkan Khan Company (UK), travels to Aotearoa with their latest production: a thought-provoking but magical retelling of the Rudyard Kipling’s much-loved classic.

*Jungle Book reimagined* transports you to a near future world, where a family is torn apart as they escape their homeland ravaged b climate change. Arriving alone in a deserted modern city, and with wild animals claiming the streets as their own, Mowgli soon discovers unlikely allies in this strange new jungle.

In this thrilling dance-theatre production, the dancers become the hero Mowgli, Baloo, wolves and even the mighty Kaa. State-of-the-art animation, narrated voiceover and a powerful soundtrack bring the jungle and city to life.

*Jungle Book reimagined* is a beautifully compelling and vital piece of storytelling about our need to belong and bond with others, and to connect with and respect our natural world.

Exclusive to Wellington for a limited season, this is your chance to witness the brilliance of one of the world’s greatest contemporary choreographers, Arkan Khan.

Suitable for audiences aged 10 years and over.

...feels like a blockbuster cinematic experience with a powerful message for us all. It’s truly exceptional.

* *THE STAGE (UK)*

Toro mai ki tēnei whakaaturanga nā tētehi o ngā tino kaupene kaiwhakarite kanikani o te ao whānui, koia tēnā Arkam Khan Company (UK) te haere mai nei ki Aotearoa, me tā rātou whakaaturanga hou. He mea whakahihiko i te hirikapo, he tōwaitanga o tā Rudyard Kiupling whakaaturanga puoro ōkawa.

Ko *Jungle Book reimagined* tēnei, kua paku panonitia e kitea ai tētehi anamata, he anamata mōrearea e pahiko ana ētehi whānau i ō rātou kāinga i te whakaāneatanga a te huringa āhuaranga

He whakaaturanga autaia, heanikani kounga, he matihiko kairangi, ā, ko ngā kaiwhakaari he tohunga ki ā rātou mahi, Ka mutu pea ātaahua o te rere o te kōrero i tēneiu whakaaturanga, he kōrero whakakipakipa i ā tātaou te tangata kia āra whaitia tēnei mea te kotahitanga, a te kauanuanu, tātou ki a tātou, otirā tātou ki te whenua, ki te taiao.

WHEN

Fri 23 Feb, 7pm

Sat 24 Feb, 1pm and 7pm

Sun 25 Feb, 1pm

ARTIST TALK: Post-show Sat 24 Feb, 1pm

WHERE: St James Theatre

DURATION: 2hr 10 mins includes interval

TICKETS

Early Bird Child

P$119 P$49

P$129 A$39

A$109 B$29

B$89

C$69

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

**BELLE A PERFORMANCE OF AIR**

Movement of the Human

Prepare to be transported into a world where exhilarating aerial and dance performance collide with the magic of light and live music.

BELLE A PERFORMANCE OF AIR Known for her innovative projects and creative direction of World of Wearable Art (WOW), Malia Johnston collaborates with renowned aerial designer Jenny Ritchie, performance designer Rowan Pierce, composer Eden Mulholland and musician Anita Clark alongside an exceptional all-female cast to bring this Festival spectacle exclusively to Wellington. BELLE's unique purpose-built circus apparatus, designed for choreography in the air, transforms the world above us into a space of dreams, desires, ancestry and other worlds. Celebrating female strength and agility, BELLE’s performers “miraculously appear and disappear defying gravity” (Stuff) with sculptural light portals and richly textured sound enhancing the powerful imagery created by the dancers. A cinematic and surprising performance, BELLE invites you into a transformative experience that will leave you wanting more. The development of BELLE was supported by the Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts. Suitable for audiences aged 8 years and over

Whai whēako mai ki te huinga ote ao kori iritaura, rama pīataata, me te puoro mataora, mutunga kē mai o te ngahau pārekareka ake nei.

He mea hanga tahi tēnei whakaaturanga e te pūkenga nei o WOW, a Malia Johnston, rātou ko te tohunga kori iritauraa Jenny Ritchie, ko te kaihoahoa whakaari a Rowan Pierce, me te kaitito a Eden Mulholland. He kāhui whakaari wahine katoa anō hoki ngā kaiwhakaari i te kaupapa nei.

Ko te whakaaturanga kounga ake nei tēnei o *BELLE*. He kupu Wiwī a *BELLE* mō te kapuwai, he ngārara tē mau e te auto.

WHEN: Thu 14 – Sat 16 Mar, 7pm

Sun 17 Mar, 5pm

ARTIST TALK: Post-show, Sat 16 Mar

WHERE: St James Theatre

DURATION: 1 hr 5 mins No Interval

TICKETS

Early Bird A $79

A $89

B $69

C $49

Child

A $39

B $29

AUDIENCE CARE   
Contains strobe lighting.

Johnston [creates] astounding events by integrating light, sound, projection, aerialists and dancers to conjure magic.

-*STUFF*

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

TAKI RUA PRODUCTIONS AND AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS PRESENT

**HATUPATU I KURUNGAITUKU: A FORBIDDEN LOVE**

Based on the pūrākau (story) of the waka of Te Arawa, the FNZ Season *Hatupatu I Kurungaituku: a forbidden love* takes the epic tale of Hatupatu and the bird woman Kurungaituku to new heights, with gravity defying choreograph by award winning artistic director and aerialise Tānemahuta Gray *(Māui - One Man Against The Gods, Tiki Taane Mahuta).*

Placing you within the forests and geo-thermal forces of Rotorua, the story unfolds above and around you. Inspired by his experience with world-leading aerial theatre company. De La Gurada, Gray recreates the bird realm, led by the omnipresent Kurungaituku.

Follow the journey of young warrior Hatupatu as he encounters Kurungaituku who ensnares him in her cave. An extraordinary story of love, betrayal and sacrifice develops as Hatupatu struggles to fulfil his destiny.

Combining breathtaking aerials and kapa haka developed in collaboration with Wēteni Mītai-Ngātai (from the Te Matatini winning rōpū, Te Mātārae-i-Ōrehu), and an immersive multi-media set, you won’t want to miss this contemporary Māori theatre experience which will open the Festival’s new venue, THe Tāwhiri Warehouse.

Suitable for audiences aged 10 years and over.

He mea hanga tēnei whakaaturanga e ngā toa kaiwhakaari Māori nei, e Taki Rua Productions, he whakaaturanga iritaura hou.

He whakaaturanga e pā ana ki tētehi kōrero pūrākau nō te waka o Te Arawa, arā, ko te kōrero mō Hatupatu rāua ko Kurungaituku. Ekawea ana tēnei pūrākay kōrero ki taumata anō, mā te whakamahi i ngā nekehanga e wero nei i te autō o te ao, otirā nā te tohunga tito kanikani nei, nā Tānemahuta Gray i ārahi, nāna te whakaaturanga o *(Māui - One Man Against The Gods),* ā, i whakawhiwhia ki tētehi tohu nui mō te kairangi o tēnā whakaaturanga.

Ko te āhua o te hanga, ko te ngahere, otirā ka kitea, ka rangona te wairua o Rotorua me tōna mana Ruaimoko. Ko ngā kōrero kei te tuanui e whakaari mai ana. Whāia te haerenga a te toa nei a Hatupatu, metāna tūtakitanga ki a Kurungaituku, te wahine nāna i mauhere ki tētehi ana.

He whakaaturanga e hono ana i te ao iritaura, me te ao kapa haka, he mea hanga i roto i te mahi tahi ki te tohunga haka, mau rākau nei a Wēteni Mītai-Ngātai, te kaiārahi o te kapa haka o Te Mātārae i Ōrehu. Kei mahue tēnei whakaaturanga kairangi, ka tū ki Tāwhiri Warehouse.

AUDIENCE CARE

Audience will be standing throughout the performance. There are limited seats available to purchase for those who require them.

WHEN: Tue 20 – Thu 22 Feb, 730pm

Fri 23 – Sat 24 Feb, 6pm and 9pm

WHERE: Tāwhiri Warehouse, Newtown

DURATION: 1 hr 15 mins No Interval

TICKETS

Early Bird   
GA $59.95

GA $69.95

Earlt Bird Student

GA $35

Student

GA $45

Gray’s unwavering taut choreography is reflected in his dancers, both in their movements but also their stillness.

* *THE NEW ZEALAND HERALS on TIKI TAANE MAHUTA*

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

**WHENUA**

**The New Zealand Dance Company**

**NZDC is abundant with highly creative movement, emotions, flow and strength. Contemporary dance at its finest.**

* *THEATREVIEW*

Direct from the world premiere at Holland Dance Festival, the New Zealand Dance showcases unique creative voices in *Whenua –* a stunning double-bill which explores our relationship to the land and our natural environment.

Celebrated indigenous artist Rodney Bell (Ngāti Maniapoto) and acclaimed choreographer and Creative Director of World of WearableArt (WOW), Malia Johnston collaborate to create *Imprint.* Prepare to be entranced by their innovative choreography combined with captivating soundscape and digital design.

This new work will be paired with Eddie Elliot’s (Ngāti Manaiapoto) *Uku –* Behind the Canvas which premiered in 2022 receiving rave reviews, making a distinct yet complimentary programme. *Uku* is inspired by the Māori pūrākau (mythology) of Hineahuone, the first woman, created by Tāne-Mahuta form clay. This work explores the power of vuneralbility and the strength within struggle.

Awaken your sensed with *Whenua –* a breathtaking creation exciting choreographers.

E whakatairangahia ana e AOtearoa Te New Zealand Dance Company ētehi o ngā tino kaitoi, reo auaha o Aotearoa, i roto i te whakaaturanga e kīia nei, ko *Whenua.* Ko Malia Johnston, ringatohu auaha o *WOW* rāua ko Rodney Bell, kaitoi iwi taketake uri o Ngāti Maniapoto ngā kaihanga, ā, ka haere ngātahi me te whakaaturanga a Eddie Elliot o Maniapoto, ko *Uku* te ingoa. Whēakotia te kounga, te auaha, o ā rātou mahi.

**CROSSING THRESHOLDS**

*Crossing Thresholds* is a day to enjoy extraordinary art created by disabled and neurodiverse artists, relax and chill in our sensory-friendly spaces, and hand out with friends and whānau at the Tāwhiri Warehouse in Newtown.

Everyone is welcome and it is free to attend.

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

**THE AIR BETWEEN US**

A captivating outdoor aerial dance event performed mid-air. From diverse backgrounds and life experiences, Chloe Loftus and multi-award-winning Māori artist Rodney Bell (Ngāti Maniapoto) - who performs in his wheelchair – explore our innate capacity to exist in symbiotic harmony, with each other and with our environment.

WHEN: Sun 10 Mar, 12:30pm

DURATION: 20 mins

WHERE: Tāwhiri Warehouse, Newtown

TICKETS  
FREE

AUSTRALIA

**SHADOW**

**Back to Back Theatre**

This film, based on Back to Back Theatre's award-winning stage production, *The Shadow Whose Prey the Hunter Becomes,* blends fiction and documentary elements to tell the story of a group of activities who hold a public meeting only to discover their own prejudices are their biggest obstacles in creating change. With 95% of the cast on screen identifying as having a disability and a crew made up of mentored interns with disabilities, the film’s themes and philosophical approach to creation are intrinsically linked.

After having its world premiere at the 2022 Rotterdam International Film Festival, *Shadow* has screened in numerous film festivals including SXSW, Sydney, Melbourne and Edinburgh.

WHEN: Sun 10 Mar, 2.30pm

WHERE: Tāwhiri Warehouse, Newtown

DURATION: 1 hr No interval

TICKETS

FREE

**ACCESS & INCLUSION**

It’s your Festival and we’ll do our best to ensure it is inclusive for everyone. We are pleased to present an Access and Inclusion programme for f/Deaf, disabled and neurodiverse audiences. This programme features events that are audio described with touch tours, NZSL interpreted and relaxed performances.   
All events in the Access programme are wheelchair accessible.   
Each Access event listed on the website will also have a sensory script that allows you to decide whether a show is accessible to you without accommodations.

Full details are available at

Festival.nz/access

**$20 TICKETS**

If an event is ticketed, most tickets to the Festival events will cost $20 for Access communities. For a current list of events with $20 access prices please see our website festival.

If you require the assistance of a support person or a companion to attend an event, contact us for a free companion seat. Companion tickets are limited and subject to availability for some events.

**CONTACT US**

For all enquiries or to book accessible tickets contact our Access and Inclusion Programme Producers on [access@festival.nz](mailto:access@festival.nz) or call our office on 04 473 0149.

IRELAND

**LOST LEAR**

**By Dan Colley**

Who is it that can tell me who I am?

* *KING LEAR, ACT I SCENE IV*

A moving and darkly comic interpretation of Shakespeare’s play told from the point of view of joy, a person with dementia, who is living in an old memory of rehearsing *King Lear.*

Joy’s delicately maintained reality is upended by the arrival of her estranged son who, cast as Cordelia, must find a way to speak his mind from within the role he’s given.

Critically acclaimed Irish theatre maker Dan Colley’s visually stunning production uses puppetry, projection and live video to create the multiple layers of Joy’s world as past and present, fiction and reality, overlap and distort.

*Lost Lear* is a thought-provoking meditation on theatre, artifice and how to communicate across the chasms that divide us.

With a swathe of five-star reviews and award nominations, this is your opportunity to catch this “brilliantly conceived and executed” *(Irish Examiner)* show right here in Wellington.

WHEN: Thu 14 – Fri 15 Mar, 7.30pm

Sat 16 Mar,1.30pm and 7.30pm

Sun 17 Mar, 4pm

WHERE: Tāwhiri Warehouse, Newtown

DURATION: 1hr 20 mins No interval

TICKETS   
Early Bird $69

$79

AUDIENCE CARE

This work contains strong language and adult themes.

**Devastating stuff, deftly done...Collet is a theatre maker of remarkable imagination and insight.**

* *The Stage*

He mea wihanga te whakaari nei e te kaitito whakaari rongonui o Airihi, a Dan Colley. Ka whakamahia ngā keretao, ngā hopunga ataata, me te kiriata mnataora, e kitea ai te ao o Joy, tana anamata, tana ōnamata, te tūturu, me te paki.

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

**WITI’S WĀHINE**

**By Nancy Brunning**

**The extraordinary and much-loved wāhine form Witi Ihimaera’s groundbreaking books including The Parihaka Woman, The Matriarch and Pounamu Pounamu are brought to life by a powerful cast in this theatrical masterpiece tenderly crafted by the late Nancy Brunning.**

Ultimately this is her love story: a compilation of stories and a tribute to the wāhine of Te Tairāwhiti (the East Cost) with powerful commentary, unflinching reality, sensitivity and warm affection that places wāhine. whenua and Māori wisdom centre stage.

Witi’s wāhine are distinct from one another, where time, situation and context overlap into a single thread: a cord that draws sustenance from the whenua, from onamata – the past. These women are recognisable as the aunties, sisters, mothers and nannies from your own whānau and communities. They invite you to traverse history, sharing memories, tears, jokes and beautiful waiata along the way.

Following adored seasons in its original iteration, this new production was conceived to bring Nancy Brunning’s final work to the big stage.

Described by Denizen as the event of the season” for its Auckland run, prepare to be moved by this “phenomenal” *(Broadway World)* production.

This production was a collaboration between Hāpai Productions and Auckland Theatre Company.

**The 18 scenes in Witi’s Wāhine weave an intricate pattern through Ihimaera’s works, and the result is astonishing.**

* *THE SPINOFF*

Ko ngā pukapuka rongonui ēnā a Witi Ihimaera e whakamataoratia ana ki te atamira o toi whakaari. Ko *The Parihaka Woman,* ko *The Matriach* me *Pounamu Pounamu* ēnā ka whakaaritia e tētehi hunga whakaari, ko te whakaari tonu he mea āta waihanga e Nancy Brunning, kia au te moe kia a ia.

He Kohinga pūrākau hei mihi ki te wahine nei o Te Tairāwhiti. He mana nui ō roto, he tūturutanga ō roto, he wairua mahaki marire anō hoki. Ko te aronga matua o ngā kōrero, ko te wahine, ko te whenua, ko te mātauranga Māori.

WHENL Thur 29 Feb - Sat 2 March, 7pm   
ARTIST TALK: Post-show Fri 1 Mar

WHERE: St James Theatre

DURATION: 1 hr 20 mins No Interval

TICKETS

Early Bird A $79

A $89

B $69

C $59

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS AND PANNZ TOUR-MAKERS PRESENT

**THE SAVAGE COLONISER SHOW**

**By Tusiata Avia**

**Following on from the triumphant production of *Wild Dogs Under My Skirt* at festivals around the world, including the 2018 New Zealand Festival, FCC theatre company is back, bringing to ferocious life Tusiata Avia’s *The Savage Coloniser Book,* for which she became the first female Pasifika poet to win the Ockham Award for Poetry.**

Under the artful direction of equally formidable Anapela Polata’ivao, Avia’s unapologetic and clear-eyed examination of race and racism, the colonised and the coloniser, is full of bold humour, courage and lacerating truths.

Fierce, furious and fabulously unforgiving, *The Savage Coloniser Show* is theatre that is as provocative as it is necessary – and a red-hot Festival ticket you should fear missing out on.

Originally commissioned by Auckland Arts Festival.

E whakamataoratia ana te pukapuka a Tusiata Avia tohunga tui i te kōrero, a *The Savage Coloniser Book.* Ko Tusiata te wahine tuatahi o Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa i whakawhiwhia ki te tohu toikupu a Ockham.

Ko Anapela Polata’ivao te kaitohutohu. Ka kitea tā Avia mātau ki ngā kaupapa nei, te tāmi, te hunga i tāmia, ā, e kī ana i te māia, i te kata, me te pono kōharihari.

WHEN: Thur 29 Feb, 6.30pm

Fri 1 Mar, 8pm

Sat 2 Mar, 4pm and 8pm

Sun 3 Mar, 4pm

ARTIST TALK: Post-show, Sat 2 Mar, 4pm

WHERE: Circa Theatre

TICKETS

Early Bird $63

$69

DURATION: 1hr 10 mins No interval

AUDIENCE CARE  
This show touches on important but difficult historical societal themes such as colonisation, slavery, genocide, sexual abuse and racism. Contains strong language.

**With characteristic savage and stylish wit, Avia olds the word blade to our necks and presses with a relentless grace. At the end, you’ll feel your pulse anew.**

* *SELINA TUSITALA MARSH,*

*2017 – 2019 NZ POET LAUREATE*

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

ADAPTED FROM THE BOOK *ALIENS & ANOREXIA* BY CHRIS KRAUS

**GRAVITY**

**& GRACE**

**By Elanor Bishop and Karin McCracken**

**Everybody fails, sometimes spectacularly.**

**But not everyone has the courage to tell the world about it.**

*Gravity & Grace* is a smart new production by Bruce Mason Playwriting Award-Winning duo Elanor Bishop and Karin McCracken based on a thrilling autobiographical fiction by acclaimed feminist writer Chris Kraus.

Brimming with intellect, humour and rich visuals, the show follows Kraus through the production of an ill-fated film in Auckland in the 90’s, her bold move to punk New York in the 70’s and to a disastrous appearance at a Berlin film market. Along the way, she has encounters with some of the greatest artists and philosophers of the 20th century.

See this daring, fiercely funny and captivating production at its world premiere this Festival.

The development of *Gravity & Grace* was supported by Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts and Auckland Arts Festival.

**Almost Flawless**

- *ADAM NZ PLAY AWARDS PANEL*

Ka taka tātou katoa, ērangi kāore te nuinga mō te whakapāho i aua heke.

Koia tēnei ko te whakaaturanga toi whakaari o *Gravity & Grace,* he urutaunga nō te pukapuka o *Aliens & Anorexia* Chris Kraus.

He mea hanga a *Gravity & Grace* te tokorua nei e Elanor Bishop rāua ko Karin McCracken. He mea hanga i runga i te haukiri paki a te kaikōkiri mana wahine nei a Chris Kraus.

WHEN: Thu 7 Mar, 6.30pm

Fri 8 Mar, 8pm

Sat 9 Mar, 4pm

Sun 10 Mar, 2pm and 6.30pm

ARTIST TALK: Post-show, Sat 9 Mar

WHERE: Circa Theatre

DURATION: 2hr 30 mins Includes Interval

TICKETS

Early Bird $53

$59

**AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND**

**OUR OWN LITTLE MESS**

**A Slightly Isolated Dog**

*Our Own Little Mess is a genre-bending live performance and immersive audio adventure.*

Follow the sprawling and seemingly unconnected lives of five characters as they navigate life’s big mysteries, from Wellington and Auckland to New York and Bejing, from the mundane to the unknowable. Wearing headphones, you’ll connect in with performance on a whole new level through music, snippets of podcasts, narration and glimpses into the inner consciousness of the characters.   
Inspired by novelist Haruki Murakani *(The Wind-up Bird Chronicles)* and the filmmakers the Daniels *(Everything, Everywhere, All at Once),* This existential mystery-comedy-thriller collides multiple realities in magical ways.

Renowned for their shapeshifting works, award-winning theatre company A Slightly Isolated Dog return to Wellington for this world premiere, co-directed by Leo Gene Peters and Jane Yonge, featuring an original soundtrack by Dr Jeremy Mayall and a stellar cast.

The development of *Our Own Little Mess* was supported by Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts.

**...wondrously theatrical mix of hyper-naturalism, magic realism and surrealism...the constant recognition of true human experience.**

***-THEATREVIEW on DEATH AND***

***THE DREAMLIFE OF ELEPHANTS***

Ko *Our Own Little Mess* tēnei, he whakaaturanga mataora, he mea whakawhiwhiti ā-oro ki te hunga mātakitaki, kia haere ngātahi ai tātou me ngā kaiwhakaari.

Tokorima rātou, nō Pōneke ētehi, nō Tāmaki ētehi. Whāia rātou nō rātou e kimi ana i te ora i ngā tiriti o Te Āporo Nui, me Peihinga.   
Whakamaua ō pokitaringa, ā ka hono ai ki ngā kaiwhakaari nei i tētehi taumata rerekē, he waiata, he puoro, he punua paoho, he whakatakinga kōrero, kia kitea, kia rangona ai ō rātou kare ā roto.

WHEN: Thu 22 Feb, 6.30pm

Fri 23 Feb, 8pm

Sat 24 Feb, 4pm and 8pm

Sun 25 Feb, 4pm

WHERE: Circa Theatre

DURATION: 1 hr 10 mins No interval

TICKETS

Early Bird $53

$59

ARTIST Q&A   
Post-show, Sat 24 Feb, 4pm

**AUSTRALIA**

**CHRIS AND KATHY PARKIN PRESENT**

**MEOW MEOW’S PANDEMONIUM**

**In association with New Zealand Symphony Orchestra International singing sensation and comedienne extraordinaire Meow Meow is accompanied by the full force of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Hamish McKeich, for a glorious night of sublime entertainment and orchestrated chaos.**

Meow has hypnotised, inspired and astounded audiences globally with her solo shows and collaborations from the dive bars of Berlin to the Royal Albert Hall and Sydney Opera House.

Join the multi-award-winning spectacular queen of song for a whirlwind of performance daring like no other.

Prepare for Piazzolla tangos, Weill, Brecht, Brel – even Radiohead – politics, enchantment and hilarity alongside original chansons by Meow and frequent collaborator Pink Martini’s Thomas M Lauderdale.

A riotous concert in Wellington for one night only.   
Secure you front row seat and prepare to be razzle dazzled

Tokoiti naoiho ngā wāhine pēnei i a Meow. Whahine tohunga ki te whakangahau, ki te waiata, reo rōreka rawa atu, kāore i tua atu i a Meow.

He whakaaturanga whakawairangi, whakaaweawe, whakatūmeke anō tā Meo, Toro mai ki tēnei pūkenga, kuni o te waiata, kua whakawhiwhia ki ngā tohu whai mana mō āna mahi.

Tāpuia tō tūru e whai wāhi mai ai koe ki tēnei whakaturanga auaha ake nei, kāore e kore ka tūmeke koe i te pai. Ka tū ki Pōneke mō te pō kotahi anahe.

WHEN: Sat 24 Feb, 8pm

WHERE: Micheal Fowler Centre

DURATION: 1hr 35 mins Includes interval

TICKETS

P $129

A $99

B $89

C $69

THANKS TO   
**CHRIS &**   
**KATHY PARKIN**

AUDIENCE CARE

This concert will feature adult language, adult concepts and may involve interaction with some lucky members of the audience.

**Certain artists you just never miss; when they come into town, you go and see them.**

* *DAVID BOWIE*

**UNITED KINGDOM**

**THE KING’S SINGERS SONGBIRDS**

Masters of vocal harmony and double-GRAMMY Award-Winning choral group return to Wellington after their hit show at the 2018 New Zealand Festival.

For over fifty years this irresistibly charismatic ensemble has represented the gold standard in a cappella singing.

For the 2024 Festival, they will be presenting a collection of songs inspired by our favourite feathered friends – spanning the last 500 years – with songs from the likes of Franz Schubert, Clément Janequin and Pierre Passerau to modern-day ‘songbirds’ such as Fleetwood Mac, The Beatles and Queen. This Programme juxtaposes ancient and modern in a way that makes both soar to new heights. Beloved by the world over, from London’s Royal Albert Hall to New York’s Carnegie Hall, this concert is not to be missed.

Tohunga waiata, korokoro tūī, kaiwhiwhi ki ngā tohu nui o te ao waiata-ā-tira, waiata tahanga, koia tēnā ko The King’s Singers, e hoki mai nei ki Pōneke, Neke atu i te 50 tau tēnei rōpū e whakatinana ana i te kounga, i te kairangi o ngā mahi waiata tahanga, Mō te Taurima 2024, ka waiatatia e rātou ētehi waiata maha, ā tēnā kaiwaiata, ā tēnā kaiwaiata. He rōpū e e arohanuitia ana e te ao, nō London’s Royal Albert Hall to New York’s Carnegie Hall, he whakaaturanga me kaua e mahue.

WHEN: Wed 13 Mar, 6.30pm

WHERE: Micheal Fowler Centre

DURATION: 1hr 40 min Includes interval

TICKETS

A $99

B $79

C $69

**.....[S]eamless blend and pitch-perfect, liquid tone that could rival the sound of any of the starriest early-music ensembles in the business.**

* *THE WASHINGTON POST*

**SOUTH AFRICA**

**SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR**

**HOPE**

**From three-time GRAMMY Award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir comes *Hope,* a new concert celebrating songs and anthems from the freedom movement of Nelson Mandela’s South Africa and Martin Luther King’s America.**

*Hope* opens with a rousing programme of South African freedom songs, before the repertoire echoes back in the time to the USA, with beautiful renditions of the protest music of the Civil Rights Movement, including works by legendary artists James Brown, Sam Cooke, Stevie Wonder and the one-and-only Aretha Franklin.

Formed to celebrate the unique and inspirational power of African Gospel music, the Soweto Gospel Choir draws on talent from the many churches in and around Soweto. Te choir is dedicated to sharing the joy of music with audiences around the world and has received acclaim and audience adoration for their powerful renditions of African American spirituals, gospel and folk music.

“[U]plifting, energising, and life-affirming" *(Scenestr) - Hope* is a concert that will sing forever in your heart!

**Nothing can really prepare you for the riot of exuberance and depth of emotion**

* *THE SCOTSMAN*

Ko te whakaaturanga tēnei o *Hope,* nā te Soweto Gospel Choir.

Kātahi te whakaaturanga kukume i ngā tauwharewharenga o te ngākay, he mea whakangahau, whakamarire anō i te wairua.

E whā ngā wā kua whakawhiwhia tēnei rōpū wā kua whakawhiwhia tēnei rōpū waiata-ā-tira ki te tohu mana nui o te Grammy. I tēnei whakaaturanga, kawhakakōrerohia, ka whakawaiatahia e rātou ngā waiata nō ngā kaupapa mana motuhake a Nelson Mandela o Awherika-ki-te-Tonga, me Martin Luther King o Amerika.

Ka waiatahia anōhoki ētehi o ngā wai a James Brown, Sam Cooke, Stevie Wonder me te hatuipua a Aretha Franklin.

WHEN: Wed 28 Feb, 6.30pm

WHERE: Micheal Fowler Centre

TICKETS   
Early Bird A $89

A $99

B $79

**UNITED STATES | PAKISTAN**

**AROOJ AFTAB**

**Boundary-breaking artist Arooj Aftab has struck a chord worldwide with her transcendent music. In 2021, her track “Mohabbat” from the critically acclaimed album, *Vulture Prince,* clinched the GRAMMY for Best Global Music Performance.**

A singer, composer and producer, her “spellbinding music defies easy categorisation” *(The Guardian)* and harmoniously fuses a wide array of genres, from jazz, to minimalism, to Pakistani semi-classical.

Aftab’s album *Vulture Prince,* showcases her velvety and haltingly beautiful vocals and was described by *Pitchfork* as a “heartbreaking, exquisite document of the journey from grief to acceptance.” The album's award-winning track “Mohabbat,” was named as one of the best songs of 2021 by *Time* and *New York Times.*

Audiences are in for a real treat as Aftab performs tracks from *Vulture Prince* as well as new music from her upcoming album.

Sung almost entirely in Urdu, accompanies by acclaimed bassist Petros Klampanis and the virtuoso guitarist Gyan Riley, the emotional pull of Aftab’s music is universal.   
Combining tradition and innovation in a way that’s nothing short of sublime, secure you tickets for this musical gem this Festival.

Presented by arrangement with Arts Projects Australia.

Ko Arook Aftab tēnei, he kaiwaiata, he kaitito, he tumu whakaputa, tē taea te whakarōpū i te momo o āna waiata, he pērā i te momo o āna waiata, he pērā rawa te auaha, te autaia. Ko tana kōpae, a *VUlture Prince* te kaiwhakatairanga i te rerehua, i te aweawe, me te pārekareka o tōna reo waiata, ka mutu, he reo taketake te nuinga o āna titonga.

Ko Petros Klampanuis tana kaiwhakatangi aho panguru, ko Gyan Riley te kaiwhakatangi rakuraku, ā, mā te tokotoru ka tino reka, ka auaha, ka rere lki wāhi kē ngā whakaaro, i te rangirua me te rangitāmiro o tā rātou tangi, kiu te reo rōreka o Arooj Aftab.

WHEN: Thu 14 Mar, 8pm

WHERE: Micheal Fowler Centre

TICKETS

Early Bird A $89

A $99   
B $79

**Her voice cast a mesmeric spell: rich, full and flawless...**

* *THE SPECTATOR*

**UNITED STATES**

**AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS AND SOLID ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT**

**THE NATIONAL**

**Returning to Aotearoa after six years and performing for the very first time in Wellington, is GRAMMY-winning AMerican alternative rock band The National.**

Already established in an elite class as one of the very best bands in the world, The National are an “era-defining band at the peak of their powers” *(The Guardian)* and their musical output continues to astonish.

Excitingly, the band will be taking to the stage at the TSB Arena on the Festival’s opening weekend.

This performance will be the first opportunity to hear the band play songs from three new albums.

The National’s ninth studio album *First Two Pages of Frankenstein* was released in April 2023 with a stacked line-up of guest musicians including Taylor Swift, Phoebe Bridgers and Sufjan Stevens.

The national have become one of the pivotal bands of the last 20 years because their songs reflect the chao, mundanity and existential angst of modern life and serve it up with spellbinding, accessible melody.

* *THE GUARDIAN*

It has been received as a career highlight with *NME’s* five-star review proclaiming “This is The National at their absolute best.”

Incredibly, *Laugh Track,* a companion record to *First Two Pages* was a surprise release just four months later and features guest appearances by Phoebe Bridgers and Rosanne Cash, and includes “Weird Goodbyes” with Bon Iver’s Justin Vernon. THe band consider it their most freewheeling, all-hands-on-deck album in years.

By turns beautiful, painful, introspective and transcendent, with a songbook to rival any, don’t miss the opportunity to witness the genius of The National.

Ko The National tēnei, he pēne kua rongonuitia i roto i ngā tau 20 kua hipa, i runga i te anipā, te kaumingomingo, me te taoutouhea o āianei rangi e whakakōrerohia ana i roto i ā rātou waiata E hoki mai ana te pēne nei ki Pōneke ki te whakangahau i te marea, kua ono tau e ngaro ana i konei, nō Amerika rātou, ā, ko te puoro rakapioi te momo o ā rātou waiata. He pēne whai tohu keremi anō hoki te pēne nei, ā, kua tū ētehi o ngā whakaaturanga tiketike o Amerika. I puta tā rātou kōpae tuaiwa te Āpireria kua hipa, ā, i whai wāhi atu ētehi o ngā kaipuoro rongonui pēnei i a Taylor Swift, Phoebe Bridgers me Sufjan Stevens ki taua kōpae rā. Rawe rawa atu te pēne nei, kei mahue tā rātou whakaaturanga ka tū ki te whare rēhia o TSB Arena.

WHEN: Sun 25 Feb, 8pm

WHERE: TSB Arena

TICKETS   
P – Seated $189

A – Seated $179

GA – Standing $149

**AUSTRALIA**

**AN UNFUNNY\* EVENING WITH TIM MINCHIN AND HIS PIANO**

**\*We can’t promise the artist won’t inadvertently amuse.**

Following a sell-out tour to delighted audiences across the UK, the Oliver, Helpmann, AACTA, Logie Award-winning, GRAMMY and Tony-nominated “multi-talented maverick” *(The Telegraph)* will take to the stage at the St James Theatre this Festival. The set list will be fluid and the show will have an unplanned, informal ‘evening with’ vibe.

*We’re told he plans to wear shoes.*

Minchin will chat about his craft and perform songs from huis “serious” 2020 studio album, *Apart Together,* his acclaimed musicals, Matilda and Groundhog Day, and go all the way back in time to his earliest days as a songwriter.

He may even get you to vote on some of the song choices.

“Guaranteed to bring the house down.” *(Metro) -* This is a rare chance for Minchin Fans!

**The insanely talented Mr. Minchin is insanely talented.**

* *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

Ko Tim Minchin tēnei, he tangata atamai, he tangata ngāwari, mō te whakangahau me te whakakatakata, koia kei a ia. Ko te haere mai a ia ki Pōneke, ki te St James mō te whetiwara nei. Kāore he hōtaka o tana whakaaturanga, ōpaki ake nei, ka haere noa mā te kare o te wai, he pērā rawa te pai o tēnei pūkenga. Kāore e kore, ka harurutia te whare e ia, ka hikina te tuanui, ērā kōrero katoa!

WHEN: Fri 8 – Sat 9 Mar, 8pm

WHERE: St James Theatre

TICKETS

Early Bird

P $129

P $139

A $119

B $99

C $79

**UNITED STATES**

**JOHNNY GANDELSMAN**

**J.S BACH: COMPLETE CELLO SUITES**

**(TRANSCRIBED FOR VIOLIN)**

**The performance had the improvisatory feel of folk music, but it was in fact a survey of Bach’s towering six cello suites – transformed, with foot-tapping joy, for a smaller string instrument.**

* *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

GRAMMY Award-winning violinist and producer Johnny Gandelsman is bringing his masterful performance of J.S.Bach’s *Complete Cello Suites* to St Marys of the Angels in his first ever New Zealand performance.

Following his celebrated debut of Bach’s *Sonatas and Partitas* which reached No. 1 on the Billboard CLassical Chart, the co-founder of Brooklyn Rider and former memeber of Yo-Uo Ma’s silk Road Ensemble will perform all six *Cello Suites* on the violin.

A virtuoso across a range of styles, Gandelsman’s folksy interpretation of this classic work exceeds a note-to-note transcription, celebrating improvisation and ingenuity.

Whether your’re a seasoned classical music aficionado or a newcomer seeking a gateway into the world of Bach, Johnny Gandelsman’s *Cello Suites* will enchant and inspire.

Tohunga kaiwhakatangi tōiri, kaiwhakaputa rongonui, ko Johnny Gandelsman tēnā me tāna whakaaturanga te haere mai nei. I whakawhiwhia a ia ki tētehi tohu whai mana i te kairangi o tāna whakatangi tōiri.

Ko te momo o tana whakatangi, he whenumi i te tawhito, i te hou, he whakamātau, otirā he whakaaweawe. Ko te whakaaturanga tuatahi tēnei āna, ki Aotearoa nei.

WHEN: Wed 6 March, 6.30pm

ARTIST Q&A: Post-show

WHERE: St Mary of the Angels

DURATION: 2hrs No interval

TICKETS   
Early Bird $53

$59

**AUSTRALIA | UNITED KINGDOM**

**CHAMBER MUSIC NEW ZEALAND IN ASSOCIATION WITH AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS**

**BARTON AND BRODSKY**

**Strings seem to shimmer like heat haze in the desert, while the didgeridoo pours out strange rhythms and birdsong. The effect is mesmerising.**

*- LIMELIGHT MAGAZINE*

Join us for an eclectic programme which traverses time, including Barton’s own music, the New Zealand Premiere of Andrew Ford’s *String Quartet No 7* written during the 2019 Australian bushfires, to Janáček and Stravinsky.

A true master of his craft, regarded for his incomparable and awe-inspiring performances, Barton has performed with the world’s most esteemed orchestras.

The “polished and impeccable” *(Limelight Magazine)* Brodsky Quartet are at the forefront of the international chamber music scene with 50 years of music-making and more than 3,000 concerts under their belts. Be there to experience a musical fusion like no other as two exceptional talents come together at the Micheal Fowler Centre.

Ko te whakaaturanga tuatahi tēnei a WIlliam Barton ki Aotearoa nei, otirā kua hono a ia ki te tōwhā kaiwaiata nei a Brodsky Quartet, he rōpū kua 50 tau e waiata ana.

He tohunga didgeridoo, he kaiwhakatangi kitā a Barton, ā, kuarongonui a ia i Ahitereiria i te kounga o āna waiata.

WHEN: Fri 15 Mar, 7.30pm

ARTIST Q&A: Pre-show, 6.30pm Renouf Foyer

WHERE: Micheal Fowler Centre

TICKETS   
A $65

B $55

Student/

Child $15

Concession

A $62

B $52

DURATION: 2hrs Includes interval

**AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND | MOROCCO | GREECE | UNITED STATES**

**NEW ZEALAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN ASSOCIATION WITH AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS PRESENTS**

**BEYOND WORDS**

**As we mark the 5th anniversary of the Christchurch Mosque Attacks, the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Te Tira Pūoro o Aotearoa presents a unique musical collaboration.**

# Conducted by Fawzi Haimor, featuring powerful Moroccan vocalist Oum, and oud virtuoso Kyriakos Tapakis, the NZSO performs works from Valerie Coleman, Reza Vali, Arvo Pärt and the world premiere of a new work from acclaimed New Zealand composer John Psathas, ONZM.

Psathas’ *Ahlan wa Sahlan,* composed in collaboration with Oum and Tapakis, uses the Arabic welcome greeting to let people know they are in a place where they belong.

*Beyond Words* is a symphonic expression of solidarity and peace performed as a prelude to Unity Week.

This work has been created with guidance from The Central Iqra Trust and Muslim communities from across Aotearoa New Zealand.

E rima tau kua hipa i te Parekuratanga o te Whare Karakia Ihirama, ā, kua whakaritea a Te Tira Pūoro o Aotearoa tētehi whakaari puoro mahi ngātahi ki ētehi o ngā ringatoi tohunga o Aotearoa, hei whakamaharatanga ki a rātou i kāwhakina ki te pō. He mea hanga tēnei i raro i ngā manaakitanga ā te tarati o Central Iqra, me ngā hapori Ihirama o Aotearoa.

WHEN: Sat 9 Mar, 7.30pm

ARTIST Q&A: Pre-show, 6.30pm Renouf Foyer

WHERE: Micheal Fowler Centre

TICKETS   
P $86

A $76

B $67

C $45

D $29

Concession

P $78

A $70

B $62

C $43

D $28

Child

A $52

B 40

C $29

D $17

DURATION: 1 hr 15 mins Includes interval

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

**SOUNDS OF THE SANCTUARY**

**New Zealand String Quartet | Te Rōpū Tūrū O Aotearoa**

**Immerse yourself in *Sounds of the Sanctuary,* a thoughtfully curated programme evoking the beauty of nature and birdsong by the “spellbinding” *(Otago Daily Times)* New Zealand String Quartet.**

Acclaimed New Zealand composer Gareth Farr’s *Te Kōana* (Spring or planting season), celebrates life and regeneration with an “extraordinary evocation of stillness and gently birdsong” *(Stuff).* Joseph Haydn’s *String Quartet, Op. 64, No.5, The Lark* showcases melodies that soar like thriving bird life. Dame Gillian Whitehead’s *Poroporoaki* (farewell) explores taonga pūoro improvisations and honours Aotearoa's cultural and natural heritage.

# And finally, Antonín Dvořák’s *String Quartet* captures the spirit of exploration, reflecting the diverse exosystems within the sanctuary.

Live at Zealandia, *Sounds of the Sanctuary* celebrates and connects us to the natural world through the power of music.

Kuhu rūmaki atu ki ngā oro o te āhuru, ki te whakaaturanga o *Sounds of the Sanctuary.* He mea whai whakaaro i te taiao. Tā Gareth Farr, Ko *Te Kōanga,* tā Joseph haydn ko Te Larkko, *tā Kahurangi* Gillian Whitehead ko *Poroporoaki,* tā Antonin DVorak tōwhā, ko *American Quartet.*

Ka whakaaturia mataoratia te whakaaturanga nei ki Zealandier, ko te matua o te whakaaturanga nei, he tūhono i a tātou ki te taiao, mā te puoro.

WHEN: Sun 3 Mar, 7.30pm

Sun 10 Mar, 4pm

WHERE: Rātā Cafe, Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne

DURATION: 1hr 40 mins Includes interval

TICKETS   
A $69

B $59

**A quartet to match the finest anywhere... it’s hard to imagine that anyone hearing these four players would not be instantly captivated by their living, breathing musicianship.**

* *THE AUSTRALIAN*

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

**BIRD LIKE MEN**

**TARARUA**

Fusing the incredible artistry of Ariana Tikao (vocals/taonga pūoro/cello), Alistair Fraser (taonga pūoro), and Phil Boniface (double bass), with mesmerising imagery by Kāi Tahu video artist Louise Pōtiki Bryant, Tararua weave together sound worlds from te ao Māori and te ao Pākehā with touches of jazz and folk.

Described by lead vocalist Ariana Tikao as “an exploration of whakapapa and connections through music,” *Bird Like Men* draws inspiration from Māori rock art depiction of bird people at the Maerewhenua sit at Otago, whānau manuscripts of Tikao and kōrero (conversations) from Kāi Tahu Whānui.

Regarded as “[t]ruly magnificent” *(Songlines),* Tararua was nominated for Best Group at the 2021 *Songlines Music Awards* and *Bird Like Men* also featured in the *Songlines* top 10 best new zlbums from around the world in 2022.

Renowned for their rich and evocative performances, see Tararua at the Māoriland Hub this Festival and prepare to be spellbound.

**...I felt cocooned by the sounds at times, and at other, fresh winged on the air of the pūoro.**

*- STUFF on BIRD LIKE MEN*

*(THE ALBUM)*

Te hono i ngā tangi o te ao puoro Māori me te ao puoro Pākeha, koinā tā te hunga pūkenga puoro nei. Ko Ariana Tikao tērām rātou ko Ruby Solly, Ko Alistair Fraser me Phil Boniface. E ai ki a Ariana Tikao, te reo Kaiārahi, “he torohanga hononga whakapapa i te ao waiata” te matua o tēnei whakaaturanga ā rātou.

He mea whakaaweawe ā rātou mahi e ngā mahinga toi Māori o ngā tāngata manu i Maerewhenua I Ōtākou, waihoki i ngā tuhingā tawhito ā te whānau o Ariana Tikao, me ngā whakawhitinga kōrero ki a Ngāi Tahu Whānui.

WHEN: Fri 1 Mar, 7.30pm

WHERE: Māoriland Hub, Ōtaki

TICKETS: Choose Your Price

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

**WAREHOUSE RAVE**

**MORNING PEOPLE**

**Start your day with a “big breakfast” *(Stuff)* at the**

**Tāwhiri Warehouse.**

Cult morning rave experience *Morning People* has been remixing mornings and showing the alarm clock who’s boss since 2016.

With a reputation for rocking a party, your DJ for the morning is none other than national dance music powerhouse Dick ‘Magik’ Johnson.

Musical director of the ever-popular *Synthony,* Johnson has shared lineups with Daft Punk, Basement Jaxx, Armand Van Helden, Produced over 50 international releases and remixed electronic luminaries such as Fatboy Slim and The Human League. He’s also added his touch of ‘magik’ to the airwaves on George FM for more than 20 years.

#partyfirstworklater – get you hit of house with the legendary Dick ‘Magik’ Johnson before the day has even started!

This is an alcohol-free, whānau-friendly event suitable for audiences aged 13 years and over. Under 18’s must be accompanied by an adult.

Tīmatahia te rā ki tētehi paopao takihanga nui, ki te Tāwhiri Warehouse. He pāti koia, ā, ko te DJ mō te whakaaturanga nei, ko tēnei toki whakangahau, ko DIck ‘Magik’ johnson, ko a ia te kaitohu puoro o te ever=popular *Synthony,* ā, inā noa atu ngā whakaaturanga kua oti i a ia. He kaupapa pai mā te whānau 13 neke atu rānei te pakeke, me tae mai ngā taiohi me tētehi mātua, kaitiaki.

WHEN: Fri 1 Mar, 6.30am

WHERE: Tāwhiri Warehouse, Newtown

DURATION: 1hr 30 mins

TICKETS   
Early Bird $23

$29

**Flooded with endorphins, I practically skip to work with the smug smile of a ‘morning person.’**

* *STUFF*

**WRITERS**

**If you don’t see yourself reflected in stories, you can’t imagine you can make any difference in the world.**

* *SANDRA CISNEROS*

Holding the mirror up is part of what makes reading and writing so vital. We are truly excited to be bringing writers to Pōneke from Aotearoa and around the world to reflect, celebrate, and question all things books. The events we have woven together hold a multitude of stories, characters and ideas and we know that as adventurous readers you will be inspired by what will take place over the three days, we are together.

We invite you to make the Embassy Theatre your own.

Let’s build a world of words, expansive conversation, and revel in the joy of meeting friends and strangers.

E ahu atu ana tātou ki tētehi ao rerekē atu anō, he aha hoki ngā pukapuka pai ka puta i tēnei tū āhuaranga?

Māku e kī atu, he nui, he nui, he nui. Tē tāea te whakakaupapa i te hōtaka nei, i te mea e kī katoa ana ki ngā pūkenga maha o te ao, ngā tino kaituhituhi o Aotearoa, me te ao whānui anō hoki. Ngā tini āhuatanga katoa o te tangata, o te rangi o te whenua o te moana, ka kitea, ka rangona, ki konei, ki te hōtaka tuhituhi.

**ALL WRITERS’ EVENTS ARE GENERAL ADMISSION**

**UNIVERSITY PARTNER**

**OFFICIAL BOOKSELLER**

**THANKS TO**

**THURSDAY**

**22 FEB**

**BOOK LAUNCH**

***THE GRIMMELINGS***

**BY RACHAEL KING**

Join award-winning writer, reviewer and former WORD festival director Rachael King for this very special launch of her long-awaited new adventure for younger readers, *The Grimmelings.* David Mitchell *(Cloud Atlas)* calls it ‘a compelling, lovingly-crafted novel about magic, language and folkloric fusion,’ while Elizabeth Knox, who will launch the book, says it’s ‘an eerie and beautiful contemporary fantasy full of very real characters-humans, horses and a monster-all grounded in warm and abrasive family life.’ Don’t miss this launch of a new NZ classic.

WHEN: 6pm

WHERE: Unity Books

DURATION: 2 hr

TICKETS: FREE

**FRIDAY**

**23 FEB**

**STORYTIME WITH SACHA COTTER & JOSH MORGAN**

**“**Train hands, rain hands, fly-it-like-a-plane hands. Bursting with the razzle, gotta liberate these DAZZLEHANDS!

Come get your dazzlehands on with two of Aoteaoa’s sparkliest children’s book makers. We’ll be book-reading, singing and bodybody moving. We’ll be reading aloud, singing loud, and dancing hard we might also have some time with Sacha and Josh’s brilliant splashy adventure, *The Bomb,* too ... Bright colours and sequins strongly encouraged. Suitable for ages 3+

2pm | The Black Sparrow, The Embassy | 1 hr | FREE

**SAMUEL TE KANI’S**

**TAROT HOUR**

Imagery lets us bypass the thinking process.

It gets to something more emotional and intuitive.

* ***JESSA CRISPIN, AUTHOR OF THE CREATIVE TAROT***

What is the true meaning behind the card called Death in the Tarot? Will riches rain down upon you if you pull the Ten of Coins? Does the Devil mean you should unleash your inner trickster? What the hell do you do if you get The Tower? Writer Samual Te Kani (Ngāpuhi) *(Please, Call Me Jesus)* sits down to demystify the cards with members of the audience to show us how and why Tarot can be used as a storytelling tool for life and art.

**9pm | The Black Sparrow, The Embassy | 1hr | $19**

**THE QUESTIONS THAT**

**MATTER MOST: JANE SMILEY**

# Prolific, Pulitzer prize-winning American Writer Jane Smiley *(A Thousand Acres)* has released a majestic new collection of essays, *The Questions That Matter Most: Reading, Writing, and the Exercise of Freedom.* In the book she gets under the skin of artists such as Marguerite de Navarre, Charles Dickens, Anthony Trollope, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Louise May Alcott, Mark Twain, Willa Cather, Franz Kafka, Halldór Laxness and Jessica Mitford to offer new ways of thinking about how writers engage with the personal and the political through their work. In this special event, Smiley, one of America’s preeminent writers, speaks with Kate Camp about what matters most to her.

WHEN: 3pm

WHERE: The Grand, The Embassy

DURATION: 1 hr

TICKETS

Early Bird $19

$25

**HOUSE ON FIRE**

We do this because the world we live in is a house on fire and the people we love are burning

* ***SANDRA CISNEROS***

Why are some of us driven to write so that we find our home, while others write to escape from home? Join poet, short story writer, novelise, essayist, performer and artist Sandra Cisneros, with writers Samuel Te Kani, Tayi Tibble, Jane Smiley, Emma Hislop and Lynn Davidson as they share new piece of writing on what home means to them. Live musicians weave their stories together while the big cinema screen will illustrate “home” with images of our artists’ choice.

WHEN: 6pm

WHERE: The Grand, The Embassy

TICKETS   
Early Bird $23

$29

DURATION: 1hr

**SATURDAY**

**24 FEB**

**THE MAGIC OF MOVEMENT:**

**WRITING WORKSHOP**

There is nothing like being in a safe space, connecting with our subconscious and tapping into the rich vein of creative energy that runs through us all. Over two hours, Rachel Davies will lead participants through a series of gentle, hilarious, creative explorations designed to lead us into a place of play, before we launch into an inspired period of previous writing time.

A light breakfast is included in the ticket. Get in quick – only 15 spaces available.

8am | The Black Sparrow, The Embassy | 2 hr | $59

**I MADE IT! MAKING BOOKS WITH MICHAELA KEEBLE AND TOKERAU BROWN**

Join author Michaela Keeble and Tokerau Brown for a hands-on storytelling session. After a quick exploration of what makes their character Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakapōkai tick, this workshop will support you to become the hero of your own awesome story. Michaela and Toki invite kids and their adults to create a story together on the clashes, controversies and creation stories in your worlds. If the feeling strikes, create a handmade book about all the things that make you uniquely you.

Ages 6 – 8 years, 9am | Ages 9 – 12 years, 1.30pm

Capital E | 1 hr 30 mins | $10

**ITS ALL IN THE CHARACTER: KIDS WRITING WORKSHOP WITH ANITA HEISS**

In this workshop, especially for kids aged 6-12 years old the highly awarded and renowned Australian writer Anita Heiss will inspire budding writers with creative ways to develop character and create settings, fuelling youthful imaginations with sparks and stories.

Kids will leave this workshop with substantial character concepts, planting the seeds for future writers.

10am | Wellington Museum | 1 hr | $10

**AN AUDIENCE WITH RICHARD FORD**

Richard Ford is widely considered as one of the great masters of American fiction. Ford's prize-winning books include *The Sportswriter*,*Independence Day* and *Let Me Be Frank With You*. His latest novel, *Be Mine*, concludes his enormously popular and acclaimed *Frank Bascombe* series. Appearing live in Aotearoa New Zealand in conversation with Joan Fleming, Ford will reflect on a writing career that spans six-decades, and the America he's observed and documented over that time.

10:15am | The Grand, The Embassy | 1 hr | Early Bird $19 $25

**GOOD ART FRIENDS**

In Mohamed Hassan’s luminous collection of essays, *How to Be a Bad Muslim,* he writes movingly about his friend in life and in art, poet Ken Arkind. In this session we bring them together to explore what having good art friends means and how they sustain each other as deep thinkers, creators and humans in this fast-changing world.

10.45am | Deluxe 1, The Embassy | 1hr | Early Bird $19 $25

**SATURDAY**

**24 FEB**

**PAKU MANU ARIKI WHAKATAKAPŌKAI**

This picture book is a revelation in children’s literature which invites lids and adults alike to jump onboard a waka to the underworld. Hear from Michaela Keeble and Tokerau Brown who will share stories from and beyond the page about how much they worked as a creative team with Michela’s son Kerehi Grace, to bring *Paku Manu Ariki Whakatakapōkai* to the world.

10.45am | Deluxe 2, The Embassy | 1 hr | Early Bird $19 $25

**WRITING THE RAINBOW**

This workshop especially designed for young LGBTIQ Writers and readers, aged 12-16 years, hosted by the extremely fabulous Sam Duckor-Jones. During this glitter-filled workshop, kids will explore the beginnings of putting their stories on the page and experience the beauty of seeing themselves starring in their very own zines.

11.30am | Capital E | 1 hr 30 mins | $10

**HIWA: CONTEPORARY MĀORI SHORT STORIES**

This anthology sparkles, delights and moves. It gives insight into the many faces of who we are as Māori, coming together as a very satisfying whole.

* ***BRIAR GRACE-SMITH (ONZM)***

A new anthology highlights the flourishing of the short story in New Zealand Contributors to *Hiwa,* Whiti Hereaka, Tina Makeriti and Emma Hislop discuss the art of the short story, the whakapapa of the Māori short story, and why the form is having such a moment. Hosted by Stacey Morrison.

12.15pm | The Black Sparrow, The Embassy | 1 hr | $19

**TOM SAINSBURY’S**

**READING CLUB**

Sometimes the right book comes along at exactly the rtight time. Our panel of writer-readers share the books that turned them, moved them, haunted them, perplexed them, spared something, or gave them cause for a pause. Join comedian, writer and film maker Tom Sainsbury with Pactrick deWitt, Hera Lindsay Bird, and Mad Chapman for an invigorating deep dive into the alchemy of reading

1.30pm | Deluxe 1, The Embassy | 1 hr | Early Bird $19, $25

**AN INDIGENOUS OCEAN:**

**DAMON SALESA**

One of New Zealand’s great scholars, award-winning author Professor Toeolesulusulu Damon Salesa, speakers about his astonishing new book of essays, *An Indigenous Ocean* Journeys into the past and brings us to consider the future of the Pacific: its people, its cultures, its pasts and its future. From the first Indigenous civilisations that flourished in Oceania to the colonial encounters of the nineteenth century, and on to the complex contemporary relationships between Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific, *An Indigenous Ocean* offers new perspectives on this vast ocean.

WHEN: 12pm

TICKETS

Early Bird $19

$25

WHERE   
THe Grand, THe Embassy

DURATION   
1 hr

**HOW TO READ MY POEM**

Let four magnificent poets' myth-bust their own work by showing you what their poems mean to them, why they were written, and how. This is a chance to delve deep into four recent collections and let the power of poetry set you up for life. With Tusiata Avia, Hannah Mettner, Morgan Bach, Arihia Latham and our host, poet laureate Chris Tse.

1.30pm | Deluxe 2, The Embassy | 1 hr | Early Bird $19 $25

**PARTNERED BY**

**DO YOU STILL HAVE**

**TIME FOR CHAOS?**

Lynn Davidson’s memoir *Do you still have time for chao?* Is a vivid, layered exploration of the idea of home, motherhood, poetry, nature, history and magic. Join Lynn as she talks with fellow writer, Chris Price, about the art of observing you own life; and the process of attempting of attempting to capture it on the page while it continues to shift around you as type.

3pm | The Black Sparrow, The Embassy | 1 hr | $19

**LIONESS: EMILY PERKINS**

Lioness by New Zealand author Emily Perkins is the most exciting novel I’ve read in ages.

* ***MARIAN KEYES***

Can you change your life? Should you? And if you do, what is the cost? What is the point of self-doubt? What does freedom really mean? These are the questions at the heart of Emily Perkins’ wildly compelling new novel about Therese Thorne’s mid-life reckoning. Emily Perkins talks with Kim Hill about the origins of *Lioness* and what it took to write it.

WHEN: 3.30pm

TICKETS   
Early Bird $19

$25

WHERE   
The Grand, The Embassy

DURATION   
1 hr

**REWI: WITH JADE KAKE AND JEREMY HANSEN**

Jade Kake and Jeremy Hansen came together to create a landmark new book exploring the life and legacy of architect Rewi Thompson (Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Raukawa), a visionary thinker who believed that great architecture is crafted through careful consideration of people and place. This book brings together a breathtaking range of his projects, from conceptual dreamscapes to one-of-a-kind homes. In this event, Jade and Jeremy walk through images of Rewi’s work and discuss what it was like to immerse themselves in it.

1.45pm | The Grand, The Embassy | 1 hr | Early Bird $19 $25

**GLORUOUS IN HER SKIN:**

**SANDRA CISNEROS**

**IN CONVERSATION WITH TAYI TIBBLE**

Sandra Cisneros has consistently written from a place of kind but urgent love. Her pen has brought 12 books to life across her 29 years of writing. She is an acclaimed poet, essayist, novelist who most recently returned to publishing poetry, where her writing began, with the release of *Woman Without Shame.* Join Sandra Cisneros for a conversation with Tayi Tibble, about the roots of the writer, the metamorphosis of the writer, and the celebration of the reader.

4.15pm | Deluxe 2, The Embassy | 1 hr | Early Birtd $19, $25

**RACHAEL KING:**

**THE GREMMELINGS**

Rachael King’s characters live and breathe ... She discovers new perspectives in inherited narrative to create a world that is familiar yet unexpected, tense and eerie with flashes of beauty.

* ***DAVID MITCHELL (CLOUD ATLAS)***

Rachael King’s immersive new novel, The Grimmelings, plunges the reader into the heart of an ancient myth in a new land, and offers a nuanced portrayal of neurodiversity, with a story that slips into the rich heritage of classic books for all ages. King joins Courtney Johnston for a fulsome conversation about the power of children’s books and the exhilarating responsibility of being a children's writer.

4.15pm | Deluxe 1, The Embassy | 1 hr | Early Bird $19 $25

**SATURDAY**

**24 FEB**

**EROTIC WRITING MATTERS**

During lockdown 2020 over 150 stifled New Zealanders sent writer and artist Samuel Te Kani (Ngāpuhi) money and a brief for him to write them a personalised erotic story. In this session, Te Kani (author of the collection of erotic short stories *Please, Call Me Jesus)* joins avid reader of smut, Gem Wilder, for a conversation about the art of writing good sex, and reading it, and why genres like speculative fiction open new and sexy doors.

5.45om | The Black Sparrow, The Embassy | 1 hr | $19

**THE POSSIBILITY OF A BOOK**

Tash Lampard interviews Jade Kake whose writing scaffolds multiple forms including non-fiction, essays and fiction. This session will unravel the multiple threads which are drawn out in Jade’s debut novel, *Checkerboard Hill.* Ria is at the heart of the story, a character who returns from Aotearoa to her family in Australia who she left decades ago as a teenager.

7pm | Deluxe 2, The Embassy | 1 hr | Early Bird $19 $25

**METTLE: STAY THE LINE**

A Stellar line-up of poets perform works in response to ‘mettle’; featuring Tayi Tibble, Ruby Solly, Chris Tse, Sam Duckor-Jones, Ken Arkind, Khadro Mohamed, essa ma ranapiri, Hannah Mettner, Morgan Bach, Nicole Titihuia Hawkins, Hera Lindsay Bird and Sandra Cisneros. Hosted by Sinead Overbye.

**HELP ME, HERA: LIVE**

Treat her arguments with good faith, even if they’re fucking stupid.

* ***HERA LINDSAY BIRD***

Every week, thousands of readers absorb the insightful surprising, hilarious and clear-headed advice from Hera Lindsay Bird’s column, *Help Me, Hera,* which is published on *The Spinoff.* In this session, Hera answers your questions, live, and discusses the art of both offering advice, and taking it (or not). Hera will be joined on stage with *The Spinoff’s* editor, Mad Chapman.

Sen your questions for Hera to answer, live, to:

[Helpmehera@festival.nz](mailto:Helpmehera@festival.nz)

7pm | Deluxe 1, The Embassy | 1 hr | Early Bird $19, $25

**ANNE ENRIGHT:**

**LOVE’S WEIGHT**

This is powerful, thoughtful book by one of the great living writers on the subject of family.

* ***NEW YORK TIMES***

Anne Enright is one of Ireland’s most celebrated authors. Her latest novel, *The Wren, The Wren,* is as funny as it is moving, and astonishing in its craft. As the chapters weave the perspectives of Carmel, Nell and Phil, we explore mother-daughter relationships, the looming shadow of the father-artist, inherited trauma, and the ways in which women must be resilient. Join Enright for an hour on love and literature.

WHEN: 5:30pm

WHERE: The Grand, The Embassy

TICKETS:   
Early Bird $19

$25

DURATION   
1 hr

**SUNDAY**

**25 FEB**

**TE TIRITI TRAUMA BUT MAKE IT SCI-FI TĪHEMA BAKER**

Tīhema Baker (Raukawa te Au ki te Tonga, Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai, and Ngāti Toa Rangatira) wrote one of the best-selling Aotearoa novels of 2023. In *Turncoat,* Baker asks Pākeha to consider, through the lens of allegorical sci fi, what it would be like to be colonised and then find oneself having to work for the colonisers. How would you hold them to account to promises made and agreed? Join Baker for a deep dive into the possibilities of satire and sci-fi, as he talks with Anahera Gildea about his career as a writer and a Te Tiriti-based policy advisor.

11.30am | Deluxe 1, The Embassy | 1 hr | Early Bird $19 $25

**NORTH OF 40: MID-LIFE BREAKTHROUGH**

Anahera Gildea, Emily Perkins, Tusiata Avia, hosted by Stacey Morrison: this panel will celebrate the gift of being middle aged and awesome. Sharing stories of how to say yes and how to say no with the freedom and certainty that comes with the gist of again. These wāhine will stoke the fire of time and read from their books which speak to lives filled with aroha and resilience.

WHEN: 12pm

WHERE: The Grand, The Embassy

TICKETS   
Early Bird $19

$25

DURATION

1hr

**TOWARD HOPE: PIP ADAM**

*Audition* is the astonishing new novel by one of Aotearoa's most inventive and urgent writers. Pip Adam talks with Jo Randerson about the origins of her absurdist, political, critical, moving novel about three giants incarcerated in a spaceship, and how the story works to unravel and expose the systems that try to contain and diminish us.

11.30am | Deluxe 2, The Embassy | 1 hr | Early Bird $19 $25

**ARTICULATING THE ARTIST: RUBY SOLLY WITH HENRIETTA BOLLINGER**

How does art enrich our lives? What are the challenges? Can art change the world? Does the world change art? Friends and artists RUby Solly *(The Artist)* and Henrietta Bollinger *(Articulations)* discuss the intricacies of moving through the world as artists, and how the world impacts what they have to say, and why.

1pm | The Black Sparrow, The Embassy | 1 hr | $19

**BLAZING NATURE ON THE BIG SCREEN**

Liv Sisson’s landmark book, *Fungi of Aotearoa: A Curious forager’s field guide,* reveals the stunningly beautiful world of our shrooms. Nicola Toki’s regular segment on RNZ’s Afternoons, *Critter of the Week*, has been translated into book form: Critter of Aotearoa with illustrations by Lily Duval. In this session, Liv and Nicola, with Lynn Freeman, walk us through stunning imagery and fantastic facts, as the cinema screen brings their books to larger-than-life proportions.

WHEN: 1.45pm

WHERE: The Grand, The Embassy

TICKETS   
Early Bird $19

$25

DURATION: 1 hr

**SUNDAY**

**25 FEB**

**WHAT IF WE HAD TO SPEND A WHILE IN THIS PLACE?**

Coco Solid and Sam Duckor-Jones are multi-disciplinary artists who have the gift of being able to seamlessly try anything when it comes to their creative practices. They are both highly respected artists who have worked hard to create safe, playful art space with and for their communities. During this kōrero they will reflect on their favourite projects so far and share some of the challenges they overcame to shape spaces of communal artistic growth. They will read excerpts from their award-winning books – Coco Solid’s memoir *How to Loiter in a Turf War* and Sam Duckor-Jones' poetry collections *Party Legend* and from the Pit Stand Up.

10.15am | The Black Sparrow, The Embassy | 1 hr | $19

**WORDS WOVEN**

Poetic collaboration is at the heart of this first-of-its-kind anthology which holds poems from some of the world’s most incredible indigenous writers from Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia.

This hybrid session celebrated the launch of the *Woven Anthology* and will feature both in-person and digital readings from collaborators: Anahera Gildea, Evelyn Araluen and Nadine Anne Hura, ALison Whittaker and Raelee Lancaster, essa may ranapiri, Chelsea Watego, Emma Wehipeihana; featuring Linda Tuhiwai Smith.

WHEN: 3:30pm

WHERE: The Grand, The Embassy

TICKETS  
Early Bird $19

$25

DURATION

1hr

**FIRST PENNED**

2024 brings the 40th anniversary of Sandra Cisneros’ now classic and highly celebrated *The House on Mango Street.* In 1999 the foundational text *Decolonising Methodologies* by Linda Tuhiwai Smith was published and in 2004 Tusiata Avia published the iconic *Wild Dogs Under My Skirt.* Since then, she has published five books which will no-doubt be treasured b readers well into the future.

What is it about these books, and others like them, which make them slide so naturally into the realms of the classic? Do certain books get better with time? How does the relationship between the author and the writing change as years pass? Sinead Overbye speaks with these incredible writers to discover what makes certain books speak to multiple generations with ease.

2.15pm | Deluxe 2, The Embassy | 1 hr | Early Bird $19 $25

**EMMA WEHIPEIHANA:**

**MEDICAL MELTDOWN**

I don’t know why medicine felt like coming home but, for some reason, it fits. I keep thinking about how the tohu, once awarded, can never be taken back.

* ***EMMA WEHIPEIHANA***

Award-winning doctor and writer, Emma Wehipeihana (Ngāti Tukorehe, Ngāti Porou), speaks with Māni Dunlop about her bestselling debut memoir, *There’s a Cure for This.* This kōrero will open critiques around New Zealand’s health care system and political frameworks as well as reflections on love, the power of the podcast, motherhood, medicine and running.

WHEN: 5.30pm

WHERE: The Gran, The Embassy

TICKETS   
Early Bird $19

$25

DURATION   
1 hr

**BIRD LIFE: ANNA SMAILL**

A beautifully lyrical tale of loss, grief, and madness, whose central characters are so deftly drawn that you find yourself breathlessly following them down. Magically strange yet horribly real.

2.15pm | Deluxe 1, The Embassy | 1 hr | Early Bird $19, $25

**PATRICK DEWITT:**

**AGING PLAYFULLY**

Patrick DeWitt is a 21st Century Mark Twain.

* ***SLATE.COM***

The award-winning author of *The Sisters Brothers, Undermajordomo Minor,* and *French Exit,* Patrick DeWitt, has just released *The Librarianist,* about retired librarian Bob Comet, DeWitt speaks with Megan Dunn about the joy of Fully-Fleshed minor characters, the artistic potential of the flashback, and never being too old to learn new tricks.

WHEN: 10.15am

WHERE: The Grand, The Embassy

TICKETS  
Early Bird $19

$25

DURATION: 1 hr

**THE WORDS FOR HER:**

**THOMASIN SLEIGH**

What would the world be like if people started disappearing from photos” How would we react? This is the central premise of Thomasin Sleigh’s electrifying new novel that interrogates our world of incessant image-making and sharing.

Join Thomasin with writer Pip Adam for a conversation about photography’s ability to reflect, capture, manipulate and release – themes also explored in Thomasin's previous two novels, which from a loose triology with *The Words For Her.*

3.45pm | The Black Sparrow, The Embassy | 1 hr | $19

**REBECCA PRIESTLEY:**

**END TIMES?**

*End Times,* the latest, brilliant book from acclaimed science writer and academic, Proffesor Rebecca Priestly, tells the story of her escapades with best friend Maz over two distinct period in their lives: the first, punctuated by 1980s punk and protest before an evangelical Christian phase; the second, a West Coast road trip in 2021 amid the tangles of Covid conspiracies and the yawning threats of climate change and an alpine fault rupture. Priestly joins Kim Hill to discuss the fruitless, even hilarious, beauty of memoir in the face of the end of the world and why it is that we do what we do, think what we think, and how that might change.

5pm | Deluxe 1, The Embassy | 1 hr| Early Bird $19, $25

**ANITA HEISS:**

**THIS WRITER’S LIFE**

Dr Anita Heiss is one of Australia’s most recognised and awarded writers, whose many publications include her memoir *Am I Black Enough for You?* And the novels *Bila Yarrudhanggalangdhuray (River of Dreams), Manhattan Dreaming, Paris Dreaming, Who Am I?* And *Our Race for Reconciliation.* Anita is a proud member of the Wiradjuri nation of central New South Wales and her vast writing appeals to children and adults alike. In fact, they’re often so good that adults can be found reading her kids-dedicated books. Anita Heiss will speak with Stacey Morrison about her remarkable journey to becoming a beloved Australian writer and her important work with the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

5pm | Deluxe 2, The Embassy | 1 hr | Early Bird $19, $25

**VISUAL ARTS**

**WHAT THEY DIDBN’T TEACH US IN SCHOOL:**

**RICHARD LEWER – THE WAIKATO WARS**

Kirikiriroa Hamilton born, Melbourne-based, Richard Lewe’s artwork investigates difficult subjects or probes extreme behaviour.

For *What they didn't teach us in school,* Lewer has created a new body of work derived from his person journey as a Pākehā learning about the Waikato Wars.

Like many New Zealander, Lewer wasn’t taught about the New Zealand Wars at school. He feels it’s important to acknowledge and digest what happened, to help understand our colonial history. Lewer believes this is his most important artwork series, as he develops an understanding of the history of the place he comes from and his place within it.

WHEN   
Thur 22 Feb -

Sun 12 May   
WHERE   
New Zealand Portrait Gallery Te Pūkenga Whakaata

FREE

**NELL X COLIUNI MCCAHON: THROUGH THE WALL OF BIRTH AND DEATH**

Developed especially for the Dowse Art Museum, Sudney-based internationally renowned contemporary artist Nell Presents an exhibition charting her practice over recent year including painting, sculpture and installation.

In a twist on the conventional solo exhibition, she shows alongside colin McCahon, an artist whose work she has had a long fascination with. Imbued with the symbolism of opposites – light and dark, death and birth, joy and sadness – Nell's and McCahon’s works share a dialogue across time, geographical distance and culture. Like a rock’n’roll relationship their works speak to notions of transcendence, spiritual; awareness and hard-rock sensibilities.

WHEN   
Sat 17 Feb -

Sun 4 Aug

WHERE   
The Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt

FREE

**STACK: ANGUS MUIR**

At first glance, *Stack* presents a seemingly simple arrangement of squares. Yet, upon closer inspection, the intricacies of the installation reveal themselves. Each square lightbox forms a layered composition that draws the eye inward, beckoning thge viewer to delve deeper into its visual landscape.

As light emanates from within, the squares come to life, casting gentle, radiant glows that traverse the surfaces.

Specialising in atmospheric architecture, ANdus Muir’s work is dedicated to contemporary, immersive experiences. For all those who encournter a Muir installation, a sensory journey is understaken through his innovative manupoulation of space and sense.

WHEN: Sat 10 Feb - Sun 28 Apr

WHERE: Whirinaki Whare Taonga, Upper Hutt

FREE

**THE PERFORMANCE ARCADE**

The Performance Arcade emerges for its 14th season of live art and music with a programme that celebrates the performing artists as a time traveller, world builder, and ‘reimaginary.’

Featuring The SaVĀ`GE k’LUB, Stephen Bain’s *Drifting Room,* Afro-Dance-Pop artist InDuna, movement artists Kosta Bogoievski and Josie Archer, Hamish McIntosh on a treadmill, and glamorous popstar Jason Parker, these artists reimagine the future, reimagine the past, and reimagine the present in a vibrant array of new works.

Installed within a temporary architecture built from shipping containers behind Te Papa on Wellington Waterfront this miniature festival boasts a pop-up bar, food trucks, and live music.

WHEN: Wed 21 – 25 Feb

WHERE: Te Ara Moana Wellington Waterfront

FREE

**MERGING BLOCKS: SABINE MARCELIS**

Wellington Sculpture Trust’s biennial temporary sculpture installation The Collin Post 4 Plinths Project features Dutch artist, Sabine Marcelis’ *Merging Blocks* as the ninth project in this series, incorporating the plinths for the first time.

Light plays a crucial role in the work, where during the day sunlight reaches through the blockjs to cast beautiful colour reflections on the ground. At night, the artwork will be lit by integrated lighting, illuminating the boxes and allowing the glow to highlight their shapes.

The installation will quietly generate its own electricity through invisible solar cells embedded in the glass, enabling the work to create its own lighting.

WHEN: From Feb 2024

WHERE: Te Papa

FREE

**HALO: GILL GATFIELD**

The Wellington Sculpture Trust celebrates its 40th Anniversary by gifting an extended virtual reality sculpture to the city.

Created in the Metaverse, *HALO* by artist Gill Gatfield is a giant marble circle that appears out of the ether, an ancient stone circle and futurist monument, floating above the harbour, Whanganui-a-Tara. Using only a mobile phone, the virtual sculpture will be visible from the Wellington Waterfront Promenade, and an outdoor terrace outside the kiosk within the Bush Walk at Te Papa.   
Defying gravity, the monumental classical form commemorates the work the Trust has done in providing innovative contemporary public art for the city.

WHEN: Until Mar 2024

WHERE: Wellington Harbour

FREE

**TOIORA, THE ART OF WELLBEING, KI TE PŌ KI TE AO, THROUGH LIOGHT AND SHADOW**

Artworks that evoke the traditional narratives regarding the atua Māori and the mutual regarding the aua Māori and the mutual connection to humankind.

**NGĀ TAONGA TUKU IHO, TREASURES OF KĀPITI**

Historical and contemporary artworks and taonga carrying the memories of communities that have contributed to the settlement of Kāpiti.

**THE KILNS PROJECT**

Elisabeth Vullings explores the relocation of two beehive pottery kilns built in Te Horo in the early 1970s by acclaimed potter Mirek Smíšek.

**INEFFABLE**

Artworks made by artists at the Shed Project which provides training and employment for differently abled and disadvantaged people.

WHEN: Until Apr 2024

WHERE: Toi MAHARA, Waikanae

FREE