

Regional News

Wilmington

Issue 243
May 6, 2025



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News

Her majesty awaits



Photo by Ashley Church.

You can take the girl out of Whanganui, but you can't take the Tui crown off her head... At least that's what born and bred Whanganui comedy sensation Joana Joy – the winner of the 2009 Tui pub beauty pageant, a \$100 bar tab, and a cheeky pash outside Countdown – decrees in her NZ International Comedy Festival show *Miss Tui Whanganui 2009*.

Directed by Fred Award-winner Bernie Duncan, “this show is a time-traveling party of jokes and physical comedy,” Joy says of her solo debut. 15 years on from winning her Tui title, Joy has circled back around to that fateful night, delving deep into beauty standards, small town Kiwi culture, and the laws of attraction.

Since then, the Melbourne-trained comedian has taken Aotearoa and beyond by storm, with a nomination for Best Newcomer at the 2024 NZ International Comedy Festival bestowed upon her in the process. Known for her dynamic physical comedy and sharp wit, critics across the motu have praised her playful and fearless, meticulous and authentic style.

Fresh off the back of performances at Earthbeat Festival, WOMAD, and Twisted Frequency, plus with delighted Whanganui audiences shouting their praise, Joy parades into the capital with *Miss Tui Whanganui 2009* expecting a regal reception at Te Auaha's Tapere Iti theatre between the 21st and 24th of May.

Bottle, bottle in the fridge, who is the fairest of them all?

Caledonian comedy



Wellington Comic Opera has swapped the idyllic countryside of Japan for the atmospheric Highlands of Scotland as Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* becomes *The McCardo*.

“To some extent this change of setting is in line with modern tastes – where the 19th century British stereotypes of Japanese culture jar in today's world,” production manager and chorus member Ian Graham says. “The show could, in fact, be set anywhere because the object of Gilbert's satire is the public service which, in any country, contains elements of connivance and skulduggery, and the judiciary often must deal with ridiculous laws with punishments that in no way fit the crime. Why not have it set in Scotland where things can be a bit alternative anyway.”

Gilbert and Sullivan's original comic opera *The Mikado* is one of the most frequently staged Savoy opera in history, boasting the second-longest run for any work of musical theatre with a whopping 672 performances.

“Wellington Comic Opera sets out to create musical shows with broad appeal, whilst still retaining the spirit of the original works from which they are drawn,” Graham says, adding that *The McCardo* places the story in Scottish clan society to create a colourful show full of wit, sparkle, and familiar characters and songs, but bathed in a fresh light.

Helmed by director David Cox and musical director William McElwee, *The McCardo* stars Lindsay Groves in the titular role, Teresa Sullivan as Nanki-Poo, Vincent Wong as Ko-Ko, Yang Liu as Pooh-Bah, Braden Lister as Pish-Tush, Lizzie Summers as Yum-Yum, Gemma Conn as Pitti-Sing, Zoe Stocks as Peep-Bo, and Rebecca Murphy Woodmore as Katisha.

File the correct form to secure your permit to see *The McCardo* at Whirinaki Whare Taonga on the 10th and 11th of May, Wellington's Memorial Theatre on the 16th and 17th, Lower Hutt Little Theatre on the 23rd, and Te Raukura ki Kāpiti in Raumati on the 24th.

Cover: Amalia Hall. Echoes of Home: Bartók & Dvořák, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

All editorial pages are headed only in red, other colours are advertising features.

The views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect those of *Regional News*.

Available from stands at:
New World supermarkets

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Miramar 6243.

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RegionalNewsNZ
www.regionalnews.kiwi
ISSN: 2382-2384

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Echoes of Home



The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra welcomes sensational Hungarian conductor Gábor Káli and New Zealand violinist Amalia Hall [pictured] to bring to life Bartók’s unique, folk-inspired sound world in *Echoes of Home: Bartók & Dvořák* at the Michael Fowler Centre on the 23rd of May at 6:30pm.

Echoes of Home: Bartók & Dvořák opens with a homegrown masterpiece: Douglas Lilburn’s *Aotearoa Overture*, a tribute to New Zealand’s sweeping landscapes and unique cultural heritage. Next on the bill is Bartók’s Violin Concerto No. 2, written in 1937 at a time of increasing unease regarding his homeland’s future. Hall will deliver an unforgettable performance of the evocative piece, joined by the NZSO and led by Káli in his Aotearoa debut.

Hailing from Bartók’s native Hungary, Káli’s work with the Budapest Festival Orchestra launched him as a fast-rising interpreter of the composer’s repertoire. His profound expertise in Bartók’s works has earned him accolades and invitations to conduct major orchestras and operas worldwide, cementing his reputation as an innovative and compelling leader in classical music.

One of New Zealand’s most celebrated violinists, Hall made her NZSO debut in 2022 to critical acclaim from *The Post* and *The New Zealand Herald*, who declared her “a superb soloist”. Praised for her “blazing insight and dazzling virtuosity” (*The Strad*), she is also concertmaster of Orchestra Wellington – a position she earned in 2016 as New Zealand’s youngest concertmaster – and a violinist with NZTrio.

Echoes of Home: Bartók & Dvořák will draw to a close with Antonín Dvořák’s Symphony No. 7, a haunting expression of the composer’s deep love for his Czech roots.

Turn it up this May



This May marks a massive musical milestone: 25 years of NZ Music Month | Te Marama Puoro o Aotearoa.

“NZ Music Month | Te Marama Puoro o Aotearoa is an opportunity to highlight our incredible artists and the music community right across the country”, NZ Music Commission chief executive Cath Andersen says. “This month is all about supporting the local music scene – streaming local, seeing local, and buying local. With over 500 events and nearly 100 releases registered so far, there is truly something for everyone – and the list is growing every day.”

Just some of the Wellington events on that list include the launch of the iconic Smokefree Rockquest and Showquest competitions for 2025 on May the 7th at Parliament’s Grand Hall. Featuring performances from Rockquest alumni Georgia Lines and Troy Kingi, last year’s Rockquest and Smokefree Tangata Beats winners Top Shelf and Emerson, and previous Showquest and Rockshop Bandquest national winners Rangikura School, turn up and turn it up to celebrate Aotearoa’s only nationwide, live, original music, youth event. Meanwhile, the Battle of the Bands rages on, with the Wellington final of the National Championship at the end of the month at Valhalla. Rock on!

Rounding out NZ Music Month in swingin’ style are the Aotearoa Music Awards on May the 29th – check out our *60 years of Tūi* story on page six for the scoop on the finalists – and NZ Music T-Shirt Day on May the 30th. This cornerstone event encourages Kiwis to wear their favourite artist or band tees on the day to show support to MusicHelps, an incredible charity that uses the power of music to change the lives of thousands of New Zealanders in need, by donating to their appeal. Here’s some of the *Regional News* team rocking their NZ Music Month T-shirts!

Celebrating music from New Zealand and the people who make it, get amongst and find out more at www.nzmusicmonth.co.nz

SNIPS

Wellington Mayor
Tory Whanau will not run for a second term as the Wellington Mayor. The candidates now bidding for the mayoralty in October are former Labour MP Andrew Little, current councillor Ray Chung, former councillor Rob Goulden, conservationist Kelvin Hastie, businessman Karl Tiefenbacher, and Wellington Live’s Graham Bloxham.

Director departs
The New Zealand Portrait Gallery Te Pūkenga Whakaata has announced the departure of director Jaenine Parkinson, who oversaw a visionary chapter for the gallery for seven and a half years and has been appointed as head of art at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. Recruitment for a new director will begin shortly.

Delivering for Good
NZ Post is relaunching Delivering for Good, which provides up to 34,000 free domestic courier services to 10-plus charities and social enterprises across Aotearoa. If you’re a local or national organisation doing the good mahi, you can apply for the programme at deliveringforgood.nzpost.co.nz until the 18th of May.

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News

A parody of a paradigm

by **Alessia Belsito-Riera**



Still soggy from jumping into the Bucket Fountain with his surfboard a few weeks ago, comedian Sandy Burton will now be making a splash with his new comedy special *Tubs of Fun!* at the Newtown Community Centre on the 8th, 9th, 16th, and 17th of May. While under duress of a local hot tub company who have forced their sponsorship upon him, the genre-pushing, 2020 Wellington RAW Comedy Quest-winning, joke-slaying, stay-at-home-dad party starter will present brand-new material that he hopes will submerge audience in litres of laughter. I took the plunge to ask him what the deal is on (hot) *Tubs of Fun!*

What do you love about comedy?

I love comedy because when you are bent over in a fit of hysterical laughter, it has got to be one of the best feelings you can experience on planet Earth. It has the power to suspend you in a moment of absolute, unadulterated joy. As a comedian, you get to create those moments for others, and for me that is an unparalleled natural high. Comedy is a marvellous tool for celebrating a sense of community and communicating ideas. It has an almost divine power to send a message to the brain but also right to the heart. When a joke lands, it causes a bizarre physiological reaction we call laughter – this part of the human experience is still very much shrouded in mystery. It is the mechanics of a joke and how they can cause this response in us that draws me in as a comedian. I believe comedy is an essential part of our survival as it is an antidote to adversity. Paleoanthropologists state that early hominids would strive to instigate laughter when coming across a stranger for the first time. These scientists believe early humans would do this in order to present as a friend rather than foe; to share a moment of laughter together would potentially disarm any threatening advances. Comedy is my love language!

How would you describe your style?

My style of comedy includes meticulously crafted social commentary that is simultaneously astute and absurd. My shows include a range of routines centred on political satire, anecdotal storytelling, and a somewhat meta-deconstruction of stand-up itself. My comedy never punches down but sometimes turns the oppressor into a target!

Where did the idea for *Tubs of Fun!* come from?

My favourite comedy specials are ones that have an overall narrative arc or a commitment to a theme. The through-line of *Tubs of Fun!* is based on the idea of how it is increasingly difficult to discern genuine content from sponsored advertising. Advertorial journalism was once at the forefront of this commercial trickery but with sponsored content now running rife on social media, it has become even more contrived yet also more convincing. *Tubs of Fun!* is a parody of this paradigm.

What do you hope audiences take away from the show?

My goal with *Tubs of Fun!* is for audiences to escape from the reality of their day-to-day lives. My show is an attempt to explore and push the genre into new territory, to create a live experience that feels totally original.



A heavy house hitter



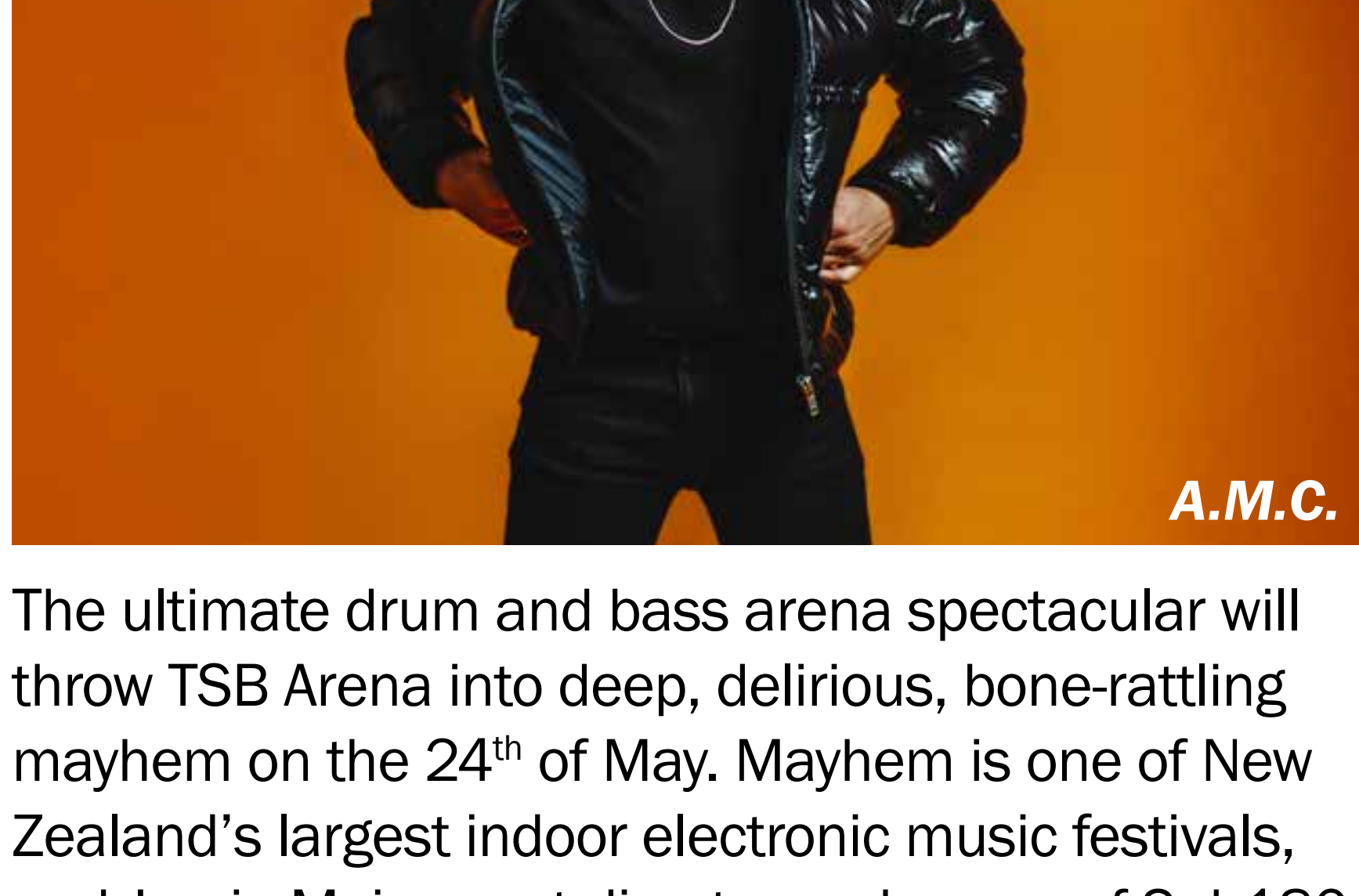
GRAMMY®-nominated producer and DJ 1tbsp is about to check back into New Zealand for two exclusive shows as part of his *hotel living tour*. Continuing his vibrant journey with unabated momentum, Maxwell Byrne’s return to our shores comes off the back of a string of standout sets across North America, new singles, and his Aotearoa debut as 1tbsp late last year.

The Australian artist, recognised for his contributions as a songwriter and producer under the alias Golden Vessel, diverged from that familiar sound in 2021 when he unveiled his debut four-track EP as the indie-house and dance project 1tbsp. *kanashī* garnered acclaim and attention globally, accumulating over 3.6 million streams on Spotify alone. Inspired and spurred by the positive response, Byrne went on to craft and drop more music as 1tbsp, releasing his debut album *Mosquito Love* in August 2023. It was a mammoth year for Byrne, who earned a 2023 GRAMMY nomination for his work on BAYNK’s song *Till It’s Even*.

Now with two major, celebrated projects standing proudly side by side, Byrne then hit the gig circuit hard as 1tbsp, conducting a nine-date Australian tour and securing spots in the Listen Out festival, which ventured across Brisbane, Perth, Melbourne, and Sydney, and at the inaugural SXSW Sydney in October.

Known for crafting genre-blurring journeys through house, techno, reggaeton, and Latin club rhythms, don’t miss your chance to catch a heaped dose of 1tbsp in NZ when he plays Meow on the 23rd of May.

Step through the portal



The ultimate drum and bass arena spectacular will throw TSB Arena into deep, delirious, bone-rattling mayhem on the 24th of May. Mayhem is one of New Zealand’s largest indoor electronic music festivals, and Jamie Moir, event director and owner of Sub180, is thrilled to bring it here to the capital for the first time.

“The show has seen huge success in Christchurch and Auckland and we can’t wait to bring such a unique experience to Wellington”, Moir beams. “Mayhem is all about the show production. Taking inspiration from European festivals, we build a massive lighting and visual show each year. This year will feature a brand-new show, Portals, featuring the biggest production installation yet, a new visual show, and the best Mayhem lineup to date.”

That lineup spans international icons and local legends alike. Headliners include A.M.C, one of the last DnB DJs to graduate from the schools of dubplate culture and vinyl science, and MC Phantom. Both UK artists will liquify a set together. Also hailing from the UK, electronic duo Koven, who’ve just released their second full-length album *Moments In Everglow*, travel to Pōneke to perform. They will be supported by The Upbeats – the Welly production and DJ team of Terror Snake and Downie Wolf, who just got back from crushing it in Bucharest – 22-year-old Newcastle *Field Notes* producer Skantia, and Brighton-based Circadian, the solo project of Chris Garvey of The Prototypes. Kiwis Joey Illah, Eight-Oh, Damage Control, and more acts stack the bill.

Lemons, Limes and Orchids



“One of the most charismatic, compelling and nuanced performers you could ever hope to see live” (*Ambient Light*) is about to perform her new album *Lemons, Limes and Orchids* alongside songs that span her storied career in Wellington. Joan as Police Woman will play Old St Paul’s on Saturday the 17th of May.

With “a voice so wondrous and moving that it makes everyone else’s seem ordinary and mundane” (*The Guardian*), critically acclaimed multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter Joan Wasser has over 10 albums and three decades in the industry to her name. She’s made more than considerable strides building her pedigree as a live act in that time, performing alongside luminaries like Lou Reed, Rufus Wainwright, Laurie Anderson, Sufjan Stevens, and the late great Jeff Buckley, whom she affectionately referred to as her soulmate. Last year, she joined Iggy Pop’s touring band as a keyboardist and background vocalist.

Her first project since the 2021 release of *The Solution Is Restless*, *Lemons, Limes and Orchids* is, at its core, a record about love and loss. Capturing the breathlessness of love in all its joy and sorrow as it audibly reckons with our collective collapse and disorientation, the album sees Joan venture deeper into her jazz influences and showcases her artistry in all its splendour.

“I was ready to make an album that truly featured my voice”, she says. “The basics were recorded like they used to be – with me singing live along with the band. My good friend told me this is the sexiest album I’ve ever made. Honestly, I think she’s right.”

“Touring is the daily adrenaline shot of performing live, then the contrast of coming back to the reality of domestic life and the never-ending admin of being an indie artist.”

Thrumming with upbeat acoustic guitar and syncopated melodic hooks, *Post High Slide* is both a testament to Parsons’ continued evolution as an artist and a signal of the fresh chapter on her horizon. Capturing the feeling of “playing to thousands every night, then going home with that ‘what the hell do we do now’ kind of feeling”, she’ll celebrate the single by kicking off an Australasian tour in Wellington at San Fran on the 25th of May.

On the road again



Award-winning singer-songwriter and 2025 Taite Music Prize finalist Mel Parsons had a watershed year in 2024. Releasing her acclaimed sixth album *Sabotage*, which debuted at number two on the Official Top 20 Aotearoa Albums Chart and was described as “pure triumph” by *Rolling Stone Australia*, she spent much of the latter half of the year touring to rapturous reception.

Following her sold-out *Sabotage Tour* in June, Parsons shot to Canada to perform at the prestigious Vancouver Folk Music Festival, then undertook a huge run of regional shows spanning Whangārei to Invercargill from September to October. Then, from November through December, she capped off a mammoth year by supporting Crowded House on their seven-date arena run. Suffice to say, Parsons is no stranger to life on the road! Drawing inspiration from the highs and lows of that life, the Lyttleton-based artist has unveiled a new single – as introspective as it is infectious – called *Post High Slide*.

“I used to get post-tour blues pretty bad,” Parsons reflects. “I’d come home and thump back down to earth after a sustained period of excitement and adventure.”

“Touring is the daily adrenaline shot of performing live, then the contrast of coming back to the reality of domestic life and the never-ending admin of being an indie artist.”

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All about the bluff



Grifted & Talented is putting the con in talent contest as Wellington’s zestiest comedians and improvisers take to the stage for a show that’s all about the bluff.

Coming to Te Auaha’s Tapere Iti theatre as part of the NZ International Comedy Festival, *Grifted & Talented* is a comedy game show version of a talent contest inspired by the likes of *Game Changer*, *Would I Lie To You?*, and *Taskmaster*. Contestants will take to the stage to show off all sorts of skills, but there’s a catch... none of them know what this skill is until they find themselves in the thick of it! Once their talent is assigned, they’ll need to convince everybody else that it is something they can definitely do.

From dancing and singing to juggling and magic, an eclectic mix of comedians, cabaret artists, and improvisers will fake it until they make it under the chaotic guidance of host Jim Fishwick, a contributing writer for *Taskmaster* NZ, who is beyond excited to bring this show to Aotearoa.

“I know so many talented (and mischievous!) performers on this side of the Tasman and I can’t wait to see what they bring to it,” Fishwick beams. With a rotating roster, get ready for Austin Harrison, Lily Catastrophe, Malcolm Morrison, and Tara McEntee on the 7th of May; Clever Hansel, Jen O’Sullivan, Joana Joy, and Wiremu Tuhiwai on the 8th; CB Brooks, Elliot Lam, Nina Hogg, and Stevie Hancox-Monk on the 9th; and Leo Lennox, Matt Powell, Ralph Hilaga, and 2025 Billy T nominee Booth the Clown on closing night.

Celebrate, elevate, amplify

by **Madelaine Empson**



Women in alternative creative spaces will be celebrated, elevated, and amplified through music, movement, tattoo art, and beers in an upcoming one-night-only event at Underworld Tavern on the 24th of May. Together with the venue, AMPLIFY: PŌNEKE is brought to you by Burn My Records, an independent label based in Wellington dedicated to discovering and supporting alternative music.

Co-founder, CEO, producer, and mix engineer Jayde Marter says Burn My Records likes Wellington for its many cultural events... “but we want to see more cultural events for the bogans too!”

“We wanted to make a music and arts event that we would love to go and watch – and there are lots and lots of female-fronted businesses and bands in the alternative arts scene that contribute a huge amount to the Wellington community which we thought needed to be showcased”, Marter says. “If the audience takes away anything from the show, it is that we are lucky to live in a place that has such diverse alt culture and incredibly talented performers.”

Those performers include a stellar lineup of women-led bands making waves in alt-rock and alt-metal, including Curlys Jewels, Burn My Shadow, Cherry Punch, and Lady Reign. Alongside the wicked music, AMPLIFY: PŌNEKE features a range of ‘altertainment’, with fusion belly dance from Rosina June and her troupe, pole artistry by Myley and Natalia Gemini from The Garden Pole Dance Studio, cabaret-inspired moments peppered throughout, and even onsite tattooing to mark the occasion.

60 years of Tūi



CHAI. Photo by **Apela Bell.**

Recorded Music NZ, producer of the Aotearoa Music Awards (AMA), has unveiled an exceptional group of 2025 Tūi finalists who will be celebrated at the closing out of New Zealand Music Month | Te Marama Puoro o Aotearoa. The AMA winners will be announced on the 29th of May in an Auckland event that marks 60 years of the Music Awards in Aotearoa.

Two artists lead the way this year with five nominations each: Persian-New Zealand talent CHAI and inaugural (2024) Te Manu Mātārae recipient, Stan Walker. CHAI is recognised for her breakout debut album *Safar* – earning nominations across Album, Single, Electronic Artist, Video Content, and Producer of the Year (alongside Frank Keys). Walker secures nods for Best Solo Artist, Best Māori Artist, Best Soul/RnB Artist, Te Māngai Pāho Mana Reo, and Single of the Year for his long-standing te reo hit *Māori Ki Te Ao*.

The Single of the Year category is particularly strong this year, featuring tracks from Lorde, Fazerdaze, JessB, Theia, Troy Kingi, and more.

Other standout finalists include Kaylee Bell, Georgia Lines, and MOKOTRON, all up for multiple awards.

“A huge congratulations to all the finalists for the 2025 Aotearoa Music Awards,” Recorded Music NZ CEO Jo Oliver says. “The finalists illustrate the breadth and depth of musical talent we have here in Aotearoa, and the impact these artists and their music are having both at home and beyond.”

Describing the awards as “a key part of our musical heritage” which have “evolved over the years to reflect our unique cultural identity”, Oliver says the “AMA 2025 will recognise special artists and waiata of the past and present; and create new moments to inspire the next generation of artists.”

An intimate portrait



Marlon Williams’ te reo Māori album *Te Whare Tiwekaweke* has been a project five years in the making. The labour of love unlocks a newfound lyrical honesty and a grand sonic vision in the Kiwi creative, traversing his familiar folk-country-bluegrass territory while delving into poppier waters and the inherent rhythms of Māori music to give way to a collection both contemporary and timeless that features the likes of rapper KOMMI and pop star Lorde.

The artist and actor’s intimate journey with his fourth studio album comes to life onscreen in *Marlon Williams: Ngā Ao E Rua - Two Worlds*, a documentary from Ursula Grace Williams now in cinemas across the motu. The four-year portrait of Marlon weaves together his different worlds, from international tours and recording the album to life in his hometown of Ōhinehou (Lyttleton).

At first nervous about capturing his journey on film, Marlon says that there were “periods of reckoning,” but that trust grew as the project progressed. “Ursula has an incredible creative eye for storytelling. I had faith that she would be able to tell the story in a nuanced way”.

As for Ursula, she was drawn to the project through her own experience of losing her ancestral Samoan language and everything that goes with it. “I knew he would be making something very special that needed to be documented as a historical moment,” she says. “Marlon has such an infectious energy that’s fun to be around. He’s thoughtful, but also very silly, funny, and charismatic. I think audiences will enjoy learning more about this side of him.”

Accessible engagement



Whether you're keen to jump into a new hobby, are in your crafty era, want to learn a new skill or study an unknown subject, or you're simply hoping to do something fun in the evenings, Wellington High School Community Education Centre (CEC) offers over 600 courses throughout the year across a huge catalogue of subjects.

From making and creating to learning and speaking, playing and exploring to writing and discovering, there is a class for every niche. As champions of accessibility and engagement, CEC also offers free Saturday workshops covering a broad range of subjects, including psychology, conflict resolution, NZ legal rights, small business management, money matters, negotiation skills, men and women's mental health, job interview techniques, CV building, self-defence, and so much more.

Each free workshop is developed and led by experts in the field. Mike Styles, who co-presents the neurodiversity workshop, was just awarded an ONZM for services to people with dyslexia and education.

"We are really pleased with the high calibre of our presenters and the excellent feedback we have received," director Nigel Sutton says. "In a time of everything costing way too much, these high-quality free workshops are exposing people to information and education they might otherwise not be able to access".

With a huge number of free workshops scheduled for May and June in particular, find out more and enrol online today at www.cecwellington.ac.nz

Hacking into humorous



Whether you're feeling a bit funny or you've got a case of the pre-winter blues, former doctor Adam Kay will see you now. With an appointment at the Opera House on the 14th and 17th of May, the multi-BAFTA-winning comedian will administer your daily dose of laughter with his new show *This Is Going to Hurt: Secret Diaries of a Junior Doctor*.

Based on Kay's literary sensation of the same name, *This Is Going to Hurt Live* is drawn from the former medic's real-life experiences as a physician, delving into life on and off the hospital wards. The show has been seen by over 300,000 people, enjoyed 50 sell-out nights on the West End, and was crowned the best-selling act of the 2023 Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

As for the book, the *Sunday Times* number one bestseller for over a year sold more than three million copies and won a record-breaking four National Book Awards before being adapted into a BAFTA-winning comedy-drama series for the BBC. Today, Kay has seven books under his lab coat and a debut novel *A Particularly Nasty Case*, which mixes mystery and medicine with a dash of murder, on the way this September.

Dubbed "hilarious and heartbreaking" by *The Times* and "painfully funny" by multi-hyphenate legend Stephen Fry, catch a case of Kay's "scalpel-sharp humour and searing insight" (*The Sun*) in *This Is Going To Hurt: Secret Diaries of a Junior Doctor* as part of the NZ International Comedy Festival.

Wellington
Fri, 23 May, 6.30pm
Michael Fowler Centre

**"One of NZ's
finest musicians"**
NZ Herald

ECHOES OF HOME **Bartók & Dvořák**

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Amalia Hall Violin

Lilburn Aotearoa Overture
Bartók Violin Concerto No. 2
Dvořák Symphony No. 7

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A word from Maddi...

Happy NZ Music Month!

by **Madelaine Empson**

I grew up listening to Greg Johnson. The Kiwi musician recently celebrated the 30th anniversary of *Vine Street Stories*, one of the CDs my dad had in circulation on his car's six-disc carousel player. I had to Google that to remember what they're called, which hit

home, like a Walkman to the face, how much has changed in the music world since then.

Same for Greg, who called time “the least understood thing humans have to deal with” when I interviewed him recently ahead of his *Vine Street Stories 30th Anniversary Tour*. The album was largely recorded at Vine Street, St Marys Bay, where he lived and played throughout the 90s. I asked him to spill a story or two from that time and laughed out loud when he told me:

“I had an annual Boxing Day party that started to balloon after the first couple of years until the last one. It started around 11am so pacing yourself was important, but by 1am the entire back lawn had been totally worn off and Peter Ulrich was leading a huge conga line around the house, so when noise control showed up and took the stereo it was actually kind of a relief. I was like, ‘OK, time to hit the clubs now everybody, thanks for coming!’”

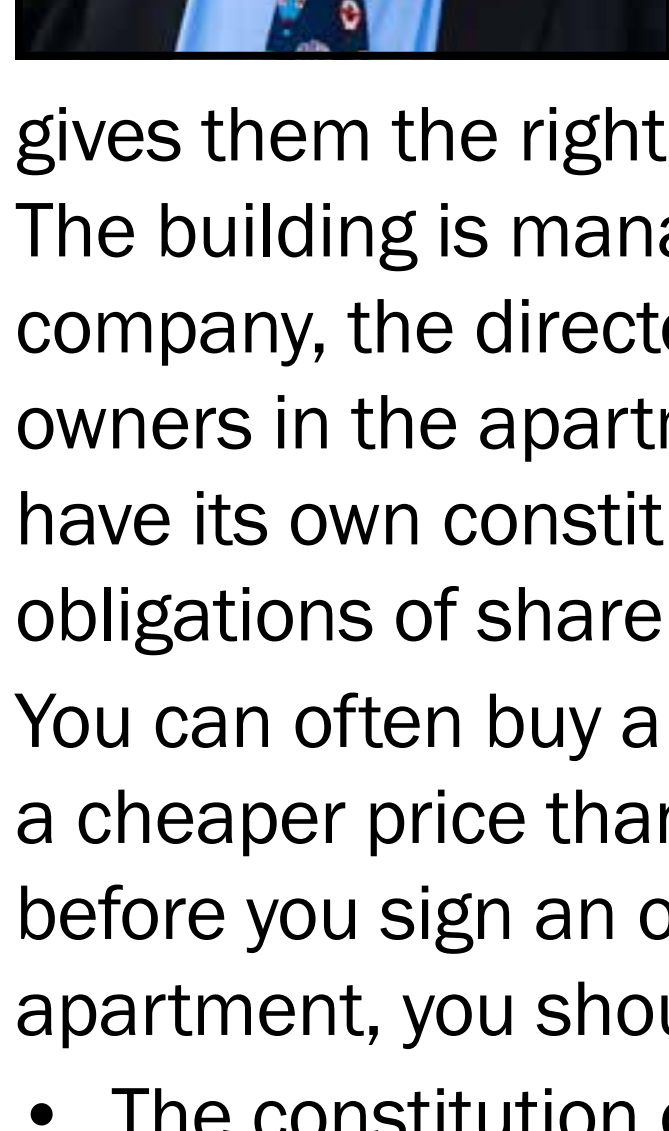
Oh, to have been a drunk fly on the wall at one of those legendary parties. Alas, I was only three when *Vine Street Stories* came out. I've now seen Greg five

times live with my dad in a father-daughter gigging tradition that brings me a lot of joy. Of course, we went to the *Vine Street* concert at Old St Paul's, where I inadvertently caused some absolute scenes. After attempting to squeeze into a pew I thought was a six-seater, but was most certainly a four and sitting in the middle on an awkward diagonal in stone-cold silence, avoiding the death glares from the crushed sardines to our left and right, I squeezed us to the end of another row, then promptly left again to ‘use the bathroom’ (read: ‘go to the bar’). In the line for red wine, I jokingly informed a stranger that the church pulpit was a secret bathroom, then panicked as she nodded and headed in its general direction.

I'm sure Greg, who wrapped up our interview saying “I just hope they've left a little sacramental wine in the back for us to drink”, would approve.

Advice from Alan

Company share apartments

by **Alan Knowsley, consultant, Rainey Collins Lawyers**

Company share apartments are an ownership arrangement for apartments where a company owns the land and the building on the land.

Purchasers buy shares in the company and enter into an Occupation Right Agreement or Occupation Licence, which

gives them the right to live in their apartment. The building is managed by the directors of the company, the directors being a number of the owners in the apartment building. The company will have its own constitution that outlines the rights and obligations of shareholders and often building rules.

You can often buy a company share apartment at a cheaper price than other apartments. However, before you sign an offer to buy a company share apartment, you should be aware of the following:

- The constitution of the company can have various restrictions included in it, including restrictions on renting out the apartment.
- Generally, the directors of the company that owns the building need to consent to purchasers buying an apartment.
- The fact that you do not obtain a title to an apartment can lead to issues obtaining finance. Shares in a company share apartment are not seen as good security by many of the major banks, so it can be difficult to get a mortgage to buy them, or you will need a high deposit before they consider lending. Some constitutions will also not allow you to mortgage your shares.
- Shareholders (owners) generally pay operating expenses to the company, so you need to be aware of these extra costs.
- Insurance is organised by the company.
- Company share apartments are not unit titles, so the rules about disclosure do not apply. You therefore need to make more in-depth enquiries about company share apartments before you purchase or as part of your conditions. Generally, the company secretary is able to provide most of this information to you. The company secretary is sometimes an owner of a property in the development but more commonly it is an accountant. While some company share apartments are choosing to apply the disclosure rules voluntarily, they are under no obligation to do so.

Innovation and artistry

Photo by **Stephen A'Court**.

The New Zealand School of Dance (NZSD) presents the 2025 choreographic season *How Long is a Piece of String?* from the 9th to the 16th of May at Te Whaea: National Dance and Drama Centre.

This season will feature the creative voices of nine 3rd year contemporary dance students, offering them a curated environment to explore and develop their creative ideas.

Mentored by course tutor Holly Newsome, the students have honed their creative processes. “This year's dancers demonstrate razor-sharp focus and exceptional technical skill,” Newsome says. “I am encouraging them to look beyond the dance itself, considering all the elements that contribute to a rich, immersive performance.”

The choreographers bring a rich tapestry of cultural influences and personal perspectives to their work. For instance, *How Long is a Piece of String?* performer Lin Tzu-Chi (Ritchie) shares that his work has “blended elements of Chinese dance and martial arts with modern movements, shifting between powerful, dynamic sequences and slow, fluid motions”.

This year's showcase features exciting partnerships with composers from The New Zealand School of Music – Te Kōkī, resulting in original compositions tailored to the unique nature of each piece.

Collaboration with lighting and design experts will further enhance the visual and sensory impact of the works.

How Long is a Piece of String? promises a captivating experience that will linger in the mind well beyond the final bow.

REVEL returns

**Ginger Velour**.

Last year, when our editor Maddi saw the smash-hit debut of *REVEL*, she described it as a marriage of “drag and dance with clowning and chaos, harmonies and hoop with music, madness, and merriment to spectacular, sparkly effect”. Calling the cabaret show “hot! Oh, so hot”, she hoped it would become “a permanent fixture on Wellington's events calendar”.

It looks like her wish came true, for *REVEL* returns to Hannah Playhouse in 2025 between the 15th and 17th of May in all its sparkly, sequined, spectacular glory.

Designed as Wellington's answer to international cabarets such as Paris' Moulin Rouge or Berlin's Wintergarten, *REVEL* will be bigger and better than before with an all-new cast performing a sizzling showcase of scintillating showmanship. Thanks to a combination of circus acts, cocktails, live music, drag, and theatre, the Hannah Playhouse will be transmuted into the Smokey REVEL Speakeasy, where audiences will be ushered through a secret entrance into the hottest clandestine party in town.

Hosted by diva Adriana Calabrese, the evening's programme features Pōneke powerhouses. Become transfixed by vocalist Jared Pallesen's siren song, Nicole Maisey's aerial whimsy, drag king Robin Yablind's quirky charisma, Ginger Velour's sensual burlesque business, and Matthias Goed's astonishing circus acts.

Escape the mundane for a touch of tease with lashings of luxury, and, of course, rapturous revelry.

Close-up

by Madelaine Empson

Turn up the filth



The year is 2030. Humanity is all but wiped out, and there is only one man who can save us from the softc**kalypse: Heath Franklin's Chopper. The moustachioed rascal crosses the pond with his new show *The Last Hard B*stard on Earth*, coming to the capital's Opera House for one night only on the 16th of May as part of the NZ International Comedy Festival.

"The Wellington shows are always great," Franklin says. "I love the venues. Just being there! It's one of the cities I always look forward to because the crowds are so awesome."

The Australian comedian tells me that the character of Chopper naturally evolved from watching the *Chopper* film starring Eric Bana and directed by Andrew Dominik too many times in university. "Most people in uni or high school have that one movie they quote with their friends, and that one was mine," he says, adding that after doing a show impersonating the notorious Aussie criminal Mark 'Chopper' Read, "it kept snowballing from there and here we are, 20-something years later"!

You'll recognise Franklin's Chopper from *7 Days* and from previous tours across the motu. I caught up with the cult-criminal character about his new show, asking just how he plans on getting us out of the mess we've made.

How are you gonna save us from the softc**kalypse?

I'm like a giant road sign that's like 'hit the brakes now'. Basically a series of warnings and parables pointing out what's on the road ahead. Whether you do or not, that's up to you.

We've been warned! How do you think we ended up in this position?

It's everything really. Everyone is worried about individuals now. They're like, 'what about me?' Which is fine... until you turn 12, but then there is other stuff you've gotta get up to. I think the fact that everything is for sale now. Everyone's like 'I need a treat! I need to buy this!' The only thing you really need to buy is tickets to a comedy show. And get outta the house. Don't just sit around the house watching television – that's the worst thing you can do.

How are you going to restart humankind?

That'll be when I meet the audience afterwards. Hopefully there will be some people that are genetically appealing. Nice and diverse because you don't want a Noah's Ark situation where you get a bunch of wonky inbred things happening.

What is your least favourite type of alternative milk?

I don't like any milk.

Not even cow's milk?

I know, that's a stupid thing to say in New Zealand, isn't it? I'll walk that back. I like cow's milk, but I don't like any other ones.

How can you even milk a cashew, right?

You just hit it with a hammer... good thing it's not the same process for milking cows.

What is your weapon of choice in the softc**kalypse?

Anything you can grab. You can never surpass a big bit of wood with a nail through it. A cricket bat. Whatever is handy and has a nice bit of heft to it and a natural handle. Something you can swing around. All these electric power tools turn out to be a lot more useful than you think in the softc**kalypse – petrol is hard to find. It's about inspiring fear in the hearts of your enemies as well as getting the job done.

How many self-diagnosing whingers do you think you could take in a fight?

Line 'em up. I can't see an avalanche of them poured on to me from the side of a mountain even making too much of difference. I'd just have to punch my way out. It's once again all about resilience and these people decided not to have any. That's the fight won before it even started.

Do you think you could one-punch them all?

Yeah, if I got them to cue up in a nice orderly line, I could punch all of them.

I'm sure you could get them to do that, they're always very obliging.

It'd be cartoonish, but it'd still be good.

What is your spirit animal and why?

Probably the gorilla in the zoo that goes bonkers. Harambe. At least when you go down, make sure people know your name. How many other nameless gorillas out there just sat around eating bits of grass shoots and carrots? Go Harambe.

What are Chopper's words to live by?

Harden the f**k up. Or just harden up depending on what sort of magazine this is [laughs].

What's your MO for The Last Hard B**tard on Earth?

As usual with my show, it's a ridiculous theme. For the most part it's the very best jokes. I wrote a bunch, they seem pretty good, and I keep writing them just to make them better. So bring a change of pants or put on the old bloody brown corduroys because it's a zinger.

A question for Heath: what do you think people love so much about Chopper?

Hopefully I have done a good job of turning him into a lovable scoundrel. He's kinda like Han Solo if you turn up the filth.



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That woke leftie is back



Photo by Aimée Sullivan.

Sameena Zehra is a storyteller driven – mostly by rage, she advises in parentheses – to “bring people together in spaces that are tender and robust and often just silly, in order to explore the collective power we have and why the hell we repeatedly fail to use it constructively”.

This has led to her being described, more than once, as “that woke leftie”, a truth that delights her “as much as it seems to disturb those saying it”.

Endlessly fascinated with the minutiae of human experience, she describes her new show *Homicidal Pacifist – Dust off Your Guillotines* as “a goulash of storytelling and political commentary, peppered with absurdity, dark humour, and personal context”.

“It is a sequel to *Homicidal Pacifist*, the show I brought to my very first NZ Fringe, way back in 2016, the year I fell in love with Pōneke and decided to make it my home.”

Premiering at the NZ International Comedy Festival from the 21st to the 24th of May at Te Auaha Gallery at 7pm, with a relaxed performance on the 24th at 5:30pm, the show sees the award-winning, internationally touring comedian ask whether it’s time for us all to dust off our guillotines. Spoiler alert: even for a pacifist, it’s time. As the people march for peace while their governments pour gasoline on fire, this deliciously dark hour will have you gasping and guffawing as you channel your inner homicidal pacifist to pen a culling list all of your own.

Let’s groove **by Alessia Belsito-Riera**



Photo by Aroha Photography.

Big synths, big hair, and big singalongs are rolling into Meow on the 17th of May for Don’t Call Me 80s, a DJ-led party for everyone who wants to dance with somebody.

Created out of a love of house music and a nostalgic passion for the songs of his extended youth, George FM DJ Grant Marshall has been bringing Don’t Call Me 80s to venues across the motu in an effort to entice older audiences back out into cool nightclub spaces with music they can resonate with.

“As a DJ for over 30 years, I have always loved to entertain people and to be the catalyst for them making memories on the dancefloor,” Marshall says. “I have to this day searched for great remixes of classic tracks and also appreciate the power of some of the well-made original 80s cuts. Putting all of these together in a club night for an audience who will appreciate them felt so right.”

His Don’t Call Me 80s setlist includes 80s bangers with a sprinkling of hits from the 70s and 90s, original anthems, remixed and re-edited classics, bootlegs, mashups, and more. Plus, dress up is highly encouraged, with a costume contest to boot.

As for Marshall, he loves seeing the room fill up, how people stay on the floor all night, the woops when a beloved track comes on, and the convivial atmosphere of people “reliving the past to make it part of their today”, he beams. “Expect sore feet, worn-out voices, and some serious smile miles”.

Blast off



Prepare for liftoff from Ivy Bar & Cabaret – at T-22 hours on the 24th of May, creatures from across the cosmos will take Wellington explorers to the far reaches of the universe with the out-of-this-world spectacle *Alien: First Contact – An Interstellar Drag Show*.

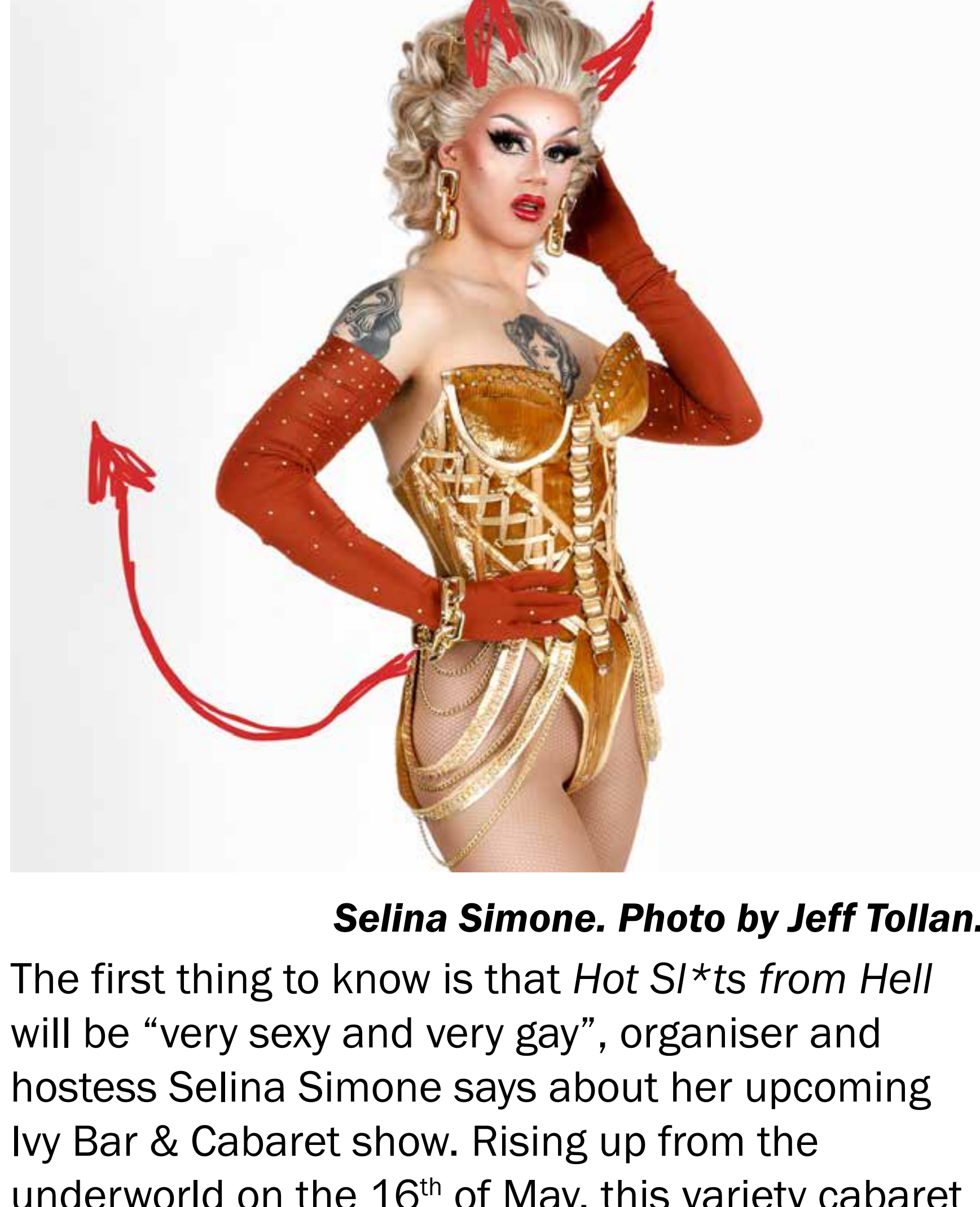
High fashion, high camp, and high fantasy come together for a big bang performance of otherworldly proportions. From shimmering space sirens to cybernetic divas, witness gravity-defying looks, cosmic comedy, and lip-syncs that are light-years ahead of their time.

As for the stellar lineup, Pōneke will be privy to performances from celestial beings, galactic queens, and interstellar kings known throughout the universe and beyond.

Leading the invasion as organiser is the whirling and twirling Faux Femm – she’s prepared the cabin for landing and can’t wait to introduce you to her interplanetary playmates. Catch psychedelic supermodel of otherworldly beauty Blink Bogan, hot horror bimbo Fetishini, the transformative and transmuting King Markiss, chaos incarnate and hypermobile hottie Rainn Bowes, the terrifyingly terrific Petra Fyde, Trudy Madly Deeply with fierce fun in tow, and Te Whanganui-a-Tara’s most contagious gem of a germ Amoeba Geezer.

Whether you’re a star traveller or a stargazer, cross through the portal of Ivy Bar & Cabaret for an interstellar experience where glam meets the galaxy and drag goes extraterrestrial. No problem here, Houston, just a shower of shooting stars coming into orbit.

Devils wear Prada



Selina Simone. Photo by Jeff Tollan.

The first thing to know is that *Hot SI*ts from Hell* will be “very sexy and very gay”, organiser and hostess Selina Simone says about her upcoming Ivy Bar & Cabaret show. Rising up from the underworld on the 16th of May, this variety cabaret is a bold, sex-positive celebration of all things hot, horny, and unholy.

“We’re unleashing a night of unapologetic, raw, and raunchy queer excellence,” the showgirl purrs. “A sinful spectacle of drag, burlesque, and live vocals.”

Clawing their way out from the gates of hell is a lusty lineup of Luciferian ladies and fabulously fierce fiends. Robin Yablind – known for stealing your heart and your girl – is Aotearoa’s award-winning draglesque heartthrob, a mainstay of Pōneke cabaret and reigning Supreme Grand Tease. A triple threat serving vocals, moves, and pure star power, Wellington’s rising star Pita Pocket comes hot out the oven. Travelling all the way from Aus is international burlesque, sideshow, and fetish performer Kitty Obsidian – fresh from a European tour, the aggressively queer, proud Wiradjuri/Gamilaroi babe, trans powerhouse of pleasure has become known as the ‘demon from down under’ and the ‘they/them wrecking mayhem’.

With drink specials and an award for best dressed, it’s bound to get steamy. “This is your invitation to let loose, to indulge, to delight, to revel in desire. Bring your lovers, your exes, your flames, your flatmates – hell, bring the whole polycule,” Selina gushes. “Welcome to *Hot SI*ts from Hell*, where the devil is in the details and, honey, the details are delicious”.

The spirit of connection



Annie Collins.

For its fifth birthday, Wairarapa Film Festival has prepared an autumn programme that celebrates storytelling in all its forms by showcasing world premieres, retrospectives, and powerful new works alongside a packed schedule of workshops, talks, masterclasses, and events.

Highlights include an Annie Collins Retrospective, honouring one of Aotearoa's most revered film editors; Lily Branscombe: A Star of the Silent Screen Returns, a celebration of the Carterton-born trailblazer whose legacy continues to resonate; the 40th anniversary screening of *The Neglected Miracle*, a film that champions a pioneering Indigenous filmmaker; and the world premiere of local filmmaker Mark Pacey's documentary *Never Forgotten*.

“At the heart of the Wairarapa Film Festival is whakawhanaungatanga – the spirit of connection,” festival director Jane Ross beams. “We’re dedicated to fostering inclusivity, celebrating local talent, and creating memorable experiences”.

2025 also introduces the 50 Hour Film Project, a competition that asks under 25s to create a short film in just 50 hours. Meanwhile, the new curated section and masterclass Sense of Place: Stories of Connection featuring Rob Sarkies delves into the bonds between people and place.

Rolling into venues across the region from the 21st to the 25th of May, honour the power of storytelling, celebrate the vibrant voices shaping our cultural landscape, and forge connections between people, places, and stories from across Aotearoa New Zealand at Wairarapa Film Festival.

Reflect and rebuild



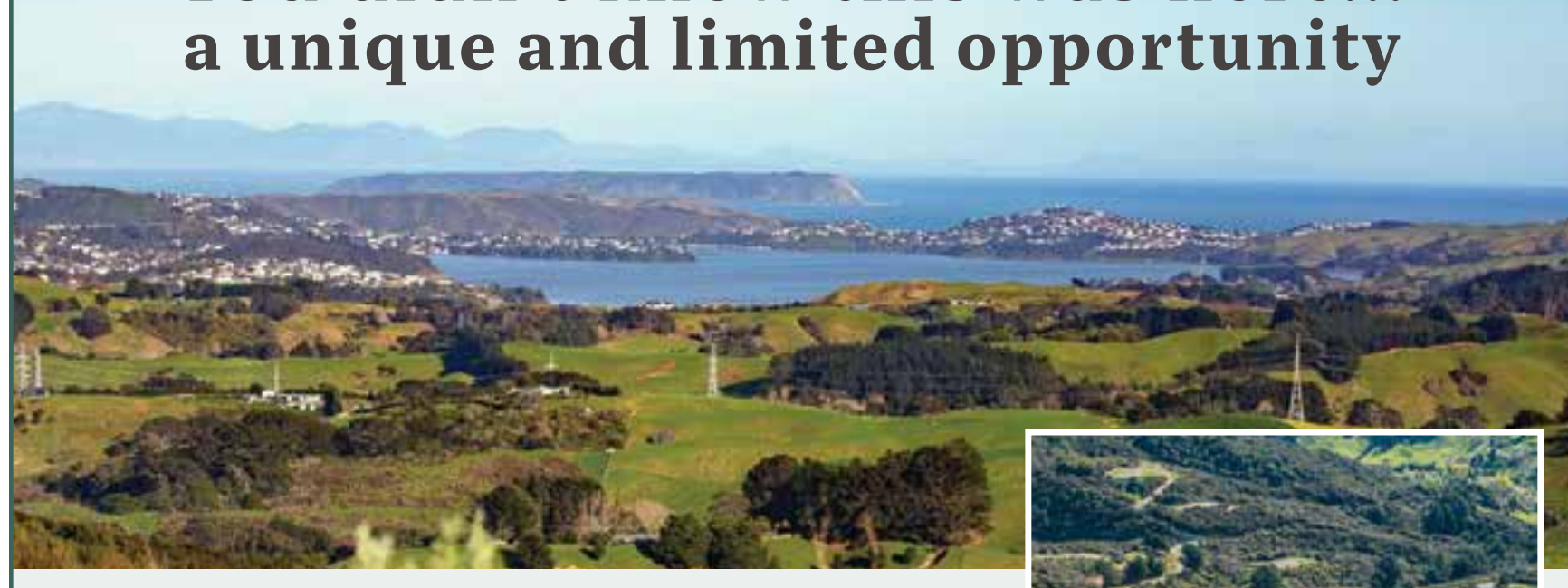
A new solo work will have its world premiere at Circa Theatre this month. With humour and hope, Regan Taylor performs *Re-Engineered*, directed by Natano Keni, from the 10th to the 24th of May.

As the creator and performer of solo black comedy *SoloOthello* – billed as one man's hilarious interpretation of Shakespeare's classic tragedy, set in te ao Māori – and a leading actor in *Ngā Rorirori*, Hone Kouka's first play since *Bless the Child*, Taylor is a celebrated artist who comes armed with a belt full of the talent, tricks, and tools of the trade.

In his play *Re-Engineered*, he sets out as Reg, a 40-year-old Māori builder navigating the complex construction site of life. Seamlessly blending comedy and drama, Taylor takes audiences on an unforgettable journey through identity, trauma, and redemption – with plenty of laughs along the way. Conceptualised as part of Barbarian Productions' RUCKUS programme in 2023, and further developed with the funding support of Creative New Zealand, Taylor shares that now is the right time for *Re-Engineered*.

“I’ve become more aware that we may be in a time of ‘self-help theatre’”, he says. “Theatre that exposes and shares individual or group growth through acknowledgment, accountability, and vulnerability. It’s been an important part of my reconciliation with my past and to have the courage to accept my past, continue to sit in the present with faith that the future will be better for me and everyone connected to me.”

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Mitre 10 Crofton Downs has been changing the way you tackle your renovations for over five years. We work with you to create your initial project scope, guiding you through local council requirements, agreeing to and meeting your expectations for the job. Our team are experienced in listening to your wants and needs – transforming your kitchen, bathroom, or laundry into the space you’ve been dreaming of.

Mitre 10 Crofton Downs takes care of all stages of your renovation – starting with the design and planning, through to the finished install. We have a team of local and trusted tradespeople working with us to give you the best solutions for all your electrical, plumbing, decorating, flooring, and tiling needs. We put together a full estimate for your project which includes all labour, materials, and componentry needed to complete the job with no hidden costs or surprises. The team strive to make the renovation process as hassle-free and smooth-running as possible – taking away the effort from you to both find and organise a team of tradesmen, keeping things running on time and within budget. No project is too big or too small, whether you are looking to transform unused garage space, gain extra storage in your kitchen, or even knock down that dividing wall to create open-plan living – we’ll get the ball rolling.

Simply leave it up to Mitre 10 Crofton Downs. Get in touch with the team today and find out more at www.mitre10.co.nz/croftondowns

Elevate your experience



When you’re working high above the ground in windy Wellington, safety is paramount. Pat of Prime Scaffold has over 14 years of experience working in the field and is committed to elevating your scaffolding experience to help you feel secure.

Pat was working in Western Australia doing mining when he was looking for a change. “I met a group of scaffolders who sold the job to me really! I jumped into it back in 2011 and I haven’t looked back since.” After six years of scaffolding work in Australia, Pat and his family decided to move back to Aotearoa and settle down. From there he reached the peak of qualifications working for another company, so starting his own business was a natural progression. Today, he runs his own residential and light commercial scaffolding firm, plus offers consulting to clients who own their own equipment, providing them with safety training courses and helping them keep their gear up to date and working the way it should.

Through Prime Scaffold, Pat can assemble and dismantle both fixed and mobile options using aluminium ring lock to keep you stable, ensuring you or your team will be able to finish any job safely and efficiently. The mobile options are great for residential and handyman projects, giving you the flexibility to move the scaffolding yourself.

With friendly and professional customer service and a wealth of experience, Prime Scaffold will provide ultimate peace of mind.

Mitre 10 Services
www.mitre10.co.nz/croftondowns

CROFTON DOWNS

Design Services

Kitchen Installers

Transform your kitchen

Bathroom Installers

Refresh your bathroom

Choose the best from our range

Here's how we can help you with your next project Mitre 10 Crofton Downs will work with you from concept to completion to get your renovations sorted. We offer the complete package and can manage the entire project, including working with tradesman, so you only have one point of contact and one invoice to deal with. We are your one stop shop for all things renovation.

Project Management

Renovating Services

Arranging Tradesmen

Installation Services

One Point of Contact

One Stop Shop

Site Visits

Mitre 10 CROFTON DOWNS

128 Churchill Drive

Monday - Friday: 7:00am - 6:00pm, Saturday & Sunday: 8:00am - 6:00pm

Phone: 04 479 8765

Email: services.croftondowns@mitre10.co.nz

Facebook: facebook.com/mitre10.croftondowns

Website: www.mitre10.co.nz/croftondowns

LOCALS SUPPORTING LOCALS

Buy, build, renovate

Empowering glass



While glass is essential to fulfilling almost every design principle, from an energy perspective, it isn't an effective form of thermal regulation in homes. Window film can improve the performance of glass by countering its drawbacks.

Window film is an ultra-thin polyester-based material that can be professionally installed on most glass surfaces. It is retrofit to existing windows, usually on the interior surface of the glass, providing site-specific benefits at a fraction of the cost of new glazing. It comes in many different shades, colours, and constructions covering everything from very dark to nearly invisible.

Film can let in the light while reducing heat and UV, prolonging the health and wellbeing benefits of exposure to natural light and maintaining a view to the outdoors. Selecting the right film allows the design potential of a window to be reached without compromising energy efficiency, comfort, safety and security, or the way you use a room.

"Improving a window's ability to reject or retain heat, reduce glare, and almost entirely block UV rays gives the homeowner more control over the space," Window Film Association of Australia and New Zealand (WFAANZ) president Ally Cronan says. "Not having to draw curtains or blinds during the day means the home can stay awash in natural lighting. As film can be cut to any shape it is sometimes the only aesthetically appealing option for uniquely shaped windows."

In a typical residential building, windows can be responsible for up to 87 percent of heat gain and 49 percent of heat loss. One of the most distinctive traits of window film is its ability to regulate solar energy passing through glass. Up to 85 percent total solar energy, 99 percent UV radiation, and 95 percent glare can be blocked by window film.

A building's electricity and gas consumption is explicitly linked to the performance of its glazing systems. Film can be used to upgrade the existing environment to achieve the standards required to meet New Zealand's decarbonisation goals, making it a sustainable solution to thermal regulation that minimises glass waste in landfills. With an increase in work-from-home jobs, daytime privacy has become a top driver for window film installation. Controlling glare on computers, TVs, and device screens is another function of film. Film can also reduce fading of timber floors, carpet, furniture, artworks, upholstery, and other household items by reducing exposure to solar energy.

Glass can also present a safety risk in terms of broken windows and a security risk in terms of easy ingress for thieves. Safety and security window films that are thicker than normal film and have a high bond-strength adhesive effectively hold glass shards together in the event of breakage.

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Wellington Better Home & Living Show

Join the fun



Doors open from the 9th to 11th of May for the Wellington Better Home & Living Show at Sky Stadium. With over 140 exhibitors, this year's event will be brimming with fresh ideas, inspiration, and expert advice. You don't need a project on the go to enjoy a day out at the Better Home & Living Show – there's something for everyone.

“We have a fantastic lineup of exhibitors this year and show visitors will be able to explore and enjoy everything from kitchens and spas to artisan foods, landscaping, double glazing, flooring, heating and cooling, builders and renovators, plants, home maintenance, health and wellbeing, and more,” marketing manager Emily Shanley says. “It is fantastic to be able to connect exhibiting businesses with show visitors who are seeking innovation, information, and an enjoyable day out, all under one roof!”

There is a vast range of exhibitors who will be showcasing their products and services at the Wellington show for the first time, including David Trubridge – one of the world's preeminent lighting designers and a recognised leader in environmentally responsible design.

Enjoy free, informative, daily Ask an Expert sessions. Bring along your plans, questions, and ideas to these interactive sessions or simply listen in and enjoy. Resident Builder and TV personality Peter Wolfkamp will present on Saturday. Adults and children can get creative with Resene Paint a Birdhouse from 11am to 2pm on Saturday and Sunday, with giveaways and prizes to be won.

An important decision



Talking about death can be uncomfortable but it's an important conversation to have. It's about ensuring you are looking your best for your final departure. Then your loved ones can remember you the way you want them to.

Windsor Industries has had more than 30 years of experience making caskets in New Zealand at their factory in the small provincial town of Pahiatua. The team understand we are all different – that is why they believe in offering a choice.

Their range is personalised to suit you and includes a wide range of colours, hand-carved caskets, solid timber, timber veneers, two-tone caskets, woven caskets, environmentally accredited caskets, and, of course, the traditional caskets like the ones you are all familiar with.

When you are arranging your affairs for your final departure, we encourage you to think about the legacy you are leaving behind. This is your farewell party, a celebration of your life well lived, a gathering of loved ones. Not all funeral homes offer selection, think carefully about who you use to arrange your affairs – do they understand that you need to express yourself your way and be framed in a casket that represents you and your wishes?

It's time to plan, prepare, and feel in control, and we are here to help you begin this journey. This will be the last time you can treat yourself or your loved ones, so be generous.

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NOT JUST A CASKET
A reflection of a life well lived. Our range is made for you - solid timber, hand carved designs, woven options, colour choices. Your story deserves to be remembered beautifully.

See us at the Better Home & Living Show!
Visit Windsor Industries at the Wellington Better Home & Living Show, 9-11 April.
Talk to our friendly team and explore our beautiful caskets and urns on display.

Discover your casket options at www.windsorindustries.co.nz or speak to your local funeral home for more information.

WINDSOR INDUSTRIES LTD.

Wellington Better Home & Living Show

Refresh your home



Winter is nearly here, and with it comes the need to be prepared. Dream big in 2025 and give your home a makeover with Texturite. Whether you're thinking of refreshing your family home, or you're in the market for a new build, the professional team can help you achieve the finish you've always dreamed of.

Based in Kapiti and servicing Greater Wellington, Texturite is family owned and operated and specialises in solid plastering and cladding systems for new home builds and home remodelling. Plus, they also perform repairs on existing monolithic cladding. Helmed by managing director Steve Mackfall, the team are dedicated to providing superior service and making the process as straightforward as possible. They have a wealth of knowledge under their toolbelts, maintain an open line of communication throughout the project, and always keep their finger on the pulse of new technology and information.

The Texturite team are always happy to offer advice or provide a breakdown of their services. From plastering and cladding to repairs and repaints, they can make your home look great while ensuring it's protected from weather and the elements.

In fact, this is the best time of year to get your home sorted before the cooler temperatures and wetter days arrive. Give your home the facelift it deserves and keep your largest asset protected this year. Get in touch to organise a free quote from your local experts at www.texturite.co.nz

Keep the rain on the outside



Internal gutters were a popular aesthetic choice between the 1980s and 2000s. They were designed to hide the spouting on a property behind a metal fascia to create a clean visual line on the home's exterior. Unfortunately, the system comes with some design flaws that can, in certain circumstances, lead to water leaking into the house.

Gutterite, a partner company to Texturite, is located along the Kapiti Coast and offers a dedicated team of professionals across Wellington that can help you replace old internal gutters with a new spouting system. Knowledgeable and with years of experience under their toolbelts, the friendly and efficient team will ensure any job gets completed on time and within budget.

Replacing leaking and broken guttering is a specialised project and should never be ignored. A new fascia and gutter system eliminates the risk of further leaks developing while reducing maintenance costs in the long run. With a whole new system, you can have peace of mind.

Internal gutter systems will always be flagged by a building inspector when they are evaluating the condition of your home due to their known risks. A new, external system will reduce the risk of putting off potential buyers and could even enhance the kerb appeal of your home, making your property value increase.

Get your guttering sorted now before it becomes a problem by popping in touch with Gutterite for a free quote.



Exterior Plastering & Monolithic Cladding Specialists in Wellington and the Kapiti Coast

“ We recently engaged Texturite to re-clad and repaint our beloved home. The transformation is nothing short of remarkable. The result is a testament to Texturite's commitment to deliver outstanding service and workmanship. We are very happy with our decision to hire them for this substantial home improvement project. ”



Contact Georgia today for a free quote on 027 341 3454 | www.texturite.co.nz | See us at the Wellington Better Home & Living Show, Stand 147



Internal gutters were a very popular design option in New Zealand from the 1980s to the mid-2000s. The two leading supplier brands that are often failing today are Klass and Taylor fascia.

Taylor and Klass Fascia are two fascia brands that came on the market in the '90s and were designed to hide the spouting, or internal gutter, behind a metal fascia to create a clean visual line.

The system was popular on new builds for some time, but the system comes with some inherent design faults that can, in certain circumstances, lead to water getting inside the house.





Benefits of a new fascia and gutter system

- Eliminate the risk of leaks
- Reducing Maintenance Costs
- Increase your home's value
- Makes it easier to sell your home

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Wellington Better Home & Living Show

Keeping up kerb appeal



Efficient, effective, and affordable, water blasting can transform the look of your property and increase its kerb appeal in a matter of hours. The process removes dirt and grime with high-powered pressure-washing equipment, saving you time, energy, and money while delivering a noticeable result.

The Pro WaterBlasting team are experts in the field, and with their commercial-grade equipment in hand, there is nothing they can't clean. From decks and driveways to roofs and gutters, home exteriors to commercial buildings, the friendly and hardworking crew can clear moss, mould, dirt, and debris off your property with precision and professionalism.

Water blasting keeps your property looking its best, of course, but it also increases the lifespan of your building or roof. Jobs such as gutter cleaning are an integral part of maintaining the water tightness of your home, while washing mould off your deck prevents premature ageing. What's more, pressure washing is relatively gentle compared to other cleaning methods, meaning your property won't be damaged in the process if you have professionals on the job.

Pro WaterBlasting has completed over 5000 jobs for more than 1000 happy customers, boasting a 100-percent satisfaction guarantee. With tailor-made packages and free quotes to boot, get in touch with the Pro WaterBlasting team or head to their website for a detailed breakdown of everything they offer at wellington.prowaterblasting.co.nz

Best of the best



Winter is creeping ever closer, but there is still time to prepare before the cold weather hits. Heat pumps are highly effective to warm up your home, but without a way to keep that heat inside, the energy is all but wasted. That's where insulation comes in.

An insulated home will have minimal heat loss or heat gain, reducing the amount of energy required to heat or cool it. This helps to lower energy bills, create a more energy-efficient home, reduce your carbon footprint, and keep your home drier and healthier, all while promoting a more sustainable future.

But not all insulation is created equal. The team at AAA Insulation can help you choose the right option for your home. As a long-standing company with an excellent reputation, they only use the highest-quality brands. What's more, the friendly and experienced team can ensure the installation process runs smoothly and is done right so your insulation will last for years to come. Efficient, effective, and affordable, a AAA Insulation job always runs on time and within budget.

Building a new home from the ground up provides the perfect opportunity to insulate it properly. For new builds, AAA Insulation recommends Trufill. Not only does it have high thermal performance, but it's also made from mostly recycled glass, making it a sustainable choice.

Choose AAA Insulation for a AAA result.

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Wellington Better Home & Living Show

For today and tomorrow



Mac Architecture designs highlight the beauty of New Zealand's natural environment while nurturing the wellbeing of those who call it home.

Certified Passivhaus designer and Homestar designer and assessor Jason Macquet has a profound connection to the land and the Kiwi way of life. His priority as the director of Mac Architecture is to craft healthy and comfortable homes through thermal modelling. The expertly trained team can consult and review any architectural plans to offer recommendations on how to improve the comfort and energy efficiency of the design.

Mac Architecture can assist homeowners from concept to completion or can join the project at any point in the process. No matter where you find yourself on your building timeline, the team can identify areas for improvement and provide advice on adjustments or optimisations needed to bring your vision to life.

“Each project is carefully modelled, tested, and monitored to ensure it performs optimally in every aspect,” Jason says. “With a responsibility to preserve the natural beauty and ecological health of our remarkable country, we create environments that seamlessly blend with nature, leaving a positive and lasting legacy for generations to follow.”

Mac Architecture operates with the understanding that our choices today shape the world of tomorrow – their designs keep both the present and the future front of mind. Find out more at www.macarchitecture.nz

Harnessing sunlight



With energy prices on the rise and power shortages becoming more frequent across the globe, solar power is looking increasingly appealing. Driven by a mission to create a lighter environmental footprint and a brighter community impact, Lightforce Solar was founded over a decade ago to provide homes and businesses with an affordable and effective solar solution.

Growing from a one-man operation to a crew of over 100 experts nationwide, the 100 percent New Zealand owned and operated solar services company is responsible for 20 percent of all solar installs in New Zealand. The team are committed to helping Kiwis take control of their power by harnessing the power of the sun and installing the highest-quality products on the market.

Lightforce Solar craft custom systems tailored to fit your home or commercial building and fulfil your energy needs. Plus, they fit every model with an advanced battery to store excess energy for further down the track. What's more, they offer comprehensive and ongoing maintenance services whenever you need to ensure your solar panels are running smoothly and efficiently.

The sun is the simplest, most affordable and sustainable energy solution – it provides clean, renewable energy helping cut utility costs and reduce our carbon footprint. Achieve energy independence, freedom, and peace of mind with Lightforce Solar. Get in touch to organise a free quote and find out more information about solar services at www.lightforce.co.nz



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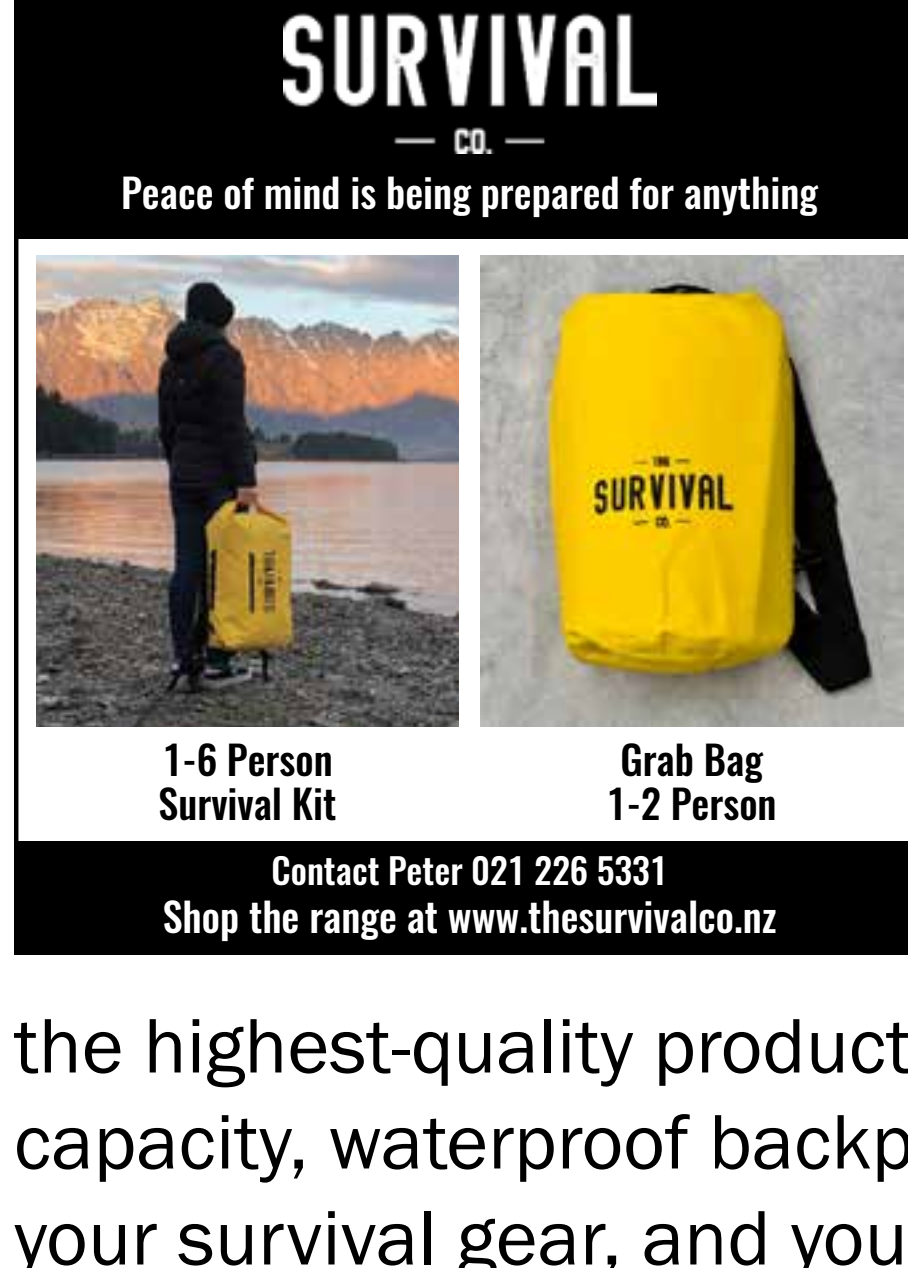
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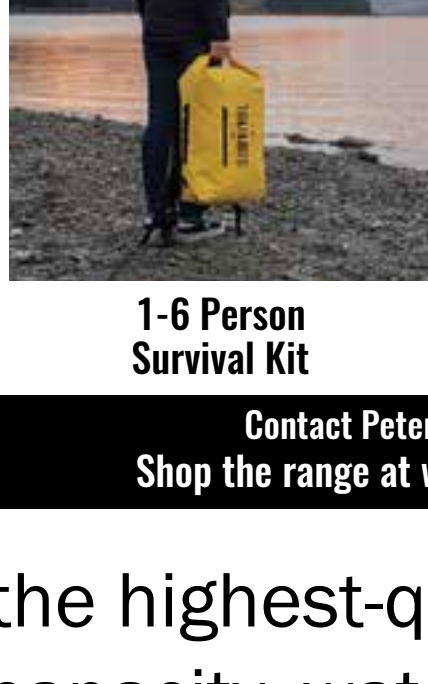



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is a treasure trove for anyone and everyone.

Robyn has been in fashion for over 20 years. After working as a machinist in London, she returned to Aotearoa to make a name for herself, creating a beautifully crafted signature style in the process. Her trademark design can be seen throughout her artwork as well. Browse her collections at www.robynreynolds.co.nz

Kiwi fashion designer Robyn Reynolds' workspace, gallery, and shop is nestled right in the heart of Nelson City on the creative, quirky, and lively Church Street. Brimming with timeless designs and eye-catching artwork, this colourful boutique

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Wellington centres based in Paparangi and Upper Hutt dedicated to giving before and after school support to families.

Available to children and teens aged five to 14, the before and after school sessions offer each student snacks, creative or sporty indoor and outdoor play opportunities, and even help with schoolwork. About Kidz Oscar is more than childcare, it's part of the whānau.

The About Kidz Oscar vision is to provide a positive and safe environment where tamariki and rangatahi can have fun, engage with others, and take part in a range of diverse activities. Founded in 2006, there are two

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A home for New Zealand creatives, Artisan Store in Petone's eclectic hub is chocka with treasure from around the region and across the motu. This haven of all things handcrafted is the vision of self-confessed craft junkie

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Ladies fashion



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148 Marine Parade, Wairoa

footwear, and accessories, Local Living was established by Diana to help people feel confident and look great.

And the best part? You don't have to be in Wairoa to shop! Local Living has expanded online. Now, wherever you are in Aotearoa, you can enjoy the same handpicked styles and thoughtful service. Your next favourite outfit is just a click away at www.locallivingwairoa.co.nz

Nestled in the heart of Wairoa, Hawke's Bay, Local Living is a boutique clothing and footwear store that's all about bringing style, comfort, and quality together. From comfy jeans and cosy jumpers to statement skirts, dresses,

Holistic health and wellbeing



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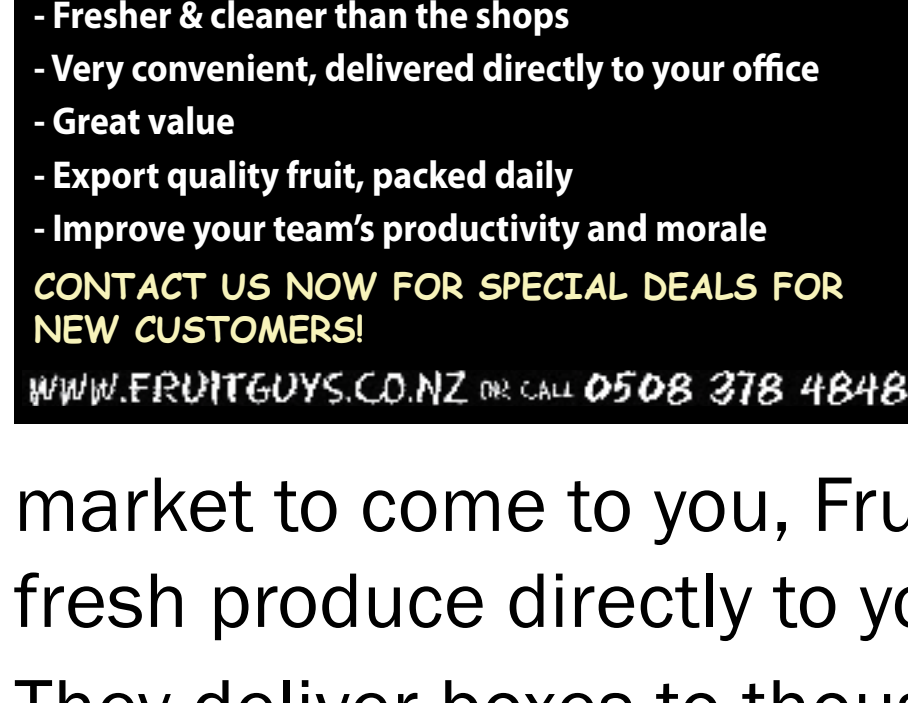
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Hours: 7 days 10.30am until 5pm

E: susancameron@capricornspirit.com
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Aside from sustainably sourced and ethically mined stones and crystals, The Capricorn Spirit offers a range of services, events, and ceremonies, including chakra realignment, crystal healing and crystal consultation, oracle and tarot card consultations, and classes in understanding and using crystals. Crystals have been used for healing and manifesting for centuries, with each one bringing a different energy into our lives. Stop by The Capricorn Spirit and find yours.

A place for relaxation, readings, and realignment, The Capricorn Spirit in downtown Levin and Wellington CBD have a fantastic variety of crystals, stones, rocks, tumblers, jewellery, books, incense, and more.

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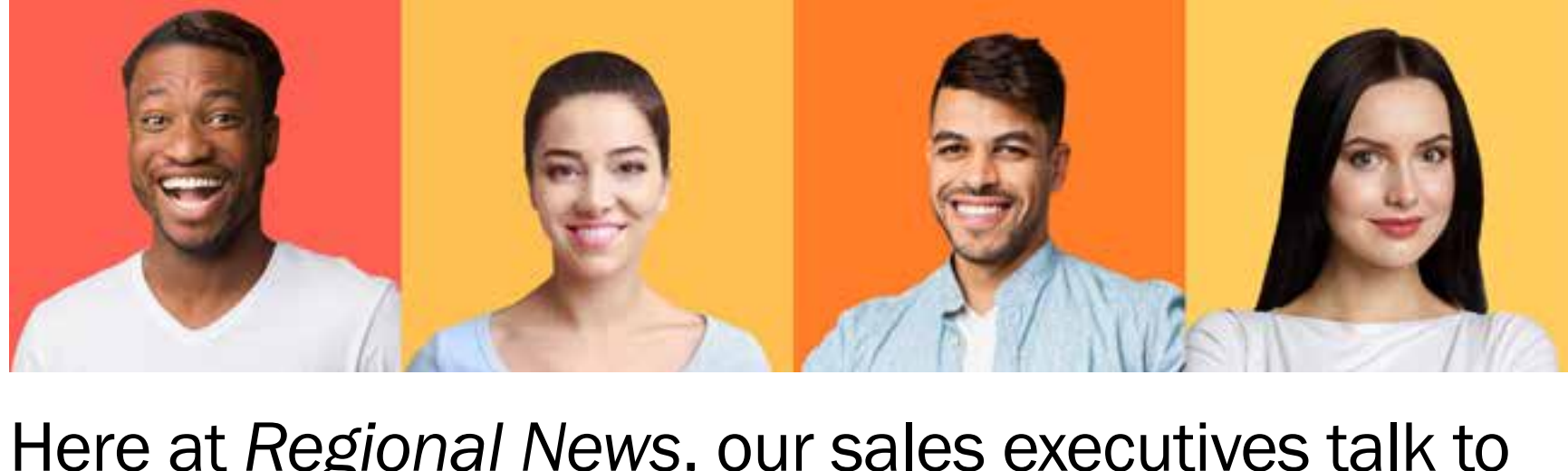
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Simply the best



Here at *Regional News*, our sales executives talk to people from all walks of life. Each and every day, they chat to business owners they've known for ages and some they've only just met; people that work just down the road and others who are on the other side of the country. From shops to services, corporations to companies, trades to tourism, and everything in between, they know someone who can get the job done right.

After years and years at *Regional News*, the reps have decided to compile a list of businesses across a huge range of fields that they think are simply the best. These two pages are chocka with reputable, reliable, professional, hardworking folks who are passionate about providing an unparalleled experience to their clients and customers. And it shows! They have endless five-star reviews and a full roster of returning clients. Their enthusiasm and love for what they do shines through in the service they provide, and we know you'll love them all as much as we do.

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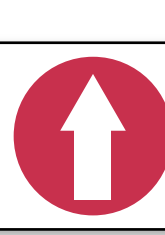
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Pzazz offers a fixed-price contract, meaning the initial proposal includes every detail. All the work will be explained, and the quotation won't change throughout the building because, odds are, it'll go exactly as intended thanks to a thorough planning process. With complete project management, you won't have to worry, and thanks to your single point of contact, you'll stay informed every step of the way. Rudy, Cory, and Joel van Vlerken of Pzazz Building Kapiti have a combined experience of almost 90 years. They're experts in any kind of renovation and can come up with a plan within your budget that you'll love and deliver it on time. Find out more and peruse their excellent reviews at www.pzazz.co.nz

Celebrating community generosity



At Raumati South School, we often talk about the importance of community – about how it truly does take a village to raise a child. Over the years, we've been incredibly fortunate to have Jill Lampitt from Tommy's Real Estate support our kura.

Jill has been a generous friend to our school for many years, offering not only financial support, but genuine care and belief in the value of local education. Through her generosity, our students have enjoyed the benefits of a refreshed swimming pool, sports equipment, and, most recently, the creation of a brand-new playground that has quickly become the heart of our school's outdoor space.

These are not just upgrades to facilities, they are lasting contributions to the daily joy, wellbeing, and opportunities available to our tamariki. The swimming pool has helped us ensure all students can learn vital water safety skills. The sports equipment has provided daily fun and exercise. And our new playground? It's now echoing every day with laughter and imagination.

We are incredibly grateful to Jill for her continued support and belief in our school. It's a reminder that when local businesses invest in local education, they help build something truly meaningful, not just for today's students, but for the future of our whole community.

From all of us at Raumati South School: a heartfelt thank you. You've made a difference that won't be forgotten.

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Natural Impressions



The landscapes, flora, and natural rhythms of Aotearoa inspire the art practices of Marie and Katie Pickering, a mother and daughter creative team based in Hawke’s Bay. Their handcrafted creativity shaped by nature takes the form of a Wellington exhibition titled *Natural Impressions*. “Being surrounded by the landscapes of rural Central Hawke’s Bay inspires us daily to be involved with the land and create from it,” Katie says, adding that her and her mother’s goal is to showcase this connection to nature and inspire others “to create from what surrounds them”.

With over 30 years of experience in all things crafting, Marie’s artistry spans painting, needle felting, and beyond. Her work brings imagination to life through texture, colour, and detail. Katie

on the other hand is a fibre and fabric artist with a deep passion for natural dyeing and all things botanical. Inspired by the land, she explores

colour through plants by creating unique organic garments.

The pair say they have always been connected through artistic endeavours, with Katie noting

that her mother is her muse and biggest inspiration for all things creative. “We love to try

new things together and are always planning our next creation,” she says.

As for *Natural Impressions*, the exhibition running

at Thistle Hall from the 6th to the 11th of May

showcases eco-printed clothing, natural-dyed

crafts, botanical art, painting, wool pictures, and

needle felting and captures the duo’s varied

garden and trees in their rural homestead, the

quiet, and the seasons.

Identity and agency



박성환 **Sung Hwan Bobby Park, BTM** 매통 **Maerong.**

Photo by Josh Harvey.

Experienced together, *Things are, they do not*

happen and *BTM 아 Ahhh* rethink long-standing

power dynamics in photography, prompting viewers

to consider how portraits are used to express

identity and agency.

BTM 아 Ahhh by 박성환 Sung Hwan Bobby Park

exists as an explicit assertion of queer subjectivity

and joy, while in *Things are, they do not happen*

two artists of different generations draw on

photographic devices to order and destabilise the

representation of internal experience. Until the 15th

of June, the latter Te Pātaka Toi Adam Art Gallery

exhibition juxtaposes Sam Norton’s ongoing series

of archival screenshots of Skype calls to friends

and family with Adrienne Martyn’s work from the

mid-1970s onwards.

“*Things are, they do not happen* brings together

work by two artists of different generations, who

each use photography as a device that captures

a single moment in time whilst also pointing

to the flow of lived experience outside of the

frame,” curator Jess Clifford says, adding that

this exhibition reflects on the power of “images of

bodies” as well as “images as bodies”.

Visitors will experience the sense of agency, as

“both artists consider what it means to be a person

who is also an image and recognise what can be

transformational about this relationship”, Clifford

continues. Martyn and Norton are attuned to

the lure of artifice and the dynamics of the gaze,

using the inherent characteristics of their medium

to consider how subjectivities are produced

with and by the camera. In turn, they disturb the

conventions that structure image and body.

Delve into a decade



A culmination of hundreds of years of practice and

people, Aotearoa art is a fusion of cultures, styles,

and themes that spawns a creativity completely

unique to our country. In Pātaka Art + Museum’s

newest exhibition *Lovers & Castaways*, artwork

from the 1980s is pulled into focus.

“The exhibition includes over 50 artworks, all

made by artists in the 1980s,” curator Ioana

Gordon-Smith says. “As such, it offers a really great

opportunity to delve into Aotearoa’s art history

and survey in a single visit the artists and artistic

concerns active in that decade.”

Running until the 6th of July, *Lovers & Castaways*

takes the 1980 book *Contemporary New Zealand*

Painters by Jim and Mary Barr as its starting point

to focus on the 80s as an important time for art in

New Zealand. The landmark publication features

interviews with 22 contemporary artists alongside

portraits, while the artworks within the exhibition

drawn from Arts House Trust Collection consider

prominent concerns of artists during that decade.

“Many of the artists in the show are well-known

figures within Aotearoa’s art history, so to be

able to see their works in person, to see them up

close, is a real thrill,” Gordon-Smith says. Visitors

can glimpse works by household names the likes

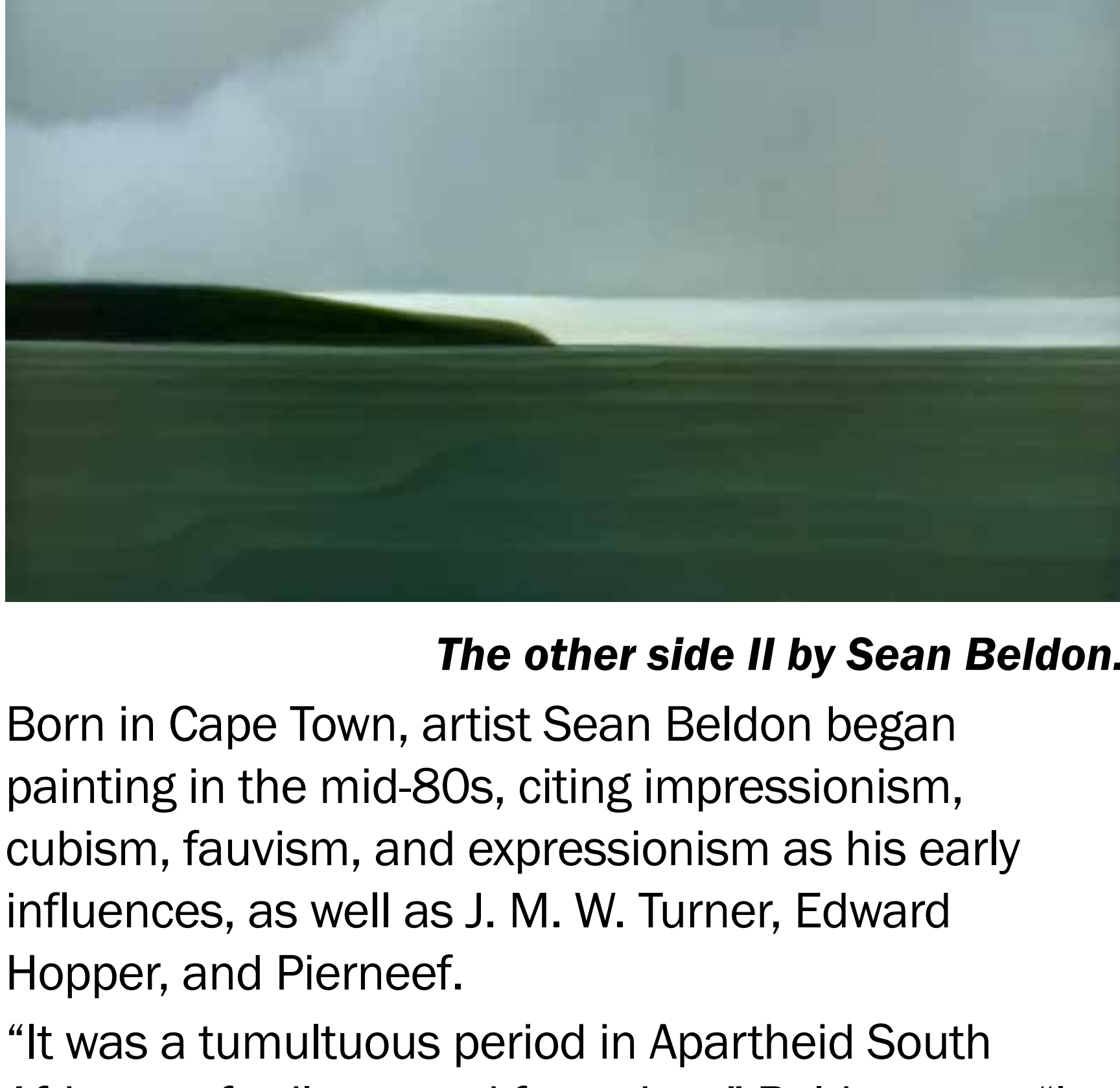
of Ralph Hotere, Bill Hammond, Pat Hanly, Tony

Fomison, Dick Frizzell, Julian Dashper, Michael

Smither, Greer Twiss, Joanna Margaret Paul, Buck

Nin, Gretchen Albrecht, Brent Wong, and more.

Moments of immersion



***The other side II* by Sean Beldon.**

Born in Cape Town, artist Sean Beldon began

painting in the mid-80s, citing impressionism,

cubism, fauvism, and expressionism as his early

influences, as well as J. M. W. Turner, Edward

Hopper, and Pierneef.

“It was a tumultuous period in Apartheid South

Africa – a fertile ground for artists,” Beldon says. “I

developed my style with mainly symbolic, storytelling

subjects. In this time, I also studied printmaking

and photography”. Painting, however, became his

preferred medium, allowing him to scale form and

colour, though photography, sculpting, and drawing

remain inseparable companions.

In 2007, Beldon relocated to Aotearoa, where,

inspired by compositions and scenes captured

through road trip photography, he began painting

landscapes. “My colour evolved from an African

palette to that of Aotearoa,” he adds. “I now find

myself in the happy union of landscape painting and

sharing my stories through my narrative art.”

His latest showcase *The long white cloud* at

Exhibitions Gallery from the 15th of May to the 7th

of June, is a “selection of places with a unique

New Zealandness about them – starting off in the

Hawke’s Bay, dipping through the Central Plateau,

and ending on the Cook Strait ferry”.

“I love the way the Aotearoa skies and clouds

enhance the landscape,” Beldon says. “It gives it

depth, nuance, and at times an ethereal quality.

Then there are the cobalt blue days that can make

the tussocks shimmer in the hills or low clouds that

brush the surface, leaving a slither of bright light in

between. Some days are beige, and your flat white

is not quite a double shot. Then you have electric

moments where you can taste copper on your

tongue. Painting is like that to me. At times a struggle

against the ordinary blandness – then in a moment

of immersion, it pours out.”

International Nurses Day 12th May

Holistic hauora



As a holistic community hub, Kōkiri Marae provides wraparound hauora services to families across the Wellington Region, nurturing their physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and social wellbeing.

Each of our nurses has chosen to work within this community not by chance but by purpose. With a range of experience across different areas of nursing, they have returned to or remained in our rohe because they believe in putting the health of our whānau at the forefront.

Their work is not limited to clinical spaces. Our nurses are often out in the homes, marae, and schools – walking alongside our people, building trust, and delivering care that recognises the full picture of wellbeing: tinana, wairua, whānau, and hinengaro.

The skill and wisdom they bring to their mahi enables holistic, individualised nursing care that meets each whānau where they are.

More importantly, their work is future-focused, empowering whānau to take ownership of their hauora so that future generations, our mokopuna, can thrive.

On International Nurses Day, we acknowledge our nurses not only for their clinical excellence, but for their unwavering aroha, cultural leadership, and dedication to breaking down barriers in healthcare. They are not just health professionals, they are kaitiaki of wellbeing, guiding our whānau toward a healthier, stronger future.

Get in touch and access resources at www.kokiri.org.nz

Help them help you





Though rewarding, a nurse's job is taxing and demanding both physically and psychologically. Their hard work often goes unnoticed and unacknowledged. International Nurses Day is coming up on the 12th of May. This date also marks Florence Nightingale's birthday – considered a founder of modern nursing – and provides an opportunity to thank and honour nurses.

The Council of Nurses (ICN) organises International Nurses Day every year. Building on the success of the 2024 campaign, which demonstrated how strategic investment in nursing can bring significant economic and societal benefits, this year's theme is Our Nurses. Our Future. Caring for nurses strengthens economies.

“Nurses face numerous challenges: physical, mental, emotional, and ethical, and it is imperative that we address these challenges in a way that promotes their overall health,” ICN president Dr Pamela Cipriano says. “This theme provides an opportunity to bring actionable solutions to the forefront – solutions that can be implemented immediately to support nurses in their daily work and improve their long-term health.”

International Nurses Day provides the perfect opportunity to give back to those who give so much. There are lots of ways in which you can thank either your nurse friends and whānau or even the nurses at your local hospital or care facility.

Nurses are there for you, from the beginning until the end. It's time to be there for them.

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International Nurses Day 12th May
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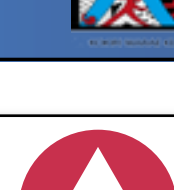
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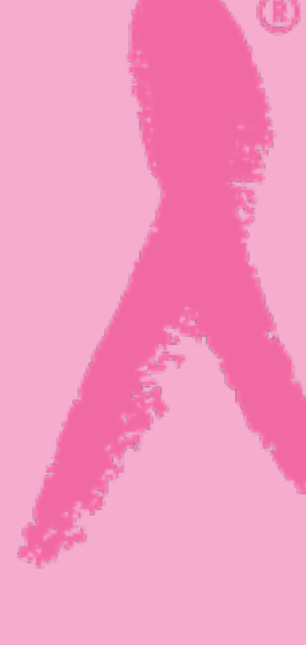


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Breast Cancer Foundation NZ



Go pink

Thousands of Kiwis across the motu are painting the country pink this May by hosting a Pink Ribbon Breakfast to raise funds for Breast Cancer Foundation NZ. With one in nine women being diagnosed with the disease in their lifetimes and roughly 650 Aotearoa wāhine passing from it every year, almost everyone has been touched by breast cancer.

“By hosting a Pink Ribbon Breakfast, you’re helping to bring us closer towards a future where no one has to die from breast cancer,” Breast Cancer Foundation NZ’s chief executive Ah-Leen Rayner [pictured] says. “As a charity that doesn’t receive any government funding, we desperately need your help to keep our life-saving programmes in research, education, and patient support running.”

TV personality, author and documentary producer Jude Dobson is inviting all Wellingtonians to host a Pink Ribbon Breakfast. The former registered nurse has been a Breast Cancer Foundation NZ ambassador for well over a decade, supporting their quest to “make sure no woman loses their life to breast cancer”.

Last year the foundation counted more than 590 get-togethers across Greater Wellington alone and are hoping to beat that record this year. Pink Ribbon Breakfast Day is the 22nd of May, but events can be held any time in May or June. Once registered, people will be sent a free host kit with ideas and resources.

Support the 375 Wellington women diagnosed every year and make a difference with a Pink Ribbon Breakfast.

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Contemporary New Zealand art

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The French Job (Les Règles de l'art)

94 minutes

M

★★★★

Reviewed by Alessia Belsito-Riera



On the night of May the 19th, 2010, five paintings were stolen from the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris. The loot included a Braque, a Picasso, a Léger, a Modigliani, and a Matisse valued at more than 100 million euros. While the paintings, to this day, have never been recovered, *The French Job* tells a frenetic and fictional tale of what may have happened to these famous works.

Opening to grimy streets on a dank, dark evening, it's certainly not the Paris of our dreams that Jo (Steve Tientcheu) coolly makes his way through after looting an apartment block of valuables. Meanwhile, Eric (Sofiane Zermani), a smooth-talking con artist, promises a Léger he doesn't own to a rich fellow that he then tasks Jo with finding. The following day, Eric's chance meeting with the perpetually anxious watch expert Yonathan Cobb (Melvil Poupaud) seems like providence as he convinces the hapless tinkerer to sell his client's timepieces for profit rather than repairing them. The trio's lives, however, are flipped upside down when Jo robs the Paris Museum of Modern Art. With the heist highly publicised, the madness begins as Jo, Eric, and Cobb must decide what to do with the paintings.

Directed by Dominique Baumard, *The French Job* took home the L'Alpe d'Huez International Comedy Film Festival 2025 Special Jury Prize for good reason. Not only is the script, adapted by Baumard and Benjamin Charbit from Olivier Bouchara's original idea, clever and captivating with plenty of room for physical comedy, but the entire production is as slick and tight as a high-profile heist. Sitting on the edge of my seat, I revelled in the *Ocean's 11*-esque character introductions, squealing with delight as the story took a sharp turn towards *Italian Job* antics. Perfectly punctuated by Lionel Limiñana and David Menke's playful score, Julien Poupard's cinematography is equal parts thoughtful and intrusive, artistic and functional, exploring character, place, and atmosphere with deft sleight of hand.

Steal into your local cinema for *The French Job* and let it whisk you away.

A chat with Tung...

Love teleports us

by Madelaine Empson



Your partner recently got the Partner of a New Zealander Resident Visa. Congratulations to you both! Please walk me through the process.

Before applying for this visa, you have to have lived together for 12 months. We

had to supply a lot of documentation to prove that we're in a genuine relationship, including the time we weren't physically together during our travels. They asked us the same questions but in different ways. We submitted everything and heard from a case officer two and a half months later, who walked us through additional documents we needed to supply, and then we got it in December last year. All up, it was seven months.

When you were submitting the application and looking back on your relationship, did anything jump out at you that made you smile?

Yes! I had to submit our pictures and texts, and there were some I'd forgotten about – like the ones from our first date!

Oo, what was your first date?

We went to the Wellington Cable Car – what an iconic first-date spot!

Where was he born and where has he lived throughout his life?

He was born in Taiwan, which is quite different from New Zealand of course, but before he came here he lived in Canada. He's quite the global citizen! He's adapting to New Zealand life quite well.

Has he described the key differences of life in those three countries?

He says that New Zealand is a smaller version of Canada. New Zealand and Canada have got everything *plus* nature, in Taiwan, you have everything *but* nature, because he's from the city there.

What does he love most about New Zealand?

I would say the freedom that he's found here, and how easy it is to adapt and make friends, especially because he came from Canada. It was different for me, coming from Vietnam.

How did you celebrate his visa?

Uh oh. That's a very good question... We haven't done anything!

Should we perhaps plan a date?

How about another date at the Cable Car? We've been wanting to do a transportation date, because through him, I've been transported to a lot of different cultures. He can speak five different languages, which is mesmerising to me. How can you divide the brain like that! Anyway, I feel like love can teleport you anywhere. I have been teleported to so many different places through him and through love.



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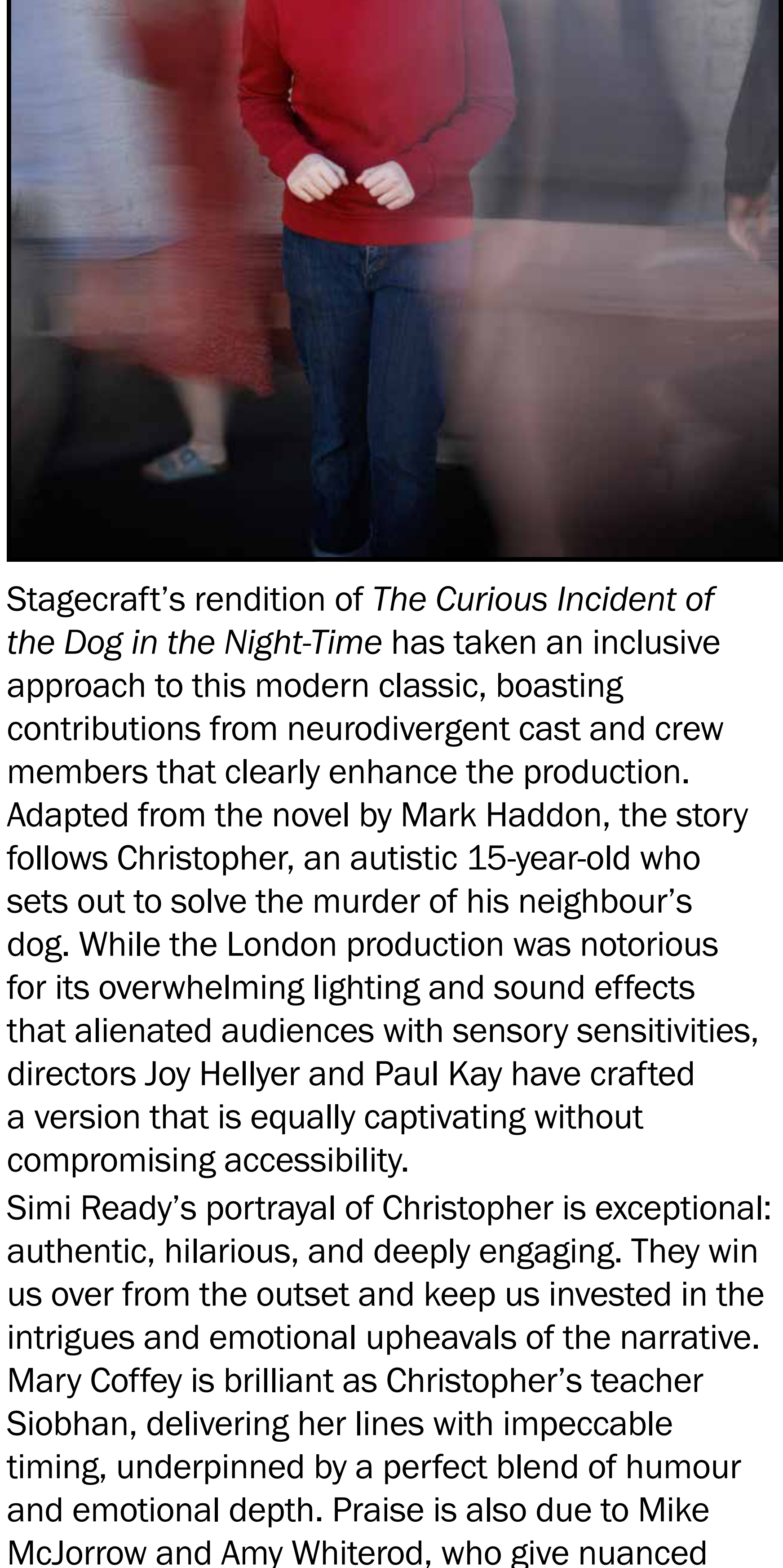
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Written by Simon Stephens

Directed by Joy Hellyer and Paul Kay

Gryphon Theatre, 1st May 2025

Reviewed by Ruth Corkill



Stagecraft's rendition of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* has taken an inclusive approach to this modern classic, boasting contributions from neurodivergent cast and crew members that clearly enhance the production. Adapted from the novel by Mark Haddon, the story follows Christopher, an autistic 15-year-old who sets out to solve the murder of his neighbour's dog. While the London production was notorious for its overwhelming lighting and sound effects that alienated audiences with sensory sensitivities, directors Joy Hellyer and Paul Kay have crafted a version that is equally captivating without compromising accessibility.

Simi Ready's portrayal of Christopher is exceptional: authentic, hilarious, and deeply engaging. They win us over from the outset and keep us invested in the intrigues and emotional upheavals of the narrative. Mary Coffey is brilliant as Christopher's teacher Siobhan, delivering her lines with impeccable timing, underpinned by a perfect blend of humour and emotional depth. Praise is also due to Mike McJorow and Amy Whiterod, who give nuanced performances as Christopher's flawed yet loving parents.

These characters are surrounded by a wonderful ensemble cast, who bring us bit parts, cleverly illustrate Christopher's relationships with the objects around him, and add emphasis during intense sensory and emotional scenes by emoting as extensions of Christopher.

The production elements support the performances perfectly; ingenious geometric set pieces are repeatedly reconfigured to create diverse environments, complemented by Kimberli Jones' projected illustrations that visualise Christopher's thought processes. The minimalist set design and projections allow details in costume (Helen McKenzie) and props (Jo Douglas) to have intense impact – for example, the extraordinary body of Wellington the dog by master model maker Allan Burne. Janet Noble's fight choreography is grounded and effective, contributing to the authenticity of the scenes.

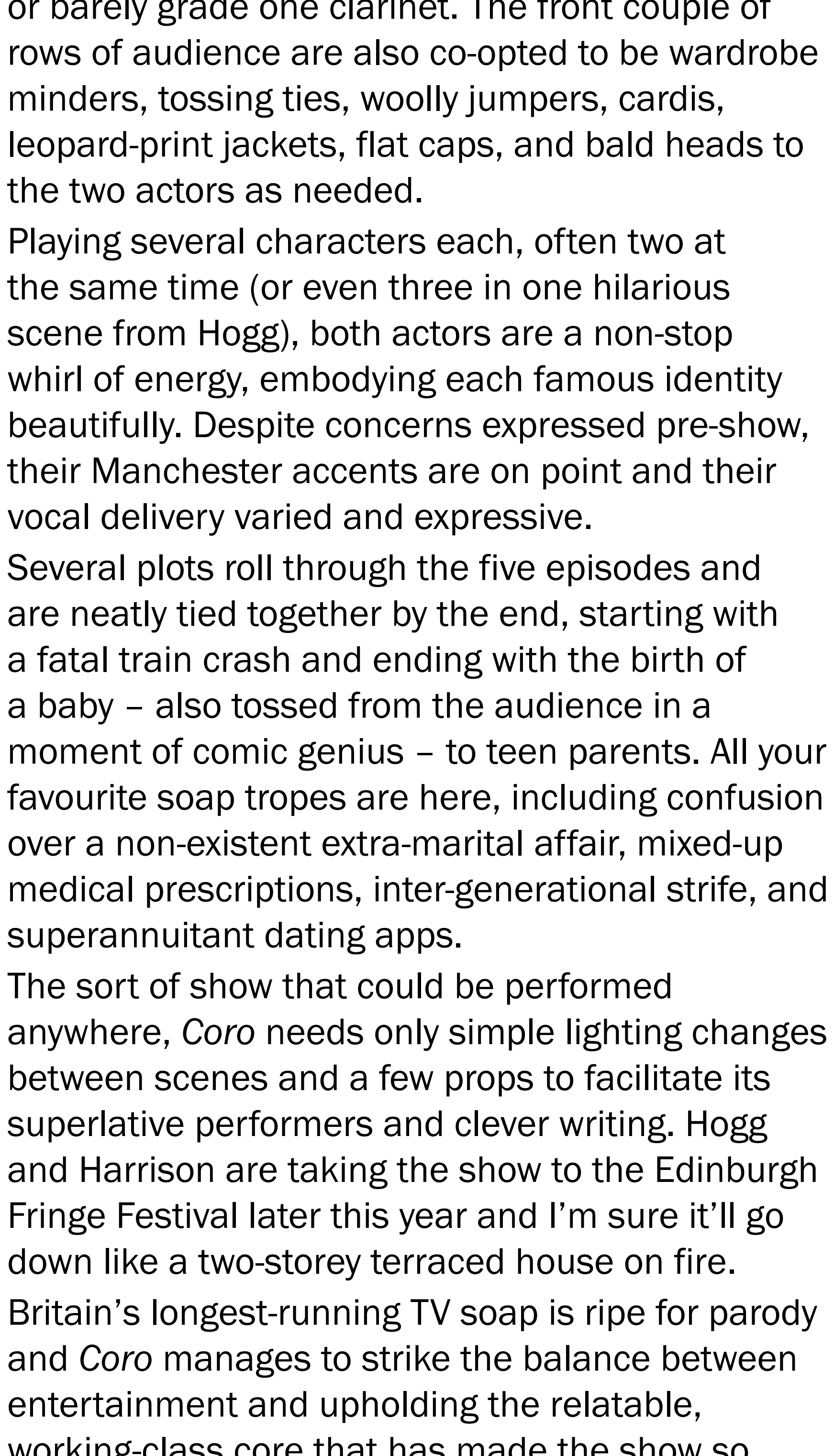
This production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* is clever, intense, hilarious, and heartfelt. Many thanks to the Stagecraft team for sharing your version of this story with us.

Coro

Presented by Mon Platon Productions

BATS Theatre, 23rd Apr 2025

Reviewed by Tanya Piejus



Your favourite Mancunian soap opera gets the comedic parody treatment over five cliff-hanging episodes in *Coro*, thanks to local improv maestros Nina Hogg and Austin Harrison. Whether you're a three-times-a-week *Coronation Street* devotee or an inexperienced newbie to Manchester's best-known cobbled street, you're bound to laugh your knitted socks off in this 50-minute show.

Be prepared to be part of the action too. The whole audience is encouraged to join in with the theme tune at the start of each episode, accompanied by Hogg and Harrison on kazoo, squeaky recorder, or barely grade one clarinet. The front couple of rows of audience are also co-opted to be wardrobe minders, tossing ties, woolly jumpers, cardis, leopard-print jackets, flat caps, and bald heads to the two actors as needed.

Playing several characters each, often two at the same time (or even three in one hilarious scene from Hogg), both actors are a non-stop whirl of energy, embodying each famous identity beautifully. Despite concerns expressed pre-show, their Manchester accents are on point and their vocal delivery varied and expressive.

Several plots roll through the five episodes and are neatly tied together by the end, starting with a fatal train crash and ending with the birth of a baby – also tossed from the audience in a moment of comic genius – to teen parents. All your favourite soap tropes are here, including confusion over a non-existent extra-marital affair, mixed-up medical prescriptions, inter-generational strife, and superannuitant dating apps.

The sort of show that could be performed anywhere, *Coro* needs only simple lighting changes between scenes and a few props to facilitate its superlative performers and clever writing. Hogg and Harrison are taking the show to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival later this year and I'm sure it'll go down like a two-storey terraced house on fire.

Britain's longest-running TV soap is ripe for parody and *Coro* manages to strike the balance between entertainment and upholding the relatable, working-class core that has made the show so successful. Best of luck in Edinburgh, team!

Give Way – The Musical

Written by Steven Page

Directed by Jacqueline Coats

Running at Circa Theatre till 24th May 2025

Reviewed by Tanya Piejus



The New Zealand Government's change to the give way rule in 2012 is not the most obvious premise for a musical, but it works. Through witty lyrics, gentle mockery of bureaucracy, and less-gentle criticism of people who are enraged against change, *Give Way – The Musical* is a highly entertaining couple of hours.

As a new work, it feels somewhat unfinished. The score is purely piano, albeit expertly executed by Hayden Taylor. More orchestration would elevate the mood of each song and clearly differentiate them. More ensemble numbers with harmonies would be good too. When the cast do get to harmonise, it sounds amazing. What lifts the production to being worthy of the Circa One stage is the quality of the casting and the technical aspects.

As protagonist Sophie, Lily Tyler Moore is a strong performer, anchoring the story with her excellent vocals. Jackson Burling as her love interest is delightful. He, like the rest of the cast, deftly plays multiple roles. Carrie Green is engaging as policy wonk Tanya and the moments where she shines vocally are highlights. Bronwyn Turei is equally engaging and her activist Nic and Sophie's dad are standouts. Alex Greig excels in creating a sympathetic but entertaining portrait of Randall, the unhinged policy advisor who originally changed the give way rule.

Tony de Goldi's excellent set design is reminiscent of a roundabout on which the actors move a wheeled table and a few office chairs to create the scenes. Vertical panels around the outside remind me of the mats I used to play on with toy cars as a child. Goldi's accompanying wardrobe design is also spot on, with the walk shorts and socks combo instantly recognisable as the public service uniform of the 1970s. Excellent lighting design by Will Smith adds visual interest and the falling rain effect early in the first half is a wonderful surprise.

Only Wellington creatives could successfully make a musical about policy change!

Toto: The Dogz of Oz Tour

TSB Arena Wellington, 24th Apr 2025

Reviewed by Graeme King

Photo by Jennifer de Koning.

Guest artist Christopher Cross opened the evening and it was immediately clear that he had a strong fan base in attendance. He was well supported by a talented backing band, featuring Andy Suzuki on wind instruments and three backup female singers. He performed his best-known hits, including *Sailing*, *Arthur's Theme (Best That You Can Do)*, *Think of Laura*, and *All Right*, culminating in his stunning guitar solo on the smash hit *Ride Like the Wind*.

Formed in California in the late 1970s, Toto's music combines elements of pop, rock, soul, funk, hard rock, rhythm and blues, jazz, and blues. Leader and guitarist Steve Lukather may be the only original member, but this current touring lineup consists of top musicians whose individual musical CVs are too vast to mention. Five of the seven band members shared lead and backing vocals throughout the performance.

The intro music set anticipation levels high for the first song *Child's Anthem*. The band was already at full throttle, but it was hits *Rosanna* and *99* that had the fully engaged crowd singing along. The latter featured the slick bass guitar of John Pierce. Warren Ham on saxophone added a beautiful jazz dimension throughout. For *I Will Remember*, lead vocalist Joseph Williams got the crowd to sing along with him a cappella to check the venue acoustics! *Pamela* featured the silky keyboard skills of Greg Phillinganes, whose beautiful solo then led into *I Won't Hold You Back*. The funky *Georgy Porgy* was followed by a solo spot by keyboardist Dennis Atlas – who was brought into the band mid-tour and “had to learn the whole show in two days without any rehearsing”. Lukather's gorgeous ballad *I'll Be Over You* highlighted the striking lighting show and *Don't Chain My Heart* showcased his guitar virtuosity. Drummer Shannon Forrest's blistering solo spot was a highlight. *I'll Supply the Love* got the whole crowd up.

Toto's biggest hits *Hold the Line* and *Africa* ended the two-hour-long show on a euphoric high. Rock royalty at its best!

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My favourite places

From the top of the north to the bottom of the south, Aotearoa is blessed with vast and varied natural beauty that would take a whole lifetime to explore. Why not start now? Autumn is one of the best times to take a trip due to the mild, more settled weather. Plus with the coloured leaves, crisp air, and golden light, where else in the world could you possibly want to be?

1. Lido Aquatic Centre

2. Time For Food Cafe

3. Tongariro National Trout Centre

4. Rameka Retreat

5. Rocky Mountain Chalets

6. Abel Tasman Sea Shuttles



7. Mondello Kaikoura

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9. The Cottage Pantry

10. Redwood Lodge Motel

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Waikato and Hauraki District

Best of both



On the shores of Lake Te Ko Utu, tucked away behind a forest of tall trees, is Hidden Lake Hotel and Apartments, offering an Earth-conscious getaway to a picture-perfect slice of authentic Aotearoa.

Stylish yet sustainable, luxurious yet local, Hidden Lake Hotel and Apartments marries two words to create an accommodation both comfortable and committed to the environment. Rooms and apartments reflect the woodland setting with floor-to-ceiling windows and splashes of colour. Features and facilities cater to everyone's needs without compromising the planet. D'Arcy's Garden Restaurant, Club Lounge & Bar serves up delicious meals crafted lovingly from locally derived produce.

The lodgings are located at the heart of Lakewood, which is chocka with boutiques, eateries, and entertainment, and just two blocks from Cambridge's main street. Nearby are trails aplenty for hikes and bike rides, with no shortage of beautiful views to admire. Plus, the old railway station and WWII bunker will satiate any historical hankering, while Hobbiton and Rotorua provide fun adventures further afield.

Placing Kiwi hospitality at the forefront alongside comfort and sustainability, Hidden Lake Hotel and Apartments offers a New Zealand getaway where guests can explore everything the beautiful Waikato has to offer while still indulging in life's luxuries. Book your stay at www.hiddenlakehotel.co.nz

Great ride, better memories



Of New Zealand's 23 Great Rides, the Hauraki Rail Trail is one of the most laid-back options, making it perfect for cyclists of all ages and abilities. The 160-kilometre-long, Grade 1 cycle track follows along the old railway embankments and can be ridden over four days, or you can pick and choose between the five sections.

The route traces the Shorebird Coast, skirting past quaint historic towns, lush farmlands, a historic railway corridor through the Karangahake Gorge, and Matamata, home of the Hobbiton set. With options to explore the Coromandel further, the Hauraki Rail Trail is the perfect relaxed getaway. Ride through the tunnels and whizz across bridges. Hunt for old goldmining relics and stop off at glowworm caves. Chase waterfalls and hop into hot pools. Enjoy a picnic or settle into one of the local eateries dotted along the way. You can even partake in pottery classes or a bit of birdwatching while cruising along the track.

There is so much to see and enjoy at a leisurely pace along the trail. The locals in the small towns dotted along the trail network would love to see you. From boutique accommodation to great food and hospitality, everything you could want from this one-of-a-kind adventure is within easy reach.

Linger longer and make memories that last a lifetime along the Hauraki Rail Trail.



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Heading south

A sanctuary for giants



Fly south to the Otago Peninsula this autumn. As one of Aotearoa's most diverse and abundant wildlife hotspots, here you can encounter albatross and delve deep underground to uncover some interesting human history as well.

The Royal Albatross Centre gives visitors viewing access to the world's only mainland breeding colony of northern royal albatross. Located at Taiaroa Head Nature Reserve, albatrosses find a sanctuary to raise their young. Born in January and February, the little fluff balls are currently as cute as can be!

Royal albatrosses, toroa, are one of the biggest sea birds. A graceful giant, their wingspan exceeds three metres. Their breeding season takes an entire year, so there is always something to see at the colony. Though they fly an estimated 19,000 kilometres per year and spend over 85 percent of their life out at sea, the northern royal albatross is endemic to New Zealand.

At the Royal Albatross Centre, visitors can view the colony from the observatory and learn all about them on guided tours. Your guide will take you through the birds' fascinating history before leading you on a short walk uphill to the observatory to see them rearing their young.

Hidden underneath the colony is a military fort established in the 1880s in response to fear of Russian invasion. Optionally added onto the albatross tour, your guide will walk you through the tunnels to see the Armstrong Disappearing Gun and learn about the headland's human history.

Fall-ing for Hanmer



Renowned for the natural hot waters flowing forth from the depth of the Earth, Hanmer Springs is a South Island gem. This time of year is akin to a master's painting with ochre and ruby leaves papering the streets, limpid blue days, golden sunsets, and clear skies filled with shimmering stars.

Start your day in Hanmer by cradling a cup of Joe in the crisp, fresh morning air as the steam rises up towards the misty mountains. Warm your bones in the morning sun and prepare for the day's adventure. The cooler temperatures and fewer crowds make autumn the ideal time for outdoor activities, of which Hanmer Springs has no shortage. You won't overheat, and you'll get those panoramic views all to yourself. Walk the many trails, bike around the area, play some golf, or take a stroll through town. The natural landscape surrounding you at every turn will look straight out of a golden storybook.

Take some time to rest and recharge at one of Hanmer Springs' spas. The brisk evenings of the shoulder season provide the perfect excuse to settle down into the gorgeous hot pools. With temperatures just low enough to enjoy the warmth of the water, but not too cold to freeze when you get out, the time is just right for some bliss, relaxation, and indulgence.

Whether you're treating yourself or travelling with your family, friends, or favourite person in tow, you'll surely *fall* in love with Hanmer Springs this autumn.

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What's on



11th May. Brother to Brother: *The Rogue and Vagabond*, Garrett Street, Te Aro – 5pm. May marks a year of Kiwi jazz legend Rodger Fox's passing. His brother Chris, a tremendous trombone player himself, presents a tribute concert featuring the album *Brother to Brother*. A project Chris, Rodger, and Anita Schwabe began in 2024, catch the full track list plus some extras at Sunday Jazz.



10th May. Twin Peaks Meetup: Watching The Pilot: *Te Auaha*, Dixon Street, Te Aro – 10:30am. Sign on up to watch the original 94-minute version of the first episode of David Lynch's iconic TV show *Twin Peaks*. In *The Pilot*, FBI Special Agent Dale Cooper (Kyle MacLachlan) comes to the small Washington town of Twin Peaks to investigate the murder of Laura Palmer (Sheryl Lee) [pictured].



8th May. Search for Yeti – Dark So Soon Aotearoa Album Tour: *Meow*, Edward Street, Te Aro – 7pm. Drawing influences from indie rock, britpop, folk, and new wave with an emphasis on hooks and melodies, Pōneke indie rockers Search for Yeti's diverse new album *Dark So Soon* has been described as dreamlike and atmospheric. Don't miss this new drop live.

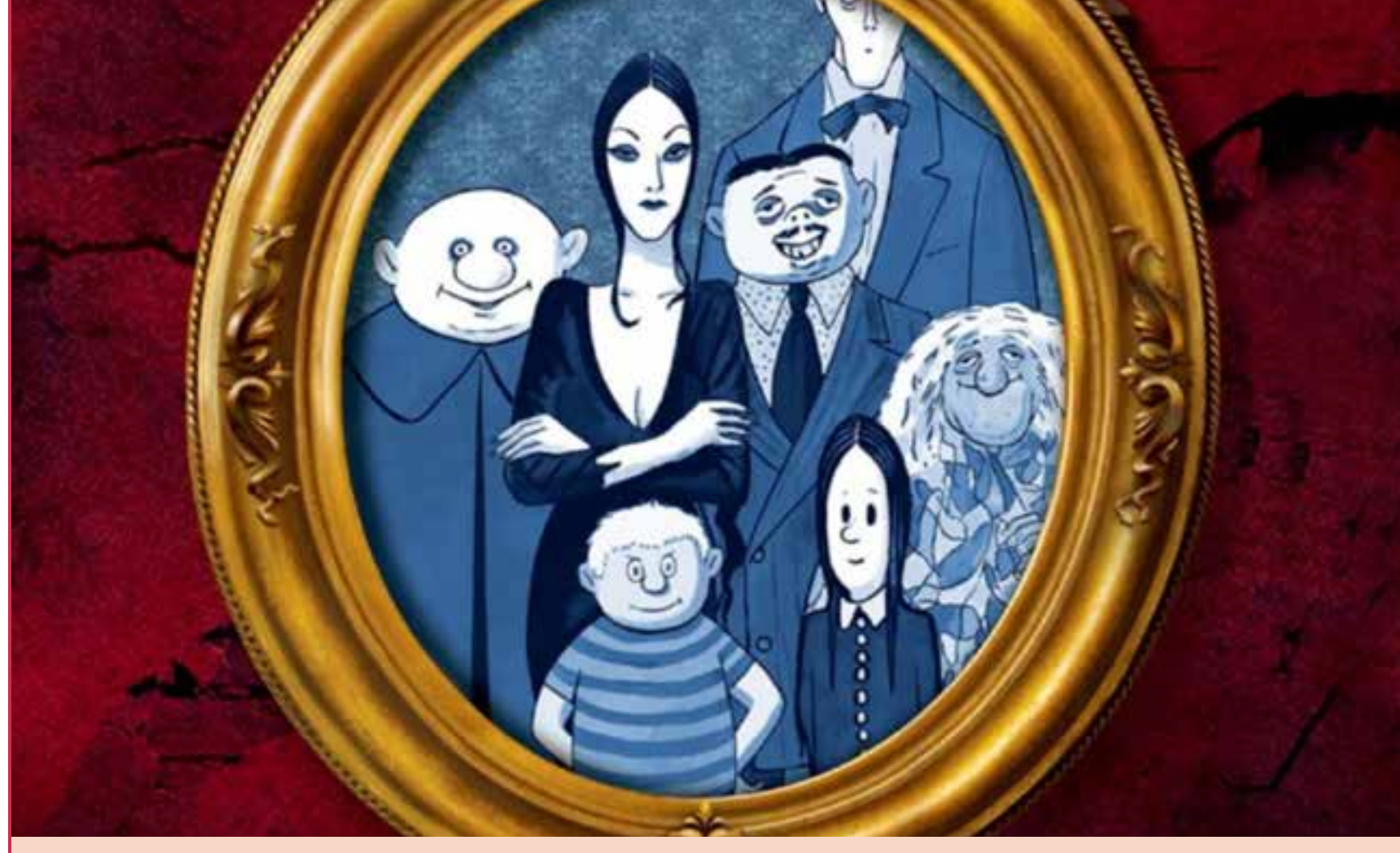


6th-10th May. What Dreams Are Made Of: *BATS Theatre*, Kent Terrace, Te Aro – 8:30pm. For the recovering Catholic millennials and anyone who had their coming-of-age movie at age 32, Maria Williams [pictured] presents *What Dreams Are Made Of*, her NZ International Comedy Festival show that's kind of about Hilary Duff but really all about her.



18th May. Waikanae Music Society Presents: Amici Ensemble: *Waikanae Memorial Hall*, Pehi Kupa Street, Waikanae – 2:30pm. Joining violinist Donald Armstrong for this concert will be leading NZSO players Alexander McFarlane (viola) and Andrew Joyce (cello), plus Jian Liu on piano. Enjoy a programme of sprightly dance rhythms, acclaimed piano quartets, and fine masterpieces of the Romantic era.

Amici Alexander McFarlane (viola), Andrew Joyce (cello), Jian Liu (piano), Donald Armstrong (violin).



6th-9th May. Kāpiti College Presents: The Addams Family: A New Musical: *Te Raukura ki Kāpiti Coastlands Theatre*, Raumati Road, Paraparaumu – 7pm. Putting on the show by arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical on behalf of Theatrical Rights Worldwide, New York, Kāpiti College brings the iconic Addams Family to life onstage with all their kooky quirks and creepy crawlies in tow.

What's on

Wairarapa

9th-11th May. Featherston Booktown Karukatea Festival: *Various locations and times in Featherston.* Meet your favourite authors and discover new ones while indulging in book-themed talks, events, and workshops.

21st-25th May. Wairarapa Film Festival: *Various locations and times in Wairarapa.* To celebrate the fifth anniversary, Wairarapa Film Festival presents a vibrant autumn programme of screenings and workshops.

Kapiti

15th May. Beats By Bingo with Mistress Viv: *The Bond Store, Birmingham Street, Paraparaumu* – 7:30pm. Mistress Viv brings naughty musical bingo to the coast.

17th May. Pink Ribbon Fundraiser: *Southward Car Museum, Otaihanga Road, Paraparaumu* – 10:30am. Fundraise for Breast Cancer Foundation NZ while enjoying bubbles, raffles, morning tea, and more.

17th May. Kāpiti Concert Orchestra Presents: An Afternoon with Elgar: *Te Raukura ki Kāpiti Coastlands Theatre, Raumati Road, Paraparaumu* – 2:30pm. Pomp and circumstance abound in this celebration of Elgar's beloved and lesser-known works conducted by Andrew Atkins.

17th May. Too Many Chiefs: *Kapiti Playhouse, Ruahine Street, Paraparaumu* – 7:30pm. Rob Joass, Andrew London, Wayne Mason, and Charlotte Yates come together with their blues, jazz, country, and folk influences.

Events

6th Jun. Rebekah Burgess: *The Undercurrent, Tory Street, Te Aro* – 5:30pm. Known for her confessional and honest style, Rebekah Burgess presents her new poetry book *Hope Floats*.

8th May. The Big Bike Film Night: *Penthouse Cinema and Cafe, Ohiro Road, Brooklyn* – 6:15pm. The best cycling short films from around the world pedal into Wellington for a two-and-a-half-hour showcase.

10th May. Experience Ancient Chinese Culture – A Journey Through Time: *Aro Valley Community Centre, Aro Street, Aro Valley* – 10am. Explore Chinese culture and heritage and take part in activities at this family-friendly all-day event.

11th May. The Dementia Wellington Heartland Flyer: *Wellington Railway Station, Bunny Street, Te Aro* – 7:50am. Join Steam Incorporated to take a ride on a steam engine to Woodville via the Manawatū Gorge.

11th May. Mother's Day Afternoon Soiree: *Trentham Racecourse, Racecourse Road, Upper Hutt* – 3pm. Treat your mum to a special day out to make her feel pampered.

13th May. Porirua Careers Expo: *Te Rauparaha Arena, Parumoana Street, Porirua* – 9:30am. Open to students and jobseekers across the Wellington Region, this career fair provides information, workshops, and networking opportunities.

17th-18th May. Blue Dragon Book Fair: *Ngaio Town Hall, Ottawa Road, Ngaio* – 9am. Browse books, DVDs, CDs, records, puzzles, board games, and more at this fundraising book fair for Blue Dragon Children's Centre in Hanoi.

24th-25th May. National Wood Expo: *Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, Logan Street, Upper Hutt* – 7:30am. Explore the wood art exhibition and enjoy seven live woodworking demonstrations from internationally renowned creatives.

Music

8th May. Search for Yeti: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Catch the *Dark So Soon Aotearoa Album Tour* from the Wellington-based indie rockers.

8th May. Atomic! 2.0: *The Opera House, Manners Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Kiwi icons Julia Deans, Boh Runga, Dianne Swann, Vera Ellen, and Jazmine Mary join forces to perform hits from trailblazing women of the music industry.

9th May. Sweet As!: *The Undercurrent, Tory Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Saunter in for a night of western swing and blues troubadours.

9th May. Ras Judah and Culture Embassy: *The Rogue and Vagabond, Garrett Street, Te Aro* – 9:30pm. The Wellington-based 10-piece Culture Embassy plays African music and roots reggae.

10th May. Klezmer Rebs: *The Undercurrent, Tory Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Stomp your feet to the Eastern European and Yiddish folk music of Klezmer Rebs.

17th May. Supertonic Presents: Mozart Requiem Mass in D Minor: *Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, Hill Street, Thorndon* – 7:30pm. Supertonic choir and guest soloist Carleen Ebbs present a concert to wow audiences of all ages.

17th May. Don't Call Me 80s Wellington: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. The brainchild of George FM DJ Grant Marshall was created from a love of house music and nostalgic bangers.

17th May. Joan As Police Woman: *Old St Paul's, Mulgrave Street, Pipitea* – 8pm. The critically acclaimed multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter returns to Aotearoa for a career-spanning solo tour that includes material from her new album *Lemons, Limes and Orchids*.

17th May. Bojack Funkman: *The Rogue and Vagabond, Garrett Street, Te Aro* – 9:30pm. Boogie to horn-driven funk, afrobeat, and jazz fusion.

20th May. Pokey LaFarge: *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. The riverboat chic rock 'n' roller returns to Pōneke to share his latest offering *Rhumba Country*, serving up flavours of mambo, Tropicália, rocksteady, and mid-century American rock 'n' roll.

23rd May. New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Presents: Echoes of Home: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. Hungarian conductor Gábor Káli and New Zealand violinist Amalia Hall bring Bartók's unique, folk-inspired sound world to life.

23rd May. 1tbsp: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 10pm. Known for crafting genre-blurring journeys through house, techno, reggaeton, and Latin club rhythms and packed with an infectious, high-energy sound, catch the GRAMMY®-nominated DJ live.

24th May. Mayhem Portals: *TSB Arena, Queens Wharf, Wellington Waterfront* – 5pm. Embark on an audio-visual drum and bass feast modelled on European music festivals and starring international DJs.

24th May. Alison Moyet: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. The powerful pop singer with a soulful and bluesy voice celebrates her 40-year career with a concert for the ages.

25th May. Mel Parsons: *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 5pm. Mel Parsons presents her new single *Post High Slide* in Pōneke, a song that contrasts the enormity of performing to large crowds with the quiet emptiness that follows.

Performance

8th-9th, 16th-17th May. Tubs of Fun!: *Newtown Community Centre, Rintoul Street, Newtown* – 8pm. Wellington RAW Comedy Quest 2020 winner Sandy Burton brings audiences his best new material while under duress of a local hot tub company who have forced their sponsorship upon him.

9th-16th May. New Zealand School of Dance Presents: Choreographic Season 2025: *Te Whaea National Dance and Drama Centre, Hutchison Road, Newtown* – 7:30pm. Nine third-year contemporary dance students showcase their creative ideas and skills in *HOW LONG IS A PIECE OF STRING?*

10th-24th May. Re-Engineered: *Circa Theatre, Taranaki Street, Wellington Waterfront* – various times. Regan Taylor's *Re-Engineered* is a powerful exploration of identity, trauma, and redemption told through the journey of 40-year-old Reg, a Māori builder confronting his past and grappling with societal expectations.

15th-17th May. Inverted Citizens Presents: REVEL: *Hannah Playhouse, Cambridge Terrace, Te Aro* – various times. Wellington's hottest night out is back with a sizzling new cabaret experience after its smash-hit 2024 debut.

16th May. Hot Si*ts From Hell: *Ivy Bar and Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 9pm. This sexually liberated variety cabaret hosted by sinner and showgirl Selina Simone stars Kitty Obsidian, Robin Yabind, Pita Pocket, and more.

10th-11th; 16th-17th; 23rd; 24th May. Wellington Comic Opera Presents: The McCardo: *Whirinaki Whare Taonga, Upper Hutt; Victoria University Memorial Theatre, Kelburn; Little Theatre, Lower Hutt; Te Raukura ki Kāpiti, Paraparaumu* – various times. Public servants and the British court system are lampooned in a colourful romp that reimagines Gilbert and Sullivan's famed comic opera *The Mikado* by placing it instead in the Highlands of Scotland.

24th May. Alien: First Contact – An Interstellar Drag Show: *Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 10pm. This out-of-this-world spectacle blends high-fashion, high-camp, and high-tech fantasy for a night of celestial performances.

Sports

10th May. Valiant Pro Presents: Power Play: *Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, Logan Street, Upper Hutt* – 5pm. Witness the clash of titans, featuring the reigning New Zealand All Star champion 'The Beast' Jade Priest, Wellington Heritage champion Big Frank, Danny Octane, 'Gothic King' Dev Kyro, and more.

Galleries

Until 15th Jun. Things are, they do not happen and BTM 01 Ahhh: *Te Pātaka Toi Adam Art Gallery, Te Herenga Waka* – *Victoria University of Wellington, Kelburn.* Photographers Adrienne Martyn, Sam Norton, and 박성환 Sung Hwan Bobby Park rethink long-standing power dynamics in photography.

Until 6th Jul. Lovers & Castaways: *Pātaka Art + Museum, Parumoana Street, Porirua.* Artworks from the 1980s are brought together in this exhibition highlighting some of New Zealand's most well-known creative luminaries.

5th-11th May. Natural Impressions: *Thistle Hall, Cuba Street, Te Aro.* Peek into the creative world of mother-daughter duo Marie and Katie Pickering, artists inspired by the beauty of rural New Zealand.

8th-31st May. So Help Me Gold: *MEANWHILE Gallery, Willis Street, Te Aro.* Photographic, painted, and sculptural works by Hayley Theyers, Rubetta Neal, and Lindsey Horne examine the glimmering contradictions of gold, questioning our pursuit of this precious metal and everything it symbolises.

15th May-7th Jun. The long white cloud: *Exhibitions Gallery, Brandon Street, Te Aro.* Inspired by the skies and clouds of Aotearoa, South African-born artist Sean Beldon presents a selection of works capturing places with a unique New Zealandness about them.

Festivals

Until 25th May. NZ International Comedy Festival w. Best Foods Mayo: *Various locations and times in Greater Wellington.* Explore all kinds of comedic offerings from humorous humans from across the motu and the globe at this annual funny festival.

For your inclusion in the what's on listings email: whatson@regionalnews.kiwi. Close off for the next issue's listings is noon Tuesday 13 May.

To the best of our knowledge, the information provided to us regarding the above events was correct at the time of press. Our company accepts no liability for events postponed, cancelled, sold out, or otherwise adapted.

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