

# HERE & NOW FESTIVAL



AUCKLAND  
THEATRE  
COMPANY

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23–30

JULY 2021

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BASEMENT  
THEATRE

# THANKS TO THE SUPPORTERS OF AUCKLAND THEATRE COMPANY

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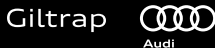
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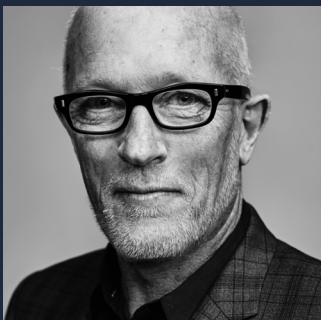


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**Colin McColl**  
**Creative Director 2021**

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## **Welcome to HERE & NOW 2021!**

Auckland Theatre Company's annual festival of work by and for young theatre-makers and young audiences has been part of the Company's ecology and of Auckland theatre for the last 13 years.

Under the guidance of seasoned directors and mentors, countless young people have had their introduction to professional theatre practices as actors, assistant directors, set designers, stage managers, lighting technicians, production assistants and publicists.

In my 18 years heading ATC, the driving force, the heart, and soul of this programme has been Lynne Cardy, our much-loved Associate Director. Whether it was Young & Hungry, Next Big Thing or HERE & NOW, Lynne has been Creative Director, Producer and motivator and chief pastoral carer of the project guiding and nurturing vast numbers of young people into a tight and vibrant community of artists, encouraging them to give off their best and above all have fun!

Many participants of this project have gone on to have professional careers and their success is a testament to Lynne's eye for spotting talent and her duty of care.

So let's celebrate the work of 2021's HERE & NOWers and let's celebrate the huge contribution Lynne Cardy has made to ATC and the Auckland theatre community.



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Lynne Cardy

Associate Director  
2021 season

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### **Kia ora koutou**

I am so proud and delighted by the legacy of ATC's youth festivals. Literally thousands of people have been involved since we started 13 years ago: artists, volunteers, mentors, industry supporters and our loyal audiences. Many folk come back year after year, sometimes stepping into new roles, and I'm thrilled that some of them are involved in this year's season.

This project has always been about young people at the centre – about their stories, their ideas and their voices. This year is no exception and I hope you enjoy the plays, and the play-reading event which highlight different perspectives, different bodies, and even different languages, whilst celebrating the universal themes of love, family, belonging and identity that concern us all.

Congratulations to the hardworking creative and production teams that have come around our young volunteers this year – you are all wonderful!

Special thanks to the brilliant Dan Williams for returning to design his fourth season for us, to our sterling production manager Khalid Parkar for pulling all the elements together and to Billie Staples for holding the whole project with such care.

A big thank you too to those who have made such an impact on this project over the years, especially Amber McWilliams, Whetu Silver, Tanya Muagututi'a, Nicole Sarah and Mile Fane and the ongoing support of Colin McColl and Philippa Campbell.

Huge thanks to all the past collaborators and partners in arts – love you all.

Arohanui.



# HERE & NOW FESTIVAL

## HERE & NOW FESTIVAL TEAM

Creative Director — **Lynne Cardy**

Festival Coordinator — **Billie Staples**

Production Manager — **Khalid Parkar**

Production Designer — **Daniel Williams**

Lighting Designer — **Tim Jansen**

Assistant Producer — **Alice Kirker**

Marketing & Publicity Intern — **Teresa Lee**

Promotional Images — **Sacha Stejko**

Production Images — **Benny Joy**

Special thanks to the ATC Production team  
**Elaine Walsh and Jess Leslie**

## INDUSTRY MENTORS & GUESTS

**Jane Yonge, Romy Hooper, Proudly Asian Theatre**

# ABOUT THE CREATORS



## SHERRY ZHANG 章雪莉

**Sherry Zhang, 22, grew up in Auckland/Tāmaki Makaurau. Her family is from Fujian, China.** She is fifth year Law/Arts student at the University of Auckland, and was the editorial intern for The Spinoff in 2020. She is a writer and creative, working mainly in journalism, poetry and theatre. She is the editor of QTBIPOC collective Āhua and queer zine The Agenda. Her mahi includes communications manager at The Pantograph Punch and theatre producer of documentary theatre show *OTHER* [chinese]. Sherry is interested in storytelling in all its forms to uplift queer POC voices. Sherry is a graduate of ATC's Young Writers' Table programme, and was part of *HERE & NOW* in 2019, acting in *8 Reasonable Demands*.



## NUANZHI ZHENG

**Nuanzhi is an interdisciplinary artist based in Tāmaki Makaurau.** Her whakapapa is Shanghai, China. A recent graduate of Elam (BFA (First Class Hons)), she has been steadily working in multiple creative spaces, with themes circling on feminism, race and queer theory. Her practice expands across a variety of media including videomaking, drawing, writing, performance and craft. Nuanzhi has shown at Gus Fisher Gallery, and was awarded the Sharu Loves Hats Fringe Award. Through trial and error, she's also becoming a competent plant mum.



## THE ODDBALLS

**Founded in 2018, The Oddballs is a theatre company that loves to make you laugh, ask you questions and demand answers.** We are essentially a few wacky people who want to make some theatre of our own. With a heart for community, aroha, and theatre, we wanted to form a company with its roots grounded in some key principles: wellbeing, inclusion, growth and community. As well as presenting a number of fresh new theatre pieces over the last few years including *Aroha Mai*, *The Downs and Ups of Peep and Squeak*, *Fleshies*, *Jelly Baby* and most recently *Cake Baby*, The Oddballs also provide free community workshops throughout the year aimed at upskilling emerging makers and creatives in order to build our theatre community from the grass roots up.





# FLESHIES 2.0

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Kia ora koutou. It is my absolute pleasure to be directing this shining gem of a show again.



Originally devised by a cast of 15 we are now giving *Fleshies* a new life in the HERE & NOW festival. This piece is very close to my heart as it was made out of a lot of love for humanity and how wonderfully different yet similar we all are. It's an exploration of bodies, celebrating all sorts of shapes, sizes and identities, quaintly named *Fleshies* to represent all bodies. You will no doubt laugh, cry and most importantly feel empowered by the beauty of who we are as humans.

I'm immensely proud of everyone involved and the heart and soul they have brought to this work. The words you hear are personal to the cast and they have worked so hard to bring their own flair to scenes you may find familiar if you were lucky enough to see the original piece.

I'd also like to thank the previous team of humans and a special mention to my right hand, Grace Augustine, who has been essential to making this work so special. To all involved, old, new and about to watch thank you and enjoy this crazy beautiful ride.

Ngā mihi

– **BRYONY SKILLINGTON**

## CREATORS' NOTE

*Fleshies* was born out of a desire to expand the representation of different body types on stage and interrogate body shaming in New Zealand. *Fleshies* prods and pokes at the all-too-familiar judgement and lack of acceptance of bodies that don't fit the mainstream ideal body type. Our mainstream media fundamentally showcases one type of body, and for many New Zealanders this is deeply problematic. We wanted to change this, and we know that representation is important. This show will be a breath of fresh air in the midst of the constant body politics discussion that is happening unceasingly all around us.

– **ALICE KIRKER AND  
KATIE LONGBOTTOM**

THE  
ODD  
BALLS



# FLESHIES 2.0

PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ODDBALLS

DIRECTED BY BRYONY SKILLINGTON AND GRACE AUGUSTINE

## CAST

Rain Te'i

Isobel Christie

Hazel Oh

Alex Dallas

Isla Frame

Brianna Murgatroyd

Sajal Taneja

Sania Jafarian

Tom Mathew Mantos

Lily Edmonds

Carla Newton

## CREATIVE

Director — **Bryony Skillington**

Production Designer — **Daniel Williams**

Assistant Director — **Grace Augustine**

Costume Designer — **Divyaa Kumar**

Sound Designer — **Chris Marshall**

Lighting Designer — **Tim Jansen**

## PRODUCTION

Stage Manager — **Jordyn Ellish**

Assistant Stage Manager —

**Aimee Laurent**

Operator — **Luuk Heijnen**

## THANKS TO

Kathryn Osborne at Q Theatre,  
Zabdiel Mataia, Wumi Amokeodo,  
*Fleshies 1.0* cast: Alice Pearce,  
Tatiana Daniels, Walter-James Wilding,  
Suzy Smith-Roy, Todd Waters,  
Amy Minarapa, Celine Dam,  
Gina Maura Heidekruger,  
Georgina Briggs, Aun Sukijjakhamin,  
Quinn He, Kate Rylatt, Katie Fullard,  
Katie Longbottom, Jodi Fordyce,  
Josh Metcalfe and our collective  
friends and family for their ongoing  
support and love.





**RAIN TE'I**



**ISOBEL CHRISTIE**



**HAZEL OH**



**ALEX DALLAS**



**ISLA FRAME**



**BRIANNA MURGATROYD**



**SAJAL TANEJA**



**SANIA JAFARIAN**



**TOM MATHEW MANTOS**



**LILY EDMONDS**



**CARLA NEWTON**

# YANG/ YOUNG/ 杨

BY SHERRY ZHANG  
AND NUANZHI ZHENG  
DIRECTED BY NATHAN JOE





## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The coming-of-age story has always been the domain of the white body in the Western cultural consciousness. It's only within the last few years people like me started to appear on screen and stage having teenage dramas and comedies just like normal teenagers. Until then, we'd been relegated to the sidelines, barely existing at all.

In writing *Yang/Young/杨*, playwrights Sherry and Nuanzhi have written us into existence. They write of being Chinese with cultural specificity, incorporating the specifics of Mandarin and Shanghainese, rather than some monolithic Asia. They write of maternal figures, mothers and grandmothers who are all too familiar to many of us. They write of queerness and coming out which is still new narrative territory for Asian diaspora. To write your first play is not a small feat. To write with purpose is even harder.

This is a play that would have unmoored me had I seen it in my own teenage years. Heck, at almost 30, it unmoors me now.

Thank you to the cast and crew who have helped bring this play to life. They are generous with their emotional intelligence. My favourite quality in theatre-makers. My favourite quality in people. I love you all.

– **NATHAN JOE**



## WRITERS' NOTES

This play began three years ago, over long chats on growing up Chinese in Tāmaki Makaurau: songs we liked, people we crushed on, and growing into our own skins. We both loved coming-of-age stories, and began writing something that felt true to our teenage experiences. Writing people who had lived through the diasporic Asian experience, feeling simultaneously misunderstood by and close to migrant maternal figures. Teenagers who were messy, queer, made mistakes, were quiet, loud and terrifyingly relatable.

We couldn't have created the world of *Yang/Young/杨* without the help of the friends we've wrangled, mentors we've hassled, especially PAT who have advocated for us from the start. We couldn't be more chuffed when our dramaturg Nathan Joe, who knows the story inside and out, became our Director.

We thank ATC for being incredibly generous in developing this play with us. This play is a mash-up of our diary entries, dreams, fears, fantasies and hopes.

We hope you leave this thinking of the village that raised you.

– **NUANZHI ZHENG & SHERRY ZHANG 章雪莉**

# YANG/YOUNG/杨

BY SHERRY ZHANG AND NUANZHI ZHENG  
DIRECTED BY NATHAN JOE

## CAST

Poppy — **Kate Stedman**  
Qiu Ju — **Shelby Kua**  
Mama — **Flora Xie**  
Ah Ma — **Valery Chao**  
Suz — **Georgia Frost**  
Timothée — **Tasman Clark**  
Micky — **Jake Tabata**  
Jess — **Molly Last**  
Mr Stacatto — **Hamish Boyle**  
Abigail — **Ruby Payne**  
Ensemble — **Danny Lam**

## CREATIVE

Director — **Nathan Joe**  
Director Mentor — **Jane Yonge**  
Costume Designer —  
**Minsoh Rachel Choi**  
Sound Designer —  
**Kenji Iwamitsu-Holdaway**  
AV Designer — **Nuanzhi Zheng**  
Intimacy Coordinator — **Romy Hooper**  
Consultants – Proudly Asian Theatre  
— **Chye-Ling Huang, Alyssa Medel,**  
**Marianne Infante**

## PRODUCTION

Stage Manager — **Riley Blucher**  
Assistant Stage Managers —  
**Eloise Eng & Ruby Wilson**  
AV Operator — **Lillian McCann**  
Sound/Lights Operator —  
**Martha Carey**

## THANKS TO

Chye-Ling Huang, Benjamin Henson,  
Emily Yi, Angela Zhang, original  
workshop actors: Uhyoung Choi,  
Amanda Grace Leo, Jess Hong,  
Jen Huang, Torum Heng, Louise Jiang

## PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

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KATE STEDMAN



SHELBY KUA



FLORA XIE



VALERY CHAO



GEORGIA FROST



TASMAN CLARK



JAKE TABATA



MOLLY LAST



HAMISH BOYLE



RUBY PAYNE



DANNY LAM

# READ

# FRAME

EXCERPTS IN MOTION

**SHE THINKS EVIL**

BY COURTNEY BASSETT

**PICKLED**

BY CLARE MARCIE

**MANATEES**

BY DAN GOODWIN

DIRECTED BY SAMUEL PHILLIPS





## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Read Live is a chance to explore incredible new writing and to dream of new theatrical worlds, and an invitation into a creative collaboration between dramaturg and writer, actor and director. We invite you into the midst of the creative process to explore alongside us.

Our goal across our workshops and in today's showing is to slow down and pick at how actors and writers forge relationships, collaborate on creative work and create art together. We're going to show you three excerpts of plays in development, and collectively reflect on the process of creating work.

Megan, Kierron, Anessa, Brigit, Kalem & Maia have thrown themselves into this work with courage and commitment, and we're blessed to have their talent on stage today. We are equally lucky to have three distinct, creative worlds to play in thanks to the incredible words from Clare, Courtney and Dan.

Huge thanks need to go to Keagan, our dramaturg who has worked alongside our writers, and Billie, our producer who has worked incredibly hard to pull this project together. Special thanks also to Lynne & Phillippa for their support and contribution to this work.

– **SAMUEL PHILLIPS**



## DRAMATURG'S NOTE

It has been a sheer joy to work on this Read Live process with these bold and fearless writers. In my occasionally philosophical daydreams I sometimes wonder if being a dramaturg is a little like being an older sibling to a playwright – you're fiercely protective of their hopes and ambitions and you do your best to offer them guidance (with a small amount of nudging and a moderate amount of hair ruffling), and then ultimately giving as much space as possible for them to shine. Then sometimes I wonder if maybe it's closer to being a midwife – you coax and calm, but in the end you step aside and watch as the playwright does the real hard work of bringing this fully formed play into being, whilst you marvel at their bravery.

The generosity of these playwrights in sharing their work, and courage to take risks and hear suggestions has been a real gift; Clare, Courtney and Dan came to this process with such clear purpose for their work and what they wanted the audience to receive, and this has made our shared adventure so exciting. In addition to that, their voices are sharp and unapologetic in their politics and urgency, and that has made for some truly rich discussion and what I hope will be both entertaining and thought-provoking viewing.

– **KEAGAN CARR FRANSCH**

# READ LIVE

## EXCERPTS IN MOTION

*SHE THINKS EVIL* BY COURTNEY BASSETT

*PICKLED* BY CLARE MARCIE

*MANATEES* BY DAN GOODWIN

DIRECTED BY SAMUEL PHILLIPS

## CAST

Megan Goldsman

Kierron Diaz Campbell

Brigit Kelly

Anessa Malik

Maia Hapakuku Ratana

Kalem Lekey

## CREATIVE

Director — Samuel Phillips

Dramaturg — Keagan Carr Fransch

Literary Manager — Philippa Campbell

Writers — Courtney Bassett,  
Clare Marcie, Dan Goodwin

Producer — Billie Staples

## THANKS TO

Taimi Allan and the original workshop cast of *Manatees*, Borni Te Rongopai Tukiwaho & Atawhai Festival, Nathan Joe, Camilla Walker, Kristin Hanggi, Milon Tesiram



MEGAN GOLDSMAN



KIERRON DIAZ CAMPBELL



BRIGIT KELLY



**A botched marriage proposal, dealing with your mother's bad reputation, black magic, and the terror of male entitlement.**

*SHE THINKS EVIL BY COURTNEY BASSETT*



**A Jean Betts style script (utilising Shakespearean text), centered on Judith Wells, a bitter Speech and Drama teacher in her seventies whose envy of an ex-student has driven her to air her grievances on stage in her first ever solo show.**

*PICKLED BY CLARE MARCIE*



**Life just happens. And it won't bloody stop! Not even for a moment...**

*MANATEES BY DAN GOODWIN*



**ANESSA MALIK**



**MAIA HAPAKUKU RATANA**



**KALEM LEKEY**





## Production Suppliers



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### AUCKLAND THEATRE COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR HELP:

The amazing Basement team, our friends at iTicket, Kate Ward-Smythe at Q Theatre, Jade McCann, Leki Jackson-Bourke, Ravikanth Gurunathan, Eleanor Bishop, Aman Bajaj, Ken Choe from Presentations and the friends and whānau of all our volunteer participants.



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Chair:** Vivien Bridgwater  
Karen Fistonich  
Isaac Hikaka  
Katie Jacobs  
Derek McCormack  
Graeme Pinfold  
Alison Quigan QSM

## **LEADERSHIP**

**Artistic Director & CEO:** Jonathan Bielski  
**Executive Director:** Anna Cameron

## **CREATIVE**

**Creative Director 2021 Season:**  
Colin McColl ONZM  
**Associate Director 2021 Season:** Lynne Cardy  
**Literary Manager:** Philippa Campbell  
**Schools & Youth Coordinator:** Billie Staples

## **PRODUCTION**

**Director, Production:** Jess Leslie  
**Company Manager:** Elaine Walsh  
**Producer:** Philippa Neels

## **MARKETING**

**Director, Marketing:** Joanna O'Connor  
**Marketing and Audience Development Manager:** Nicola Brown  
**Graphic Designer:** Wanda Tambrin  
**PR Manager:** Vanessa Preston  
**Marketing Executives:**  
Camila Araos Elevancini, Isabella Woods

## **FINANCE**

**Director, Finance:** Kerry Tomlin  
**Senior Accountant:** Nick Tregetheran  
**Senior Accounts Administrator:** Michelle Speir  
**Administration Coordinator:** Jade McCann

## **ADMINISTRATION**

**Head Of Strategy:** Natasha Pearce  
**Development Coordinator:**  
Natalya Mandich-Dohnt  
**Ticketing Project Manager:** Gary Barker

## **ASB WATERFRONT THEATRE**

**Director, ASB Waterfront Theatre:** Sharon Byrne  
**Events & Sales Manager:** Tracey Rowe  
**Acting Events & Sales Manager:** Lucy Gardner  
**Front of House Manager:** Ralph Corke  
**Acting Ticketing Manager:** Lexi Clare  
**Ticketing Administrator:** Bruce Brown  
**Venue Technical Manager:** Johnny Chen  
**Senior Venue Technician:** Antonia Richardson  
**Front of House Supervisors:**  
Caoimhe Fidgeon, Lucas Haugh, Gary Hofman,  
Sofi Issake-Sade, Rachael Yelder

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boxoffice@atc.co.nz

# THREE NEW PLAYS 2021



PROUDLY DEVELOPED WITH THE SUPPORT OF ATC LITERARY

// **THE HAKA PARTY INCIDENT** by Katie Wolfe

// **THINGS THAT MATTER**

by Gary Henderson | adapted from the memoir by Dr David Galler

// **YANG/YOUNG/杨** by Sherry Zhang and Nuanzhi Zheng

**atc.co.nz**

*Image: The Haka Party Incident by Katie Wolfe | Credit: Andi Crown*

**AUCKLAND  
THEATRE  
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