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2018 **HERE & NOW**

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WELCOME



The kids are at it again!

Welcome to HERE & NOW FESTIVAL 2018. From April 20-23 you'll see dozens of young theatre-makers in three very different productions. There's nothing else quite on this scale in New Zealand, where emergent theatre makers get to interact with professional directors and designers, take part in free workshops and discussions and strut their stuff on the mainstage of the ASB Waterfront Theatre.

There's rich pickings in this year's selection of work. Auckland Theatre Company stalwart Benjamin Henson explores love in all it's forms with his cast of *Tender*; Leo Gene Peters, celebrated Wellington director, and his cast explore the possibilities of the ASB Waterfront Theatre with *Alice* and Lynne Cardy puts on her Director's hat to bring us the premiere of Billie Staples' scary yet funny insight into a dystopian future with *You First*.

And there's the Big Schmooze Career Expo, guest musos and singer-songwriters, even an open mic session. It's a unique, wonderful energy-packed weekend.

Of course, it's a massive logistical job to get it up and running so big ups to ATC's Lynne Cardy (who created HERE & NOW) and Nicole Arrow (who has rolled it all out).

Huge thanks to our guest directors and designers, our production teams and backstage crew and of course to all our performers. The future of New Zealand theatre begins here.

Colin McColl

Artistic Director, Auckland Theatre Company

ATC Creative Learning thanks the ATC Patrons for their support of HERE & NOW, and we acknowledge Foundation North and the Lion Foundation for contributing to the delivery of our annual programme.

HERE & NOW

ATC has been producing a youth theatre festival every year since 2009.

Going by various names and inspiring a legion of loyal participants, the festival has introduced 24 exciting works to Auckland audiences including; homegrown and international plays, devised pieces, spoken word odysseys and even an immersive after-ball party.

HERE & NOW 2018 is the tenth Festival in the series.

HERE & NOW connects young people and emerging artists to professional theatre. It's a place for telling our stories, making our own work, and working alongside exciting practitioners.

HERE & NOW puts young people first. We provide mentorship and guidance, and opportunities to get stuck in and try something new.

HERE & NOW tells stories that are relevant, encouraging audiences to think about their own lives, and to engage with each other.

HERE & NOW aspires to wild ideas and constant reinvention.

Cool things happen at HERE & NOW. Friendships are made, new skills are learnt and careers are kick-started

HERE & NOW gets noticed. Last year *BOYS* was awarded 'one of the best shows of 2017' by Metro Magazine.

www.atc.co.nz/creative-learning/here-now-festival/

HERE & NOW

HERE & NOW FESTIVAL TEAM

Creative Director — **Lynne Cardy**

Festival Coordinator — **Nicole Arrow**

Big Schmooze Event Manager — **Charlette Potts**

Production Manager — **Jamie Blackburn**

Production Assistant / Head of Staging — **Patrick Minto**

Head of Sound and Vision — **Khalid Parkar**

Head of Lighting — **Zach Howells**

Set Construction — **Burning Black Productions**

Festival Assistant — **Alex Marris**

Design Assistant — **Ana Keil**

Design Assistant — **Dani Bains**

Design Intern — **Thora Lee**

INDUSTRY MENTORS & GUEST ARTISTS

Stage Management Mentor — **Elaine Walsh**

Voice Tutor — **Margaret-Mary Hollins**

Special thanks to the ATC Production team — **Eliza Josephson-Rutter**
and **Joel Crook**

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Marketing Intern — **Simon Tate**

Promotional Images — **Sacha Stejko**

Production Images — **Michael Smith**

Publicity — **Miryam Jacobi**

Special thanks to the ATC Marketing team — **Natasha Gordon**
and **Nicola Brown**

BIG SCHMOOZE TEAM

Matthew Kereama, Alex Gorham, Mitchell Hageman, Sofia Miernik,
Harry Ashley, Jess Wiese, Ben Bowden, Vinnie Talataina, Monique Nel,
Brooke Cumming and Ella Coles.

ABOUT THE CREATORS — AND THEIR PROCESSES

BENJAMIN HENSON & ANA SCOTNEY — TENDER

The process of creating *Tender* involved lots, and lots, and lots of talking.

Most of the work has been moulded out of open, honest yarns - mostly about love, sometimes not about love at all, sometimes about crazy things we've seen on YouTube. From the discussions we bounced around shorts scenes, creative writing, movement stuff - with each member of the ensemble throwing around ideas for their team mates to create with.

And then we did a bit more talking! Setting questions for them ("What even is love?", "What was Sex Ed like at your school?", "What does the idea of a relationship mean to you?"); then the cast bundled off in pairs with their phones and filmed blog spots to be uploaded to the group Facebook page. These discussions have influenced the script hugely and has resulted in one of the most intimate sections of the show (titled 'Bodies and Stuff') where we've spliced together wisps of their discussion into a collage of moments, with snippets of text reassigned to each one of them regardless of gender. The cast have been honest, earnest, vulnerable, skinless and above all - hugely courageous.

BENJAMIN

One of the busiest directors in Auckland, Benjamin Henson has made a huge contribution to ATC Youth Arts as a director, maker and teaching artist. Last year Ben featured in ATC's *Peer Gynt [recycled]* and directed *Twelfth Night* for The Fortune Theatre, and *The Effect* at Q Theatre. His award-winning production of Last Tapes' *Valerie* will be presented at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August.

ANA

A recent collaborator with ATC Youth Arts, Ana graduated from Toi Whakaari: NZ Drama school in 2016. Since then she has appeared in ATC's *Peer Gynt [recycled]*, created and performed award-winning solo work and is soon to make her feature film debut in *The Breaker Upperers*.

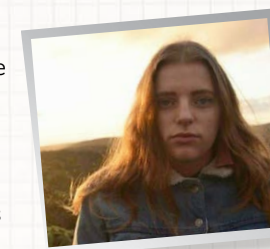


BILLIE STAPLES — YOU FIRST

You First is a kiss to nature and a nod to young love. I write what I want to see and want other people to see on stage; the madness of desperation, the age of youth, lesbian and gay relationships and most importantly, hope. The stakes are high. Cruelty is in control - much like the world now. The audience will interpret this world as they like; perhaps uncomfortably, probably shockingly and maybe like watching the news but having your children starring in it. Where we see what we don't want to so we can decide how to change. I want people to face the near future with a firm hand and a sweetness to their neighbours.

BILLIE

Billie Staples is an emerging artist born in England and raised in NZ. Billie has grown up in theatre and music. Billie's first produced show as a playwright, *Bravado* was part of Next Big Thing 2016. As part of Auckland Fringe Festival in 2017, Billie presented her poetry based solo show, *When the World Was Wide*. Billie also wrote, directed, designed, and performed in *PIG* (a show about love and consent) as part of Basement Salon. Billie is currently writing lots of poetry and revisiting material from a coming of age type novella she started writing when she was 18.



LEO GENE PETERS — ALICE

Working on *Alice* has been a chaotic, surreal and delightful process. We started with *Alice in Wonderland* as the initial source material, but quickly moved away from trying to translate or adapt that text to the stage. Instead, we followed the questions in the text that we found most important: looking at how we buy-in to a world that makes no sense... how we find/become our true selves... and how we meet each other in a meaningful way... all the simple ones.

LEO

Working with ATC Youth Arts for the first time, Wellington based Leo is director of A Slightly Isolated Dog Ltd and director/creator of a number of memorable shows including *Death and the Dreamlife of Elephants*, *Don Juan* and *Jekyll and Hyde*. Last year Leo directed the annual Basement Christmas show, *Santa Claus*.



Tender

BY BENJAMIN HENSON
AND THE CAST



DIRECTORS' NOTE



Love - what a beast. It's the subject of so many things out there and - as proven through this process - something that tugs on the corners of the teenage mind. In a world where we're finally blowing open the damage and danger of off-balance and power-abusive relationships, we wanted to begin with what seemed like a simple question - are we talking to young people enough about love? But then a million others quickly followed: What it is to be a part of a relationship built on trust and respect? Does love also mean sex? Does sex mean love? Is romantic love really the be-all-and-end-all? What about the love we can give every day to our families, our friends - and most importantly what about learning to love ourselves a little more too?

This ensemble of young people began this process as strangers, and have been so deeply supportive and responsive to each other that they've quickly created a shared world where the people we meet are maybe kind of rehearsing *Romeo and Juliet* but also not really; a world where they have the floor and a microphone to simply talk to us about what's going on for them and this weird thing called love. Like some misbehaving Ted Talk this is a world where they can poke fun at modern rom coms and their eye-opening experiences of the ramshackle families of Jaqueline Wilson.

The entire design team - and the dream of working with Ana, who has not only helped direct the piece, but has also provided the illustrations - has been a huge joy. Also, much ♥ to ATC and the youth arts team who continue to embrace the most exciting of risks in the HERE & NOW take over.

Benjamin Henson

TENDER

WRITTEN AND CREATED BY BENJAMIN HENSON
AND THE CAST
WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANA SCOTNEY

CAST

Augustine Dube

Zoe Fong

Muna Arbon

Sean Farrell

Wumi Amokeodo

Emily Smith

Murdoch Keane

Catherine Yates

Jess Bennett

CREATIVE

Benjamin Henson — Director

Ana Scotney — Assistant Director

Amy Snape — Production Designer

Ruby Read — Wardrobe Supervisor

Khalid Parkar — Sound Designer

Zach Howells — Lighting Designer

PRODUCTION

Ava Stuart — Stage Manager

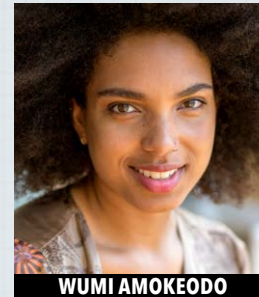
Ian Mardon — Assistant Stage Manager

Payge Swanson — Rehearsal Stage Manager

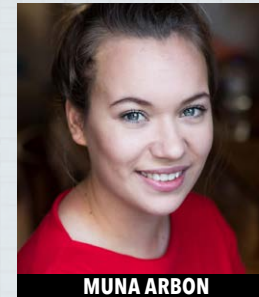
Jazmin Whittall — Lighting Operator

Max Bramley — Sound & Vision Operator

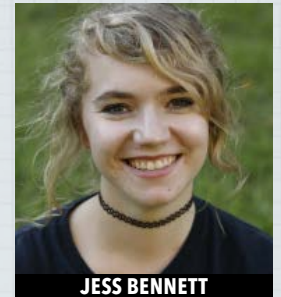
Tender is the first production in the Here & Now Festival 2018.
It opened on April 20 at the ASB Waterfront Theatre.
The production is approximately 55 minutes long without an interval.



WUMI AMOKEODO



MUNA ARBON



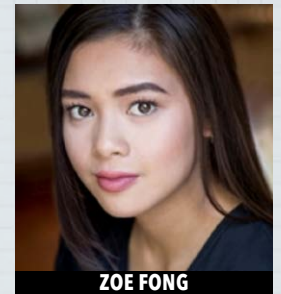
JESS BENNETT



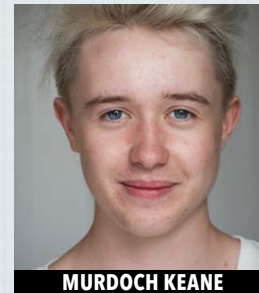
AUGUSTINE DUBE



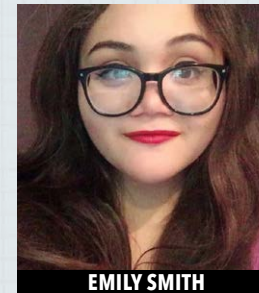
SEAN FARRELL



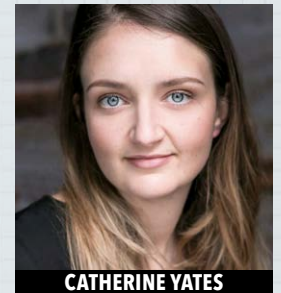
ZOE FONG



MURDOCH KEANE



EMILY SMITH



CATHERINE YATES

YOU FIRST

BY BILLIE STAPLES



DIRECTOR'S NOTE



When we were auditioning for this year's HERE & NOW we asked each group of the 100+ young people who came along to respond to a series of questions including *what is the biggest challenge facing the world today?* Group after group talked about climate change, looking after the planet, looking after each other, cruelty, and love. Someone wrote *how can we be kinder to each other?*, and I was reminded of a draft of a play Billie had written a couple of years ago that touched on several of these themes.

Then last week the sudden storm raged through town, my house was dark for three days and on the illustrated cover of *Time*, Trump floated in a flooded oval office below the title 'Stormy'.

So, *You First* feels right on the zeitgeist and I thank Billie for her beautiful words and absurd sense of humour and congratulate her for daring to imagine what might happen if we continue to treat the planet (and each other) in the way that we do.

While *Spur* is not a fun place, it has been huge fun bringing it to life, and we have laughed so much in the process. A huge thank you to the cast for making this show and making me laugh, and a massive thanks to our super star stage managers Gina and Taylor for keeping it all on track, and to Elaine and Eliza for their support.

Everything in Spur is Dares. Thank you to the very daring Dan Williams for designing everything but the socks, and to Owen, Khalid, Ruby, Jamie, and the whole crew for bringing every other detail to life.

HERE & NOW is a big project. Special thanks to the unflappable Nicole Arrow for pulling the whole Festival together and for Colin for backing me (again).

I'd also like to acknowledge Amber McWilliams who contributed much to the early development of ATC Youth Arts, and who would have loved *You First*.

Enjoy the show and please be kind to each other.

Lynne Cardy

YOU FIRST

BY BILLIE STAPLES

CAST

Madi Hewett — Grace
Emma Buckley — Ally - a lost youth
Julia McDonald — Auditor 2
Opara Panagoda — Bridget
Dylan Thuraingham — Solve
Leonardo Gunter — Arthur
Erica Harrison — Emma
Kiri Naik — Chye
Oli Mathiesen — Otto / lost youth
Emma Campbell — Host
Karlton Laing — Auditor 1
Doug Grant — Dog
Jasper Putt — Peter - a lost youth
Miro McColl — Ginny - a lost youth
Queenie Samuel — God / Mum

CREATIVE

Lynne Cardy — Director
Daniel Williams — Production Designer
Ruby Read — Wardrobe Supervisor
Owen McCarthy — Lighting Designer
Khalid Parkar — Sound Designer

THANKS to Heroes for Sale for permission to use *I Wish You Knew Jim Morrison*

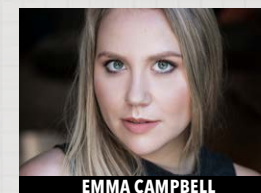
PRODUCTION

Gina Heidekruger — Stage Manager
Taylor Armstrong — Assistant Stage Manager
Zane Allen — Lighting Operator
Abe Keane — Sound Operator
Chloe Bagayas — Chaperone

You First is the second production in the Here & Now Festival 2018.
 It opened on April 20 at the ASB Waterfront Theatre.
 The production is approximately 60 minutes long without an interval.



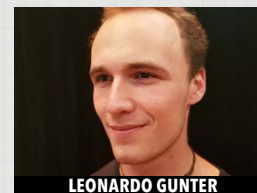
EMMA BUCKLEY



EMMA CAMPBELL



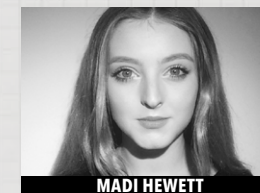
DOUG GRANT



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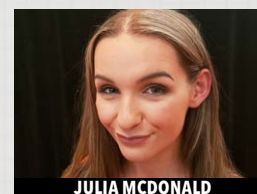
KARLTON LAING



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MIRO MCCOLL



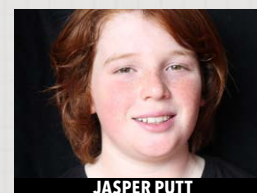
JULIA MCDONALD



KIRI NAIK



OPARA PANAGODA



JASPER PUTT



QUEENIE SAMUEL



DYLAN THURAIINGHAM

THANKS TO:

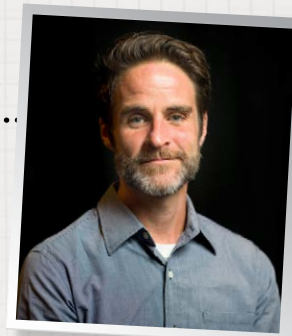
The ATC Summer School *You First* team: Jo Smith, Jack Buchanan, Milligan Hudson, Erik Bielby, Harry Lewis, Paulina Tapua'i-Soti, Gina Heidekruger, Eloise Williams-Mart, Irene Moon, Kassandra Wang, Tasman Clark, Aysha Elizabeth Blanchard, Jessica Bennett, Mackenzie Crompton, Sarah Rogerson, Joe Jackson, Tasmin Harker, Lauren Middleton, Jonathan Buckman, Tatum Warren-Ngata, Josh Aschebrock, Linden Watkinson, Steven Ross Glyde, Frank Cox, Marla Kathleen Beissel, James Turner, the parents of Miro and Jasper, Margaret-Mary Hollins, Mike Hudson, Ella Gilbert, Lisa Braid & Thomas.

alice

DEvised BY THE CAST



DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Working on *Alice* has been a chaotic, surreal and delightful process. We started with *Alice in Wonderland* as the initial source material, but quickly moved away from trying to translate or adapt that text to the stage. Instead, we followed the questions in the text that we found most important: looking at how we buy-in to a world that makes no sense... how we find/ become our true selves... and how we meet each other in a meaningful way... all the simple ones.

These questions feel more crucial now than ever. I've particularly enjoyed exploring them with this great group of young practitioners. As a 'not-young' person, it feels like a very complicated time to be one. It was tricky enough 15-20 years ago, now the world feels increasingly dizzying, for all of us, but especially for them: trying to find their way in the entropy.

We've tried to embrace this in the show: the feeling of the chaos, trying to chase meaning all the time, always a step behind, never fully understanding it... trying to be in the process of life, rather than trying to fix it or solve it... definitely an impossible task. We hope you enjoy.

Leo Gene Peters

ALICE

DEvised BY THE CAST

CAST

Georgia Hoskins-Smith

Ava Diakhaby

Rob Harper

Asha Haines

Tamara Gussy

Tatum Warren-Ngata

Phoebe McKellar

Josh Metcalfe

Carrisse Utai

Ruby Love

CREATIVE

Leo Gene Peters — Director

Amy Snape — Production Designer

Ruby Read — Wardrobe Supervisor

Leo Gene Peters — Lighting Designer

Khalid Parkar — Sound Designer

PRODUCTION

Lucie Everett-Brown — Stage Manager

Harry Ashley — Assistant Stage Manager

Anna Bennington — Rehearsal Stage Manager

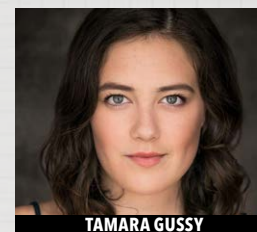
Jazmin Whittall — Lighting Operator

Abe Keane — Sound Operator

Alice is the third production in the Here & Now Festival 2018.
It opened on April 20 at the ASB Waterfront Theatre.
The production is approximately 60 minutes long without an interval.



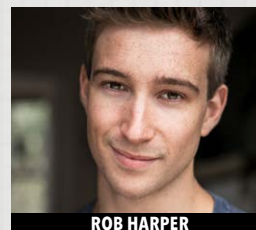
AVA DIAKHABY



TAMARA GUSSY



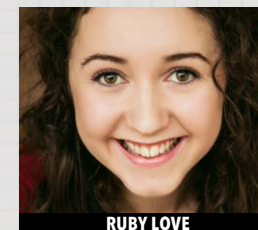
ASHA HAINES



ROB HARPER



GEORGIA HOSKINS-SMITH



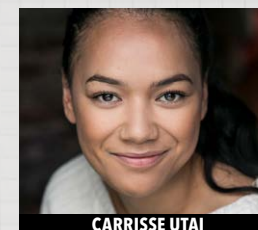
RUBY LOVE



PHOEBE MCKELLAR



JOSH METCALFE



CARRISSE UTAI



TATUM WARREN-NGATA

REHEARSALS



THANK YOU

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The ATC Ambassadors, the ASB Waterfront Theatre team and the friends and whanau of all HERE & NOW participants.

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Youth Arts Co-ordinator: Nicole Arrow

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Venue Technician: Johnny Chen

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Herewini Easton

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CONTACT ATC

487 Dominion Road, Mt Eden
PO Box 96002
Balmoral, Auckland 1342
P: 09 309 0390
F: 09 309 0391
atc@atc.co.nz
atc.co.nz

CONTACT BOX OFFICE

P: 09 309 3395
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THEATRE
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Mythmakers Touring Theatre

THE EEL AND SINA



By Jono Soo-Choon
Directed By Gaby Solomona

ASB
Partners with passion



TOURING MAY 7 - 25

Contact: nicole@atc.co.nz

www.atc.co.nz/creative-learning/mythmakers