

PERCENTAGE OF SCRIPTED WORK BY MĀORI CREATIVES HITS AN ALL-TIME HIGH



87% of scripted works staged by New Zealand's professional companies in 2024 were New Zealand works, as identified in Playmarket's annual survey. The total number of scripted works staged was 137, a decrease from the previous year, where 187 works were staged. Nine of the 16 funded companies that presented work delivered programmes with 100% New Zealand content.

Work written by Māori creatives hit an all-time high at 28%, surpassing the record of 25% achieved in 2022 and sustained in 2023. Tawata Productions, Taki Rua Productions, Te Rākau Hua o Te Wao Tapu, Massive Theatre Company, Red Leap Theatre and Barbarian Productions all staged seasons of 100% Māori work.

The percentage of Pasifika and Asian works also increased, with Pasifika works accounting for 13% of programming and Asian works accounting for 14% of programming.

Playmarket defines Māori, Pasifika and Asian works as created with a minimum of one New Zealand citizen of Māori, Pasifika or Asian descent involved in the writing or devising of the work.

Works by NZ women also increased to 56%; works written by trans and non-binary artists increased to 12% of total programming.

The Playmarket survey covers the seasons of all theatre companies funded by Creative NZ under the Tōtara and Kahikatea programmes. These are the four main producing houses (Auckland Theatre Company, Centrepont Theatre, Circa Theatre and The Court Theatre), the receiving houses (BATS, Basement Theatre and Te Pou Theatre) and the producing companies (Massive Theatre Company, Taki Rua Productions, Tawata Productions, Te Rākau Hua o Te Wao Tapu, Barbarian Productions, Indian Ink Theatre Company, Performing Arts Network of New Zealand, Silo Theatre, Red Leap Theatre). We also know that Te Pou Theatre work as a producing company or co-producer on many productions.

Of the producing houses:

- Circa staged 90% New Zealand work followed by Centrepont (80%), ATC (67%) and The Court (43%).
- Centrepont presented a programme where 60% of the work was by NZ women; Circa presented a programme where 55% of the work was by NZ women.
- 60% of the scripted works presented by Centrepont were written by Māori artists
- ATC presented 3 mainstage works written by Pasifika artists, representing 33% of their total programme.

Of the receiving and co-producing houses:

- 94% of the work presented at Te Pou was written by Māori or Pasifika artists; 35% of the works were co-written.
- Basement presented 26 scripted works as well as a suite of improv, music, live art, dance and comedy events. 96% of their programme was New Zealand work; 69% of

the season was work by women; 31% of the programme was written by trans and non-binary artists.

- At BATS, 90% of the work presented was New Zealand written. 68% of the season was work by women; 7% of the programme was written by trans and non-binary artists.

Of the producing companies:

- Tawata, Taki Rua, Te Rākau, Massive, Red Leap and Barbarian all staged seasons of 100% Māori work.
- Barbarian maintained its reputation for staging work that champions representation.
- 100% of the programmes presented by PANNZ and Massive were by Māori and Pasifika artists.
- Kia Mau Festival and The Conch did not present fully staged productions of scripted work in 2024.

BY THE NUMBERS

137	works
119	works by New Zealanders: 87% (-2%)
39	works by Māori artists: 28% (+3%)
18	works by Pasifika artists: 13% (+1%)
19	works by Asian artists: 14% (+2%)
80	works by women: 58% (+2%)
77	works by New Zealand women: 56% (+5%)
16	works by trans and non-binary artists: 12% (+4%)
52	works co-written by New Zealanders: 38% (+4%)

RESEARCH PARAMETERS

- The data applies to works performed between 01 January and 31 December 2024.
- Data is collected on scripted narrative and devised theatre works only. Other live performance forms such as dance, cabaret, burlesque, circus, stand-up and sketch comedy, live art, installations, poetry and improvisation are not included here, nor are readings, development seasons or online presentations.
- Data is collected about works produced by theatres, works bought in by theatres and tours undertaken by the theatres.
- The data is collected from
 1. Season Brochures
 2. Websites
 3. Theatres
 4. Playmarket staff knowledge or licences
- Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

DEFINITIONS

- **New Zealand works by women** are defined as works with a minimum of one New Zealand woman citizen or resident involved in the writing or devising of the work.
- **Works by trans and non-binary artists** are defined as works with a minimum of one New Zealand trans or non-binary identified citizen or resident involved in the writing or devising of the work.

- **Māori, Pasifika and Asian works** are defined as works created with a minimum of one New Zealand citizen or resident of Māori, Pasifika or Asian descent involved in the writing or devising of the work.

Full research details are appended to this release.

ENDS

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2024

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

137	works
119	works by New Zealanders (87%)
39	works by Māori artists (28%)
18	works by Pasifika artists (13%)
19	works by Asian artists (14%)
80	works by women (58%)
77	works by New Zealand women (56%)
16	works by trans and non-binary artists (12%)
52	works co-written by New Zealanders (38%)

CREATIVE NZ TŌTARA ORGANISATIONS

AUCKLAND THEATRE COMPANY

- : *Hyperspace* by Albert Belz
- : *O le Pepelo, le Gaoi ma le Pala'ai: The Liar, The Thief and the Coward* by Natano Keni and Sarita So
- : *The Effect* by Lucy Prebble
- : *Red, White and Brass* adapted by Leki Jackson-Bourke from the screenplay by Halaifonua Finau and Damon Fepulea'i
- : *For Country* by Joni Nelson
- : *Scenes from the Climate Era* by David Finnigan
- : *Pring it On!* by Leki Jackson-Bourke
- : *Girls and Boys* by Dennis Kelly
- : *Peter Pan* by Carl Bland, adapted from the story by J. M. Barrie

9 works
6 New Zealand works (67%)
1 work by Māori artists (11%)
3 works by Pasifika artists (33%)
1 work by Asian artists (11%)
2 works by women (22%)
1 work by NZ women (11%)
1 work by trans and non-binary artists (11%)
1 co-written NZ work (11%)

BASEMENT THEATRE

- : *Legacy 7* by Helen Vivienne Fletcher, Sanjana Khusal, Danny Lam, Aun Sukijjakhamin, Maria Williams and Jade Winterburn
- : *Cowboy Dreaming* by Lunar Collective
- : *Korosea* by Lealofitaute Vaai
- : *The Clitoris Conundrum* by Connor Amor-Bendall
- : *Interrupting Cow* by Micky Delahunty

- : *ରଘୁରେଳି Our Stories, Our Plays* by Rupesh Parikh, Gaurav Stewart, Rupal Solanki and Meeta Somaiya
- : *No Time to Dry* by Lucy Dawber
- : *The Improprofessionals* by Abby Howells and Angella David
- : *Same Love* by Janaye Henry and Sean Dioneda Rivera
- : *Iconoclast* by Johanna Cosgrove
- : *Wink* by Jen Silverman
- : *Tuakiritea* by Reon Bell and Huia Max
- : *Skate or Die* by Pretty Little Sweethearts
- : *A Short History of Asian New Zealand Theatre* by Nathan Joe
- : *Midnight Confessions* by Anna Barker, Abby Lyons, Alia Marshall and Mia Oudes
- : *Toe Fai!* by Emele Ugavule
- : *ANTI* by Keagan Carr Fransch
- : *Asra* by Rand Hazou
- : *Space Invaders* by Nicola Brown
- : *The Ballad of the Duct Tape Cowboy and Six-Shot Cinderella* by Laika Loveheart
- : *We, The Outsiders* by Romina Meneses
- : *Ngā Reta nā Te Huamanuka Luiten-Apirana*
- : *A Slow Burlesque* by Freya Silas Finch
- : *Tiffin Box* by Aman Bajaj, Tim Booth, Shekinah Jacob and Namrata Mankame-Shanbhag
- : *Tangihana* by Kristyl Neho
- : *How to Art* by Katie Burson and Georgie Llewellyn

26 works

25 New Zealand works (96%)

4 works by Māori artists (15%)

3 works by Pasifika artists (12%)

7 works by Asian artists (27%)

18 works by women (69%)

18 works by NZ women (69%)

8 works by trans and non-binary artists (31%)

10 co-written NZ works (38%)

PERFORMING ARTS NETWORK OF NEW ZEALAND

- : *Be Like Billy?* by Rutene Spooner
- : *The Savage Coloniser Show* by Tusiata Avia
- : *Upu* curated by Grace Iwashita-Taylor

3 works

3 New Zealand works (100%)

2 works by Māori artists (67%)

2 works by Pasifika artists (67%)

0 works by Asian artists

2 works by women (67%)

2 works by NZ women (67%)

0 works by trans and non-binary artists

1 co-written NZ work (33%)

TAKI RUA PRODUCTIONS

- : *Hatupatu | Kurungaituku: A Forbidden Love* by Tānemahuta Gray, lyrics by Wētini Mītai-Ngātai
- : *Te Aka Tawhito* by Tere Harrison
- : *Te Kuia me te Pūngāwerewere* by Patricia Grace, adapted by Jamie McCaskill

3 works

3 New Zealand works (100%)

3 works by Māori artists (100%)

0 works by Pasifika artists

0 works by Asian artists

2 works by women (67%)

2 works by NZ women (67%)

0 works by trans and non-binary artists

1 co-written NZ work (33%)

CREATIVE NZ KAHIKATEA ORGANISATIONS

BARBARIAN PRODUCTIONS

- : *U R Back* by Jo Randerson and Company

1 work

1 New Zealand work (100%)

1 work by Māori artists (100%)

1 work by Pasifika artists (100%)

1 work by Asian artists (100%)

1 work by women (100%)

1 work by NZ women (100%)

1 work by trans and non-binary artists (100%)

1 co-written NZ work (100%)

BATS THEATRE

- : *Limbo* by Kathy Keane, Tom Smith and Jimmy Williamson
- : *The Lobster* by Yorgos Lanthimos and Efthimis Filippou
- : *On God* by Kaisa Fa'atui
- : *At the Altar* by Sam Hearps
- : *We, The Outsiders* by Romina Meneses
- : *Kia Ora Khalid* by Dave Armstrong and Gareth Farr
- : *blip.* by Isaac Hooper
- : *Icky* by Viki Moananu
- : *Whore's Eye View* by Kaytlin Bailey
- : *No No No* by Ella Yiannoutsos
- : *An Almighty Yes* by Emma Lange
- : *Sweeties* by Ella Hope-Higginson and Brynley Stent
- : *Everyone's Got an Errol* by Sophie Badrick, Brandon Entwistle and Brock Oliver
- : *blackpill* by Rachel McLean
- : *Helios* by Alexander Wright
- : *Mum's Vege Patch* by Amalia Calder
- : *Goth 2 a Flame* by Jonny Brugh and Jemaine Clement
- : *Iphigeneia at Aulis* by Euripides, translated by James Parrott and Alex Davey

- : *Confessions of a Sleepwalking Insomniac* by Helen Vivienne Fletcher
- : *FWB: Friends with Boundaries* by Regan Taylor and Leona Revell
- : *Hector* by Cadence Chung
- : *Heartbreak Hotel* by Karin McCracken
- : *Hine Te Rēhia* by Bronwyn Turei and Tuatara Collective
- : *Boys and Girls at the School Silent Disco* by Jack McGee
- : *Two Girls One Gun* by Comedy Gold
- : *When We Were Us* by Catherine Zulver
- : *Your Body is a Wasteland* by Emma Maguire
- : *Antarctic Endeavours* by Ava O'Brien, Alex Quinn and Tom Smith
- : *Hamlet: One Hour* by William Shakespeare
- : *Tangihana* by Kristyl Neho
- : *Midnight Confessions* by Anna Barker, Abby Lyons, Alia Marshall and Mia Oudes
- : *Crunch* by Laura Gaudin and Izzi Lao
- : *Sister Wives* by Natasha McAllister
- : *He Māori?* by Ihaka Martyn
- : *Twiliegth: Loca Edition* by Maeve O'Connell
- : *Just Before We Go* by Third Act
- : *Alma and the Mind Galaxy* by Isabel Pecora
- : *Verdict* by Pan Clark and Alanah Munn
- : *Encounter* by Cadence Chung
- : *The King in Yellow* by Simon Burgess
- : *The Three Wives of Antony* by Chenae Philips and Rosie Mazur
- : *Whōre* by Zody Takura

41 works

37 New Zealand works (90%)

7 works by Māori artists (17%)

3 works by Pasifika artists (7%)

4 works by Asian artists (10%)

28 works by women (68%)

28 works by NZ women (68%)

3 works by trans and non-binary artists (7%)

15 co-written NZ works (37%)

CENTREPOINT THEATRE

- : *The Tempestuous* by Penny Ashton
- : *Prima Facie* by Suzie Miller
- : *He Māori?* by Ihaka Martyn
- : *He Reo Aroha* by Mīria George and Jamie McCaskill, waiata by Hone Hurihanganui, original music by Kali Kopae and Jamie McCaskill
- : *Last Song* by Kate Louise Elliott

5 works

4 New Zealand works (80%)

3 works by Māori artists (60%)

0 works by Pasifika artists

0 works by Asian artists

4 works by women (80%)

3 works by NZ women (60%)

0 works by trans and non-binary artists

1 co-written NZ work (20%)

CIRCA THEATRE

- : *Treasure Island: The Pantomime* by Simon Leary and Gavin Rutherford
- : *Lads on the Island* by Sam Brooks
- : *Our Own Little Mess* by Jack Buchanan, Laurel Devenie, Louise Jiang, Andrew Paterson, Maaka Pohatu, Leo Gene Peters and Jane Yonge
- : *The Savage Coloniser Show* by Tusiata Avia
- : *Gravity & Grace* by Eleanor Bishop and Karin McCracken
- : *Two Guitars* by Jamie McCaskill
- : *Aya and the Butterfly* by Bridget and Roger Sanders, based on the book by Dr. Maysoon Salama
- : *The Golden Ass* by Michael Hurst with Fiona Samuel
- : *End of Summer Time* by Roger Hall
- : *Transmission: Beta* by Stuart McKenzie
- : *Sense and Sensibility* adapted by Penny Ashton from the novel by Jane Austen
- : *The Messy Magic Adventure* by Lizzie Tollemache and David Ladderman
- : *Lizzie* by Steven Cheslik-deMeyer, Tim Maner and Alan Stevens-Hewitt
- : *The Body Politic* by Elspeth Sandys
- : *and the Lochburns* by William Duignan
- : *Prima Facie* by Suzie Miller
- : *Trees, Bees and Me* by Catriona Tipene and Ryan Cundy
- : *Cynthia and Gertie Ride Again!* by Helen Moulder
- : *The Tempestuous* by Penny Ashton
- : *Sleeping Beauty: The Pantomime* by Simon Leary and Gavin Rutherford

20 works

18 New Zealand works (90%)

3 works by Māori artists (15%)

1 work by Pasifika artists (5%)

1 work by Asian artists (5%)

12 works by women (60%)

11 works by NZ women (55%)

0 works by trans and non-binary artists

8 co-written NZ works (40%)

THE COURT THEATRE

- : *Crash Bash* by Brendon Bennetts, Rachel Brebner and Caitlin Penhey
- : *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express* by Ken Ludwig
- : *Every Brilliant Thing* by Duncan Macmillan with Jimmy Donohoe
- : *The Lost Sock* by Tusk Puppets and Andy Manning
- : *Mr and Mrs Macbeth of Heathcote Valley Road* by Gregory Cooper
- : *Something Rotten* by Karey Kirkpatrick, Wayne Kirkpatrick and John O'Farrell
- : *Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr.* by Howard Ashman, Alan Menken, Glenn Sater and Doug Wright, adapted by Ron Clements and John Musker
- : *Fun Home* by Lisa Kron and Jeanine Tesori
- : *She Kills Monsters* by Qui Nguyen
- : *Matatihi: Maia's Journey of Bravery* by Rutene Spooner and Holly Shappell
- : *Paradise or the Impermanence of Ice Cream* by Jacob Rajan and Justin Lewis
- : *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen in a version by Christopher Hampton
- : *Strictly Ballroom: The Musical* by Baz Luhrmann and Craig Pearce, adapted by Terry Johnson
- : *Move* by Lizzie Tollemache and the Court Youth Company

14 works
6 New Zealand works (43%)
2 works by Māori artists (14%)
0 works by Pasifika artists
1 work by NZ Asian artists (7%)
5 works by women (36%)
4 works by NZ women (29%)
1 work by trans and non-binary artists (7%)
5 co-written NZ works (36%)

INDIAN INK

- : *Guru of Chai* by Jacob Rajan and Justin Lewis
- : *Dirty Work: An Ode to Joy* by Jacob Rajan and Justin Lewis
- : *Mrs. Krishnan's Party* by Jacob Rajan and Justin Lewis
- : *Paradise or the Impermanence of Ice Cream* by Jacob Rajan and Justin Lewis

4 works
4 New Zealand works (100%)
0 works by Māori artists
0 works by Pasifika artists
4 works by Asian artists (100%)
0 works by women
0 works by NZ women
0 works by trans and non-binary artists
4 co-written NZ work (100%)

MASSIVE THEATRE COMPANY

- : *I LOVE YOU G* by Neil Amituanai, Scotty Cotter, Beulah Koale, Dominic Ona-Ariki and Sam Scott
- : *Te Ao Hou* by Margaret-Mary Hollins, Hone Taukiri, Connor Magatogia, Manunui Rainey, Lijah Mavaega, Tristin Katoa and Nikeidrian Peters

2 works
2 New Zealand works (100%)
2 works by Māori artists (100%)
2 works by Pasifika artists (100%)
0 works by Asian artists
2 works by women (100%)
2 works by NZ women (100%)
1 work by trans and non-binary artists (50%)
2 co-written NZ works (100%)

RED LEAP THEATRE

: *Dakota of the White Flats* by Red Leap, adapted from the novel by Philip Ridley

1 work
1 New Zealand work (100%)
1 work by Māori artists (100%)
0 works by Pasifika artists
0 works by Asian artists
1 work by women (100%)
1 work by NZ women (100%)
0 works by trans and non-binary artists
1 co-written NZ work (100%)

SILO THEATRE

: *ScatterGun: After the Death of Rūaumoko* by Ana Chaya Scotney
: *Scenes from the Climate Era* by David Finnigan
: *A Slow Burlesque* by Freya Silas Finch
: *Camping* by Chris Parker and Tom Sainsbury with Kura Forrester and Brynley Stent

4 works
3 New Zealand works (75%)
2 works by Māori artists (50%)
0 works by Pasifika artists
0 works by Asian artists
2 works by women (50%)
2 works by NZ women (50%)
1 work by trans and non-binary artists (25%)
1 co-written NZ work (25%)

TAWATA PRODUCTIONS

: *Ngā Rorirori* by Hone Kouka

1 works
1 New Zealand works (100%)
1 work by Māori artists (100%)
0 works by Pasifika artists
0 works by Asian artists
0 works by women
0 works by NZ women
0 works by trans and non-binary artists
0 co-written NZ work

TE POU THEATRE

: *Hyperspace* by Albert Belz
: *Te Tangi a te Tūī* by Amber Curreen and Tainui Tukiwaho
: *Aiga* by Lusi Faiva
: *I LOVE YOU G* by Neil Amituanai, Scotty Cotter, Beulah Koale, Dominic Ona-Ariki and Sam Scott

- : *The Handlers* by Poata Alvie McKree
- : *Dakota of the White Flats* by Red Leap, adapted from the novel by Philip Ridley
- : *Te Ao Hou* by Margaret-Mary Hollins, Hone Taukiri, Connor Magatogia, Manunui Rainey, Lijah Mavaega, Tristin Katoa and Nikeidrian Peters
- : *Te Hokinga Mai o Hoiho* by Tainui Tukiwaho
- : *Māori Krishna* by Hone Taukiri
- : *AltarNative* by Acacia O'Connor
- : *Neke* by Scotty Cotter
- : *Ngā Rorirori* by Hone Kouka
- : *Be Like Billy?* by Rutene Spooner
- : *My Mothers* by Levon James-Rawiri and Hans Masoe
- : *Raru e Maruakaītā* by Poe Tiare Tararo
- : *Kōpū* by Tuakoi Ohia
- : *Timberrr...!* by Matthew Chamberlain and Damon Andrews

17 works

17 New Zealand works (100%)

14 works by Māori artists (82%)

6 works by Pasifika artists (35%)

0 works by Asian artists

9 works by women (53%)

9 works by NZ women (53%)

1 work by trans and non-binary artists (6%)

6 co-written NZ work (35%)

TE RĀKAU HUA O TE WAO TAPU

- : *Unreel* by Helen Pearse-Otene

1 work

1 New Zealand work (100%)

1 work by Māori artists (100%)

0 works by Pasifika artists

0 works by Asian artists

1 work by women (100%)

1 work by NZ women (100%)

0 works by trans and non-binary artists

0 co-written NZ work