



Auckland Pride  
Festival 2026

1 — 28 February  
2026



**NGĀ URI E!**

Descendants of a Movement



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Auckland Pride Team**  
**Hāmiora Bailey** (he/they) (Ngāti Porou Ki Harataunga, Ngāti Huarere)  
Executive Director

**Vic Walsh** (she/her) (Scotland, Ireland)  
Operations Manager and Executive Producer

**Blaise Clotworthy** (they/them) (Pākehā)  
Partnerships Manager

**Bunty Bou** (he/they) (Cambodia)  
Digital Producer

**George Fowler** (he/him) (Pākehā)  
Festival Administrator

**Kasi Valu** (he/him) (Mau'ufanga, Lapaha, Tonga)  
Assistant Producer | Out of the Gutter Street Party

**Rosabel Tan** (she/her) (Peranakan Chinese)  
Producer | Pride Connects: ANITO

**Saraid de Silva** (she/her) (Sinhalese/Tamil/Pākehā)  
Copywriter

**Auckland Pride Board**  
**Bhenjamin Goodsir** (he/him) Co-Chair  
**Katy Thomas** (she/her) Co-Chair  
**Oliver Simpson** (he/him) Secretary  
**Grayson Goffe** (ia/he/him) (Te Āti Awa Taranaki)  
**Catherine Anderson** (they/them)  
**Renata White** (he/him/ia) (Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Wai, Tainui, Patuharakeke)  
**Faisal Halabi** (he/him)

**Māori Rōpū**  
**Grayson Goffe** (ia/he/him) (Te Āti Awa, Taranaki)  
**Pounamu Rurawhe** (she/her) (Ngaapuhi, Te Rarawa, Ngaati Raukawa ki te Tonga, Ngaati Tukorehe)  
**Kōkā Fleur** (she/her, whakawahine) (Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei)  
**Eunice Walters** (she/her) (Ngāpuhi)  
**Aunty Alice** (she/her) (Ngāpuhi)  
**Samara** (ia/wahine)

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**Contact**  
**Website:** [aucklandpride.org.nz](http://aucklandpride.org.nz)  
**Instagram, Facebook, TikTok & BlueSky:** AucklandPride  
**E-mail:** [kiaora@aucklandpride.org.nz](mailto:kiaora@aucklandpride.org.nz)

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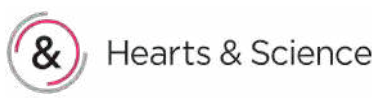
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# NAU MAI, HAERE MAI

## Welcome to Auckland Pride Festival 2026

‘Tēnei au, tēnei au, tēnei au, ko  
te hokai nei i taku tapuwae,

Ko te hōkai-nuku, ko te hokai-  
rangi, ko te hokai A tō tupuna  
a Tanenuiarangi

i pikitia ai ki te rangi-tū-hāhā,  
ki Tihi-o-Manono,

I rokohina atu rā ko lo-te-  
matua-kore anake

I riro iho ai nga Kete o te  
Wānanga: Ko te kete Tu-a-uri,  
Ko te Kete Tu-atea, Ko te Kete  
Aronui,

Ka tiritiria ka poupoua ki  
Papatūānuku

Ka puta te ira tangata ki te  
whaiao

Ki Te Ao Mārama!’

Stepping forward on the path  
laid by those before,

on the pathways of earth and  
sky,

following the ascent of Tāne-  
nui-ā-rangi,

who climbed to the highest  
realms

and returned with the kete of  
knowledge.

Ko te kete tuauri.

Ko te kete tuatea.

Ko te kete aronui.

These baskets were not  
gathered for one person alone.  
They were brought back to  
be shared, anchored into  
Papatūānuku, so that humanity  
might emerge from Te Pō into  
Te Ao Mārama. From darkness  
into light. From singularity,  
isolation and claustrophobia  
into relationship, light and  
abundance.

**Ngā Uri E! Descendants of  
a Movement;** takes its name  
from this understanding. That  
to be an uri is not simply to  
inherit, but to carry forward. To  
hold responsibility as well as  
possibility. To remember that  
everything we create today  
stands on foundations built by  
others, within a shared and ever  
evolving whakapapa.

Throughout the pages that  
follow, you’ll find artists and  
events that honour those who  
came before while imagining  
futures deserved. From artist  
residencies and world-class  
performance, to local gatherings  
and workshops, to community  
building and celebrations all  
across Tāmaki Makaurau. This  
programme reflects a festival  
which is not just a moment in  
time, but a living movement  
shaped by many hands, many  
bodies, many acts of courage.

As artists, organisers, and  
communities, we often reach  
instinctively for Te Kete Aronui,  
the basket of creativity,  
innovation and expression. This  
year, as we mark forty years  
since Homosexual Law Reform,

Auckland Pride asks us first  
to return to Te Kete Tuauri, the  
basket of peace, ritual, and  
spiritual grounding. A kete that  
reminds us that creation is  
inseparable from care.

Within the mātauranga of Te  
Kete Tuauri, we understand  
that as uri, we arrive in this  
world already loved. Across our  
waka traditions we hear this  
echoed: in Tainui, we speak of  
Hani and Puna who brought  
forth te pou taha tāne and te  
pou taha wāhine; in Te Arawa,  
we speak of Māhoranui-a-atea  
and Te Mangu; in Takitimu, of  
Io the parentless, of Māreikura  
and Whatukura. These atua,  
this deep knowing, existed  
long before Ranginui and  
Papatūānuku.

We share this to remind us  
all: before there was an earth  
mother and a sky father—there  
were queens.

To our kuini, our aunties, as well  
as our uncles, our sisters, our  
brothers, our trans and non-  
binary queer elders.

To the organisers who held the  
line.

To the artists who continue.

To those showing up now,  
carrying the kaupapa forward.

None of us arrived here by  
accident,

**Ngā Uri E! We are the  
descendants.**

# REMARKS FROM AUCKLAND PRIDE CO-CHAIRS

## Bhenjamin Goodsir & Katy Thomas

Tēnei te mihi nui ki a koutou katoa,  
ngā uri o te kaupapa. Nau mai, haere  
ki ngā mahi toi, ki ngā hui, ki ngā  
whakanuitanga o ā hapori katoa.

This year’s theme, *Ngā Uri E!*, calls us  
to stand in the footprints laid before  
us. Not to repeat them, but to learn  
from them and carry their wairua  
forward with care. To be uri is to inherit  
responsibility as much as possibility: to  
remember those who held the line, and  
to keep making a way for those who  
will come after.

As Co-Chairs of Auckland Pride’s  
Board, we hold this organisation  
in trust for its members and for our  
Takatāpui and Rainbow Communities.  
Our role is kaitiakitanga, it is to  
manaaki the kaupapa, to tend what  
sustains us, and to protect what  
must endure beyond any single  
festival or any one team of kaimahi.  
We carry responsibilities for safety  
and wellbeing, for sustainability and  
accountability, for structure and  
decision-making that strengthens  
the movement and supports our  
sustainability not just for this season,  
but for the long road ahead.

Within Pride we speak of Te Niho  
Taniwha: the shark’s tooth that turns  
so it remains sharp. Developed by  
te Rōpū Māori, this kaupapa Māori  
framework guides the organisation in  
working in a Kaupapa Māori ways. In  
our governance, the Board, te Rōpū  
Māori, and our Kaimahi each take  
their turn to meet the pressures of  
the moment, while the membership is  
held at the centre. It reminds us that  
sharpness is readiness: grounded  
protection, humble service, and steady  
care.

We honour the people who carry  
this mahi with steadiness, aroha,  
and each huge creative talent. We  
affirm our kaimahi leadership team,  
Hāmiora Bailey, Vic Walsh, and Blaise  
Clotworthy, and acknowledge the  
strength around them, including Bunty  
Bou and Katty Atafu Mayo, whose  
support and care holds so much of

what the public never sees. We also  
honour the leadership of our Rōpū  
Māori, led by Grayson Goffe and  
Pounamu Rurawhe, alongside Whaea  
Alice, Whaea Eunice, and Koka Fleur.  
Their guidance keeps us anchored  
in tikanga, in relationship, and in the  
whakapapa of this place.

We acknowledge, too, the living heart  
of Karangahape Road, the street  
that has held our communities when  
the world would not; the artists,  
organisers, kuini and kaumātua, the  
whānau made and found, the nights  
of joy and the days of struggle. Te Rori  
is not just a location in the programme  
it is a whare kāinga for many of our  
communities, and a reminder that we  
thrive through connection

And we do not pretend this work  
is finished. Pride is not an event  
we complete; it is a fire we keep  
alight. In the face of increasingly  
organised opposition to queer rights,  
we must return again and again to  
whakawhanaungatanga - to build  
connection, to strengthen each other,  
to stay clear in our values and brave in  
our presence.

On a personal note from Bhen, this  
will be my fourth and final festival as  
a Board member and Co-Chair. Over  
the past four years, Auckland Pride  
has been reshaped and re-grounded:  
in values, in place, and in the  
commitments that will outlast any one  
of us. It has been a deep privilege to  
serve. We look with excitement toward  
what comes next, as new faces take  
up this mantle, as uri of a movement  
that continues.

If you feel the call of *Ngā Uri E!*, we  
invite you to step closer. Become a  
member. Consider putting yourself  
forward for the Board. Auckland Pride  
belongs to our communities, and it is  
carried by those willing to ensure the  
niho remains sharp.

**Ngā Uri E! Ko tātou ngā uri. Ko tātou  
ngā kanohi ora. Tihei mauri ora!**

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# 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOMOSEXUAL LAW REFORM

Hāmiora Bailey

Tēnei au tēnei au,  
hei uri o te kaupapa,  
hei kawē kōrero mō te hunga ora  
me te hunga kua ngaro ki te pō.  
I was not there in 1986, but I am here now  
because of it.

I am an uri of the movement. An uri of  
the kuini, queens, women, unionists,  
journalists, organisers, sex workers, club  
kids, and mischief makers who held the  
line long before the law caught up. An uri  
of Karangahape Road where community  
is never optional.

To be an uri is not simply to inherit  
a moment, but to carry a lineage of  
cultural practice, of dignity, of care, and  
responsibility. In Aotearoa, that lineage  
runs deep: from resistance for land and  
language, to national hīkoi and whenua  
occupations. Across generations,  
Tangata Whenua have risen again  
and again to assert motuhaketanga  
(sovereignty) and to imagine futures  
beyond settler colonialism.

At the heart of these movements were  
takatāpui. As Tā Lee Smith reminds us,  
takatāpui and tangata ira whiti were  
present at Waitangi, within Ngā Tamatoa,  
and central to Gay Liberation. These  
struggles were never separate. Māori  
resistance and takatāpui resistance  
share whakapapa. They share uri. They  
are part of the same long movement  
toward dignity, freedom, and life.

For the 2026 Festival, we mark forty  
years since Homosexual Law Reform  
in Aotearoa. In 1986, a door was forced  
open, ending the criminalisation of sex  
between men. While it was a hard-won  
victory that brought legal recognition, it  
did not bring our ultimate safety.

And yet that opening mattered. Through it,  
generations kept pushing: the Prostitution  
Reform Act in 2003; marriage equality in  
2013; the removal of the CD4 threshold for  
people living with HIV, enabling access to  
antiretroviral treatment and leading to the  
principle of U=U; public funding of PrEP in  
2018; the banning of conversion practices  
in 2022; and the introduction of self-  
identification for gender markers through  
the BDMRR Act in 2023.

Each moment widened the space first  
created in 1986. None completed the  
work, but together they trace a lineage  
of persistence and determination carried  
forward by those who refused to stop.  
Even as battles around puberty blockers,  
healthcare, trans sport and bodily  
autonomy emerge at the forefront today,  
as the far-right stokes transphobia,  
fueling it as distraction while committing  
their many atrocities.

The conditions our forebears faced are  
not the conditions we face now, and nor  
should they be. Responsibility does not  
mean replication. We do not honour them  
by attempting to become them, or by  
rehearsing their scripts as if history has  
stood still. Their courage was shaped by  
their time, just as ours must be shaped  
by this one. To be an uri is not to emulate,  
but to recognise the specificity of what  
they carried, what they risked, and what  
they made possible. Our task is not to  
look backwards for instruction alone,  
but to respond clearly and bravely to the  
realities before us now.

This year, as we mark forty years since  
Homosexual Law Reform, Auckland Pride  
asks us first to return to Te Kete Tuauri,  
the basket of peace, love, ritual, and  
spiritual grounding. A kete that reminds  
us that creation is inseparable from care.  
That our gathering must be held  
intentionally through wairua and that  
movements endure not only through the  
visibility or spectacle of their outputs, but  
through the small rituals enacted through  
principle, process and purpose.

Here at Auckland Pride, we understand  
ourselves not simply as a festival, but as  
a movement. A place where resistance  
and celebration do not collide, but  
coalesce. I honour Grayson Goffe,  
Pounamu Rurawhe, Te Rōpū Māori, our  
Board and Vic Walsh, Blaise Clotworthy,  
Katty Atafu-Mayo and Bunty Bou who  
have entrenched and insisted that we  
are accountable to this whakapapa  
beyond naming a theme, but living it  
and embedding this ongoing work into  
the core of Auckland Pride’s strategic  
direction.

Within Te Ao Māori, we understand that

creation is not linear, te pakanga and  
te wehenga (struggle and separation)  
sit alongside renewal. From te pō to te  
ao mārama, from rupture to relation.  
Homosexual Law Reform belongs within  
this arc, not as an ending but as another  
arrival. What followed and what follows  
still, asks for care, vigilance, imagination,  
planning, and collaboration from us all.

The elders I honour in my everyday  
continuation of this work did not lead  
neat lives. They lived necessary ones,  
proudly their own. Through my Aunt  
Sande Mareroa-Gates, I grew up with the  
understanding that none of this arrived  
easily. That change was carried on  
backs already bent by grief, institutional  
discrimination, and social othering. That  
our queer joy was hard won, and often  
fleeting.

My Aunt Sande, like me, found her  
community on Karangahape Road.  
From her, I learned that family is not  
only who you are born to, but also who  
supports you to flourish from within. I am  
her uri. And through her, I learned that  
whakapapa extends beyond blood, into  
community and into place.

Forty years on, the work is unfinished.  
Violence has not disappeared. Inequity  
and facism remain patterned within  
the fibre of western civilisation and  
settler colonialism. Our trans and  
non-binary whānau continue to bear  
disproportionate harm. Law reform  
did not deliver liberation on its own.  
People did. And still, people must. As the  
descendants of these movements we  
cannot only remember these victories; we  
must also ask ourselves what it means to  
enact our own, valiantly.

Ka huri ake mātou ki ngā tini mate,

ki ngā kāhui takatāpui nā rātou i para te  
huarahi kia puta mai ai mātou ki te ao  
mārama.

E ora tonu ana ā koutou mahi i roto i a  
mātou ngā uri e.

Rātou ki a rātou, tātou ki a tātou.

Tihei mauri ora.





Stop

your snivelling  
creek-ped:

# Wheke Fortress TE TIMATANGA

Come rain hail  
and flood-water

laugh again

This year, Wheke Fortress carries the smouldering ahi of Te Timatanga through Te Kura Raumatī. A summer-long curriculum and a house of learning, this group exchanged and prioritised collective growth over traditional career mentorship. During the seasonal cycle of Hineraumatī's warmer months, our five resident artists have rolled out the whāriki to deepen their relational practice of whakawhanaungatanga, contemplating what both the people and the place of Tāmaki inspire them to say. Te Kura Raumatī has revealed curiosities, questions, and shared experiences navigating self and community in Te Ao Hurihuri.

Te Kura Raumatī has culminated in the creation of an experimental film, an offering and culmination of Auckland Pride's annual Te Timatanga artist residency. Created in whanaungatanga with resident Tuakana and Wheke Fortress co-director, Jessica 'Coco' Hansell, the experimental film titled, *URBAN TANIWHA*, speaks to the five takatāpui artists' whakapapa, tuakiritanga, and whanaungatanga, reflecting a regenerative, re-contextualised response to the aroha shared during Te Kura Raumatī's curriculum.

Over the course of the last three months, our rōpū have been sheltered by the rising heat of many whare within our hāpori. We have allowed ourselves the time to slow down, reset, and listen to the teachings and practices of Hineraumatī. Each whare has generously offered their manaaki during the cycles of our kura. Located in Onehunga and managed by Connie, Lara, and the Factory Theatre whānau, this blackbox theatre space provided a real chance to deepen our whakawhanaungatanga through weekly wānanga and play.

LAKA gallery and community space is also located in Onehunga and, like Factory Theatre, is considered another spatial sibling of Wheke Fortress (the relational interconnectedness of these spaces is a big part of what makes the neighbourhood so special). Our tangata tiaki Susana hosted a full day of Rongoā Māori and Mirimiri, facilitated by Whaea Wai-Sharne and Whaea Meesh from Maiden Tāmaki, a Kaimirimirī and Kairongoā Traditional Māori Healing kaupapa. Jars of tataramoa, kawakawa, and kumarahou, alongside the bark of tānekaha, filled the LAKA fale. Each of our experiences was wildly different – portals opening and Tūpuna singing, some chit-chat about the future (and some too sacred to share in

writing). We left with our puku full of whakapapa taiao.

On Maungakiekie sits another type of wānanga portal, too: Stardome Planetarium. Our good kare, Oriwa Karena-Lockyer, is a Māori Astronomer at the observatory, and they created a lecture for our Kura Raumatī group especially. Leading us through the most incredible haerenga, navigating the heavens of Ranginui; maramataka, whetū, and Te Ao Tūkupu, we learnt about the cosmos through a Te Ao Māori lens and how that informs us in our daily lives as thinkers and creatives. Our experience with Te Ao Tiroiti, hosted by Te Rōpū Māori of Auckland Pride, took us on a hīkoi of collective resistance and regenerative movements. Our journey started at Hobson's graves, wove through Waimahara listening to taniwha, and finished at the City Art Gallery, unraveling the colonial myths and identifying resistance in the form of Tino-rangatiratanga. Ending in a sumptuous kai cooked up by ringawera Whaea Taniko at the Auckland Pride Tari. E mihi ana ki ā koutou mō tō manaaki, āwhina anō hoki.

*URBAN TANIWHA* is the culmination of shared visual imagery that moves away from the traditional narrative lens toward Indigenous ways of storytelling, in which multiple truths, paradox, and even conscious hypocrisies can all exist at once and still be true. This experimental film is influenced by pūrākau of the unseen presence: ancestral beings of manifestation and protection, dwelling between the liminal spaces of whenua and concrete, rākau Māori and asphalt; in memories of awa and clay.

Our existence blends the natural world with contemporary environments, balancing the knowledge of our tūpuna with the reality we inhabit. These films offer insight into how urban

takatāpui move through te ao hurihuri, borrowing the rhythms and pathways of the taniwha before us: slipping into the shimmering pools of Karanga-a-hape nightlife, flowing alongside the ororo of Onehunga-based musicians, gathering in fortresses full of kaupapa and kai, gazing into a 13.8-billion-year-old past at Stardome, sipping the whakapapa of tānekaha and tātaramoa, folding and collapsing the wā, or crossing the ancestral portals of the past, present, and future (a.k.a. returning).

Te Kura Raumatī cultivated growth as both artists and people. Within this space, Te Kura Raumatī fortified creative confidence and deepened our connection to culture. This process became a foundation from which to envision futures where queer Indigenous storytelling is met with care, guided by clear intention, and upheld as a permanent collective responsibility.

The artists featured in this year's 2026 Te Timatanga Residency are:

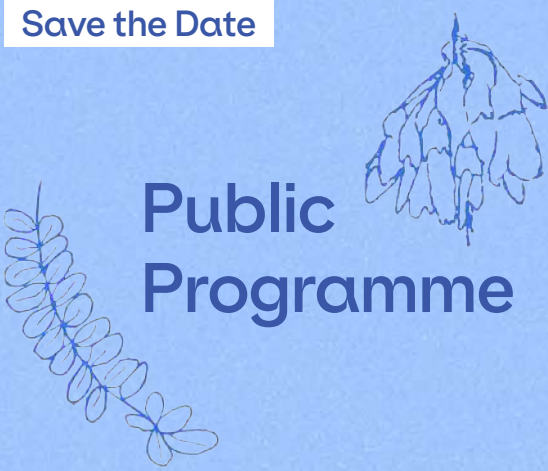
- Allie Howell (Waitaha, Ngāti Rangiwehē, Pākehā)
- Asher McCarten (Ngāpuhi)
- Latamai Katoa (Ha'asini, Tonga & Māori)
- Pounamu Rurawhe (Te Rarawa, Ngāpuhi, Ngaati Tukorehe, Ngaati Raukawa)
- Pūmanawa Rawiri (Ngāti Pāoa, Ngāti Whanaunga, Marutuāhū, Ngaati Tamaoho, Ngaati Koheriki, Ngaati Aamaru, Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki).

These artists have been mentored by Jessica Hansell, aka Coco Solid (Ngāpuhi, Samoa), a creative and trailblazer in both Māori art forms and spaces. Coco's practice centres collaboration, care, fun, and cultural authenticity, including the dynamic, complicated ways that manifests and is expressed within the expansive idea of 'Māori artistry'.

Hone Tuwhare (1922–2006)



## Save the Date



## Public Programme

Join Coco Solid alongside Te Kura Raumata alumni Asher, Latamai, Pounamu, Allie and Pūmanawa, sharing insights into the development of their new video work at Toi O Tāmaki Auckland Art Gallery on the 14th of February, 2026.

Framed through Te Timatanga, the conversation traces Coco Solid's enduring inter-arts practice and grassroots activism, and considers how collective practice, mentorship and shared responsibility shape artistic and political futures.

14 February 2026 | 2 - 3PM  
Toi O Tāmaki Auckland Art Gallery  
FREE



**Coco Solid**  
(Ngāpuhi/Samoa)

My wero for this mentorship was to go beyond a superficial career hierarchical experience and create a space to reframe what tuakanatanga can truly look like for our gifted Māori queer people on the frontlines of radical change — such as these five taonga. I wanted to affirm them in all their diverse expressions of what it means to be Māori, trans, queer, urban-based, creative... but mostly I just wanted them to have the space to be themselves. We strategised to centre the relational over the deliverable as I believe the sharing, digesting, and sound-boarding

of ideas is where the magic not-so-secretly happens. The deep learning, scholarship, jubilation and the more esoteric exchanges are where our strongest concepts and collaborations are formed. Too often the toxicity and industrialised idea of 'indigenous excellence' comes with a lot of pressure to bypass one's needs in order to survive in Te Ao Pākehā and it's inferred we must be superhuman and sociopathic to excel within it. I see this especially with prodigy rangatahi at the intersections of Indigeneity and visible queerness. Many are asked to perform to harmful and unrealistic degrees and if anything I wanted to 'teach' that we can imagine beyond this model — and yes — our art and outcomes are even better for it. Te Kura Raumati was my attempt to offer a new kind of tuakanatanga grounded in restoration, philosophy, rongoā, the Hawaiian whakaaro of 'talking story'

and the forming of real friendships not just circumstantial ones. I truly believe we have cemented a lifelong collectivism within this beautiful group. Beyond Auckland Pride's Te Timatanga program my ambition is that we emerge from this co-designed curriculum feeling that ahi within ourselves, each other, the work we've made not to mention the adjacent community we have built around these rich activations. Like the ideology around Wheke Fortress, it is about our people feeling fortified, protected, ambitious and lovingly meeting each other where they are as queer AND Māori whānau. We have already done so much this summer. Astronomy, mirimiri, film, music, kava, swims (and the odd paati). I know we will all go on to do great things together as a creative whānau and I am looking forward to showing off our film work and philosophies this Pride season.



### Journey Through the Decomposition of an Adolescent

Latamai Katoa

Today, we have traveled to the same location as we normally do, 172 Trafalgar Street, the house of the fortress. Within the next 20 years, this place will disappear, as will the self I am now. The murals painted on its walls, the neon pink we never bought, the doors that seal the room, paint will chip. Although we travel physically, often and repeatedly, in search of beauty, I have become desensitized to it. Vast, "gorgeous" landscapes have never captured my heart, nor has the beauty of lands abroad. I have not yet been enamored or moved. Perhaps it's because I am constantly in awe of the others who take these journeys with me, those who join me in this pursuit of gorgeousness within ourselves.



**Allie Howell**  
(Waitaha-a-Hei, Ngāti Rangiwewehi, Pākehā)

Our curriculum during Te Kura Raumati gave me something that feels increasingly rare: time. Time to learn, to kōrero, to listen, to sit with uncertainty, and to make mistakes without fear of consequence. Rather than producing outcomes under tight deadlines, this space prioritised process over product. That shift alone was deeply restorative.



**Asher McCarten**  
(Ngāpuhi)

This residency has been incredible, I am so grateful that I am able to create such meaningful works and spend quality time with other Maori creatives. I have been able to learn so much about myself and my artistry throughout this residency. No notes. Shoutout kura raumati. Tena koutou tena koutou tens across the board.



**Latamai Katoa**  
(Tongan/Māori)

In the beginning there was nothing, but now there is something, and that thing is pure puss hunny —from the source, whether that's in the way we gather or in the manner in which we are creating. Many of us create from that place, examining decentralisation in creative practices especially within this exploration of the passage of the urban taniwha. And the importance of rest in the life cycle of an artist practice have been imperative, exploring these concepts and putting them into praxis was convenient, but not only because they all hold so much potency, but because of the beings that were channeling the divine in waananga, and so Thinking back over the course of Te Kura Raumati, and the many side quests we went on from the stars and beach trips, the most important part of this work we have made was a reason to gather.



**Pūmanawa Rawiri**  
(Marutūāhu, Waikato Tainui, Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki)

He maha ngā kaupapa e taea te whakapuaki; i tā mātou māoritanga, ngā take i rawhititanga, ngā take Takatāpuitanga. Engari ki au nei, ka tino rehu te kite i ā au, i taku hāpori. I find that others tend to see our gender expression before our culture. Heoi anō, ko te tūmanako ki ā whakatāngata i ā mātou anō, hei māmā ake te hononga, mai tētehi ki tētehi. It's better to see me as a person like you.

Nā, ka tino wānanga. Ka kapo ake he kaupapa; Urban Māori/Taniwhā rānei. Ki au, he tirohanga ki te whakapae o Te Ao Hurihuri. The 'Ever-Changing' world. How we as Māori navigate te ao pākehā to sustain our everyday lives, accomplish materialistic ambitions, the environment of which Tāmaki is now known to be. That is a huge part of my reality; 'now known to be'. I can't help but to feel the full effect of colonisation and especially what my tupuna warned us about. In Te Ao Pākehā, Te Ao Hurihuri is relentless. Te Ao Hurihuri - nature is ever evolving, the world around us is ever evolving so then in turn we should evolve.

In my ngākau I hold the immense feeling of accountability. My people, my tupuna, Te Taiāo, ā, ki taku Ao Māori anō hoki. With that comes the responsibility to uphold tikanga, kawa, hitori, our way of life and how WE SEE THE WORLD.

He tupuranga au mai i ā Tāmaki Makaurau. Ko taku hononga Mareikura, ko Te Manukanuka ā Hoturoa te Moana, ā, Ko Hoturoa te Tangata. Ko taku hononga Whatukura, ka whakawhiti mai te waka ā Te Kotuiti mai i ā Tikapa moana ki kōnei ki Te Waitematā.

I also feel immense responsibility to the people, to the Māori here in Tāmaki Makaurau. I'd like to think my ahikātanga reassures not only myself but those around me. To assure those who don't feel like they know 'a lot' about our Ao Māori, that they have a place in our Ao Māori. They're in the right place at the right time with their Kete Aronui, their Kete Tuauri and their Kete Tuatē. Whatever we do is inherently MĀORI. Whakawahine mai, whakatāne mai, takatāpui mai. Ko ia, he Māori.

He uaua te tino whakawetewete ngēnei take. Engāri, koia nei ngā take kua whakawhārikihia. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to share these reflections with others who feel the same as I do. To put these whakaaro into a piece of mahi that will show an answer to this. That is just to live it. Live in the duality of Whatukura and Mareikura, in the constant of Te Ao Hurihuri and staying true to who we are as Māori. Urban or not.

Tēnei ka tū i roto i ngā mātāpono o te tika, te pono me te arohā.



**Pounamu Rurawhe**  
(Ngaapuhi, Te Rarawa, Ngaati Raukawa ki te Tonga, Ngaati Tukorehe)

Te Kura Raumati is bringing the HEAT to Auckland Pride this year! Our residency has been so special. I have really enjoyed slowing down during this raumati. Engaging in cycles that honour the season, the taiao and its warmth.

### The river is an island Hone Tuwhare\*

You are river. This way and that  
and all the way to sea two escorts  
shove and pull you. Two escorts in  
contention.

Left bank or right bank, how can  
you be a river without either?

Thus are U bends made. Thus are  
S bends made. Your direction is  
assured and sometimes running  
perfectly and quite straight.

A low bank on your left holds  
your laughing stitches in. On our  
right side skips another hushing  
your loud protests.

You are river. Joy leaping down a  
greenstone stair-way: anger cradled  
in a bed of stones.

You're a harbour; a lake; an  
island only when your banks lock  
lathered arms in battle to con-  
fine you: slow-release you.

Go river, go. To ocean seek your  
certain end. Rise again to cloud; to  
a mountain — to a mountain drink-  
ing from a tiny cup.

Ah, river

you are ocean: you are island.





Justin Talplacido Shoulder  
& the Future Folklore Collective

12 – 14 February  
7:30PM – 8:30PM  
Q Theatre Rangatira

Auckland Pride presents ANITO as part of Pride Connects, 2026. Playing 12th-14th February at Q Theatre in partnership with Auckland Live.

Pride Connects is a programme dedicated to deep relationship-building, cultural exchange, and long-term investment in artists and creative workers. It was created as Auckland Pride’s deliberate response to both the Adhikaar Report (2022) and the Auckland Council Toi Whīiki Strategy.

This year it features offerings for audience goers and artists alike — award-winning theatre show ANITO, formal and relaxed opportunities for relationship building, workshops and presentations led by the visiting collective, and invitations for artists to see behind the scenes.

From Auckland Pride’s Director Hāmiora Bailey:

Having both Justin Talplacido Shoulder and Wikitoria Hunt involved in Pride Connects is profoundly significant for the Auckland Pride Festival 2026, Ngā Uri E! As long-term collaborators, friends, and cultural carriers, their practices are interwoven through whakapapa, collective responsibility, and a commitment to creating art over time. Wikitoria, a wahine Māori holding space on the global stage, returns to contribute directly into our creative ecology, grounding her touring practice in mātauranga and rematriation. Justin’s queer Filipina futurism, shaped through collective ceremony and ancestral memory, resonates deeply with our many diaspora communities whose local organising belongs to the global IndigiQueer resurgence.

With Wikitoria participating in this presentation of ANITO, in Aotearoa, as the work’s movement mentor and as a performer, together her and Justin demonstrate what becomes possible when artists are given time to build worlds.

The Producers’ Clinic, led by Jason Cross of Insite Arts, extend this kaupapa by offering the rare opportunity for our producers, emerging arts leaders, and creative workers to learn directly within the ecosystem that has supported Justin and Wikitoria’s international success.

Jason has a profound understanding of how to sustain deeply personal, queer, and trans works within global circuits. His long-standing relationships with both artists has been built through years of touring, world-building, and shared cultural responsibility across continents. His practice as a producer is grounded in adaptability, deep listening and accountability.

Jason’s involvement ensures that Pride Connects not only nurtures artistic excellence, but strengthens the structural

capability of our creative ecology, leaving our producers more confident, connected, and better-equipped to carry our artists into the future.

This is the heartbeat of Pride Connects: to nurture creative leadership that is relational, sovereign, and future-focused; to show our emerging Takatāpui, MVPFAFF+, and global majority artists that long-term collaboration — shaped by identity, accountability, and shared ancestry across oceans — can produce profound, transformative art. Their presence plants seeds for our creatives to honour their cultural responsibilities, to imagine futures that are deeply grounded in who they are.

From Satellites Director, Rosabel Tan:

It is a special privilege to be an ongoing partner with Auckland Pride on Pride Connects, presenting international artists whose work makes you double-take, work that pushes beyond the edge of what feels possible and rewires the way we see the world.

In 2024, we hosted UK-based performance artist Krishna Isthā and their show First Trimester — the mesmerising real-life blind-dating show looking for the ‘perfect’ sperm donor for him and his partner — and this year we’re thrilled to be bringing Justin Talplacido Shoulder (Phasmahammer) from Australia with his work ANITO: A show for anybody interested in strange, dark, metamorphic work, ancient stories told in futuristic ways.

What I love most about working with Auckland Pride is our shared aspiration of creating a nourishing space for artists and arts workers. I’m looking forward to sharing the sophistication and experimentation of the team’s artistry with Tāmaki Makaurau. But I’m especially excited about the opportunities we are creating for practitioners to spend time with, learn from, and deepen relationships with the ANITO creative team. This includes a behind-the-scenes session, a producing clinic and a future folklore lab for early-career artists, alongside more casual moments to spend time together.

These different nodes are our collective attempt to shift away from the more transactional mode of festival presentation that our industry has

gotten so used to, and to work towards slower moments that offer opportunities for sharing, relationship-building and inspiration.

For us at Satellites, this sits within our wider kaupapa of shifting the foundations. As an artist-led initiative seeking to connect the past, present, and future of Aotearoa Asian art, we do this through structural interventions: from our online archive of Asian artists and their work, to essays that dig deep into important conversations, to offering the Asian Artists Fund. Our visiting artist programme — which we run in partnership with different institutions across Aotearoa — is another piece of that puzzle, and is our way of connecting artists to the world.

Public Programme

Co-Creating ANITO  
Tuesday 10 Feb | 3 — 5PM  
An invitation for artists and curious hands to come hang out with the ANITO team and support its creation by helping to fill key set pieces with rice. This foundational ritual is a chance to contribute to the work, meet the artists in an intimate setting, and get to know one another before the show.

 Limited places available. Register via the QR Code.

Future Folklore Lab with Justin Talplacido Shoulder and Wikitoria Hunt  
Tuesday 17 Feb | 10AM — 4PM  
Te Oro  
Step into a generative space where ancestral practices and creative imaginaries converge. This workshop invites participants to explore modes of world-building through movement, storytelling, and personal histories.

Through intuitive movement and whakawhiti kōrero, Justin and Wikitoria will guide you in developing your own more-than-human performance avatar, drawing on your own cultural languages and personal mythologies.

This one-day workshop is open to movers, performers, and creatives of all backgrounds who are interested in deepening the expression of their identities through performance.

 Limited places available. Register via the QR Code.

Behind the Curtain  
Friday 13 Feb | 11AM — 1PM  
Q Theatre  
A special opportunity to meet the creative team behind ANITO and hear about their creative process and how they approached developing the show.

 Limited places available. Register via the QR Code.

Producers’ Clinic  
Tuesday 17 Feb | 2 — 4PM  
Te Oro  
Jason Cross brings four decades of experience in the performing arts to this Producers’ Clinic, creating space for open and responsive kōrero to support participants to develop their practice and problem-solve together.

Producers will be invited to bring a question, a skill they would like to develop, or a problem they would like to solve. Through conversation and practical examples, these will be discussed. Jason will also explore approaches to building and maintaining artist relationships, shaping new work, navigating funding, developing partnerships, touring, and working across cultures with care and clarity. This workshop offers producers dedicated time and space to explore their own pathways while learning from Jason’s extensive industry experience.

 Limited places available. Register via the QR Code.

Kaitahi  
Tuesday 17 Feb | 4 — 6PM  
Te Oro  
To wrap up the artists’ time in Aotearoa, you are invited to a casual hang at Te Oro. Bring a plate.



**Justin Talplacido Shoulder  
& the Future Folklore Collective**

12 – 14 February  
7:30PM – 8:30PM  
Q Theatre Rangatira

*Enter a future folkloric world that conjures parallel possibilities and reimagines Filipino mythologies through dance-theatre, diasporic club cultures, projections, sound design and elaborate craft.*

For early Filipinos, like many still today, it is believed that a life force or soul inhabits all entities, both animate and inanimate. These spirits are called Anitos.

Co-created by award-winning artist Justin Talplacido Shoulder (The Glitter Militia, Club Ate), ANITO combines collective craft, puppetry, dance and experimental electronic music to reimagine these myths and stories for the now. It's a work rooted in Sydney's underground queer and diasporic club scenes.

The collective behind ANITO create a 'Queer Filipino future folkloric space of storytelling' that centres the importance of nature spirits, intuiting with them as guides towards imagining possible parallel futures.

Performers Shoulder and Wikitoria Hunt transform into animal-human-plant-machine hybrids. In this world of sheer terror and tremendous beauty, they interrogate colonial wrongdoings and queer ancestral mythologies.



[Buy Tickets](#)

**LENGTH OF SHOW**

60mins  
There is a preshow introduction by Matt Stegh before the show begins. The show is presented with a full lock out after the doors are closed.

All members of the Company live on Gadigal Country the traditional lands and waters of the Gadigal people, a clan of the Eora Nation, Gadigal Country refers to encompassing the area some people know as Sydney, Australia

**ANITO CREDITS**

**Directed, Performed and Co-Conceived**  
Justin Talplacido Shoulder

**Production Design**  
Matthew Stegh  
J. Talplacido Shoulder

**Costume Design**  
M. Stegh  
Anthony Aitch  
J. Talplacido Shoulder

**Sound Design and Live Score**  
Corin lleto

**Performer, Mentor and Outside (Inside) Eye**  
Wikitoria Hunt

**Performer and Co-Generator**  
Eugene Choi

**Lighting / Vision Design**  
Fausto Brusamolino

**Costume Design Technicians**  
Brenda Lam  
Luna Aquatica  
A. Aitch

**Produced By**  
Jason Cross at Insite Arts

**Special Thanks**  
Marrugeku  
Talking Bodies  
Venue Partner & Creative Development was supported by Carriageworks.

12 — 14 February  
2026

Q Theatre  
Rangatira



**ANITO**  
JUSTIN TALPLACIDO SHOULDER



Auckland Pride  
Festival 2026

SATELLITES



AUCKLAND LIVE



Ministry of  
Ethnic  
Communities  
Te Tari Māiāwaka



Australian Government



Creative  
Australia



INSITE ARTS





Justin Talplacido Shoulder  
& the Future Folklore Collective

12 – 14 February  
7:30PM – 8:30PM  
Q Theatre Rangatira

★★★★★ “An awe-inspiring work... An exemplar of the power of dance and art to deconstruct outdated and dangerous colonial and binary frameworks. Yet calling the performance simply a dance piece would be reductive. This is so much more.” – ArtsHub

“Justin Shoulder’s ANITO was an astonishing piece of illusionistic visual theatre,” – The Age

“This groundbreaking production challenges perceptions, ignites the imagination, and honours its cultural roots while forging new narratives for the future.” – Dance Life Australia



Justin  
Talplacido  
Shoulder

Justin Talplacido Shoulder is a shape-shifting artist and storyteller, working primarily in performance, sculpture, video and collective events. Also known as Phasmahammer, their practice is an eco-cosmology of alter personas based on queered ancestral myth. Creatures birthed are embodied through hand-crafted costumes and prosthesis and animated by their own gestural languages. The artist uses their body and craft as an instrument of metaphysics towards a queer Filipina Futurism. Shoulder believes in performance and shared ceremony as communal medicine for difficult times. Shoulder is also co-director of collective Club Ate with artist Bhenji Ra. Inspired by their shared Filipina heritage and interest to create new narratives of motherhood and sisterhood the pair created a series of fundraisers, balls, and variety nights inviting and celebrating their local Asia-Pacific queer and trans family.



Wikitoria  
Hunt

Wikitoria is a transdisciplinary artist with bloodlines to Te Arawa, Rongowhakaata, Kahungunu, Ireland, Scotland, England and Norway. Born on unceded Kombumerri Country (Surfers Paradise), living on Bidjigal (Sydney), her work as a dancer, choreographer, director, dramaturg, photographer and film-maker examines Indigenous epistemologies within diasporic concepts of identity formation and belonging. Grounded in Mātauranga Māori, BodyWeather and IndigiQueer resurgence, she traverses the politics of Rematriation by inserting bodies into frameworks of power, for future ancestors. Hunt’s works have toured across six continents to critical acclaim.

Her recent work, KŌIWI, commissioned by the Art Gallery of NSW and Precarious Movements: Choreography and the Museum, gave form to a ‘protector’ entity and is currently travelling the world. She is co-founder of ‘Weather Beings’, a trans/national collective with 2S Métis artist Moe Clark (Tio’tia:ke/Montreal). She is artist-in-residence at Carriageworks, and recipient of the Creative Australia Dance Fellowship (2025).



Jason  
Cross

I live in Naarm amongst the trees & on the country of the Wiradjuri & Woio-wurrung people, who are a part of the larger Kulin Nation. My mother is Anglo & my father is Scottish and they moved to Australia in 1969 when I was born.

I have worked in the performing arts industry since 1986 as a theatre maker, director, physical performer, as an artistic director of arts festivals & now a creative producer.

Since 2010, I have been a Director of Insite Arts & work as a Creative Producer overseeing the management of a cohort of independent artists, companies, and projects in contemporary performance, dance & theatre of emerging and established artists.

I work & have established relationships with a diversity of artists from different cultures & identities from across Australia and have presented or toured work to audiences around the world.





# VECTOR LIGHTS FOR AUCKLAND PRIDE

Page 18

13 – 21 February  
9PM – 12AM (Play Every 15 Minutes)  
Auckland Harbour Bridge

Vector Lights returns for the second year of a three-year partnership with Auckland Pride, illuminating the Harbour Bridge with powerful queer narratives that celebrate Takatāpui and Rainbow communities.

Interdisciplinary artist Mars Cook is at the helm of this year's show — An experimental artist working across painting, photography, performance, costume, music, and moving image. Fascinated by light and colour, Mars experiences a form of double vision that separates colors within artificial light, shaping his signature approach to painting and visual work. His practice explores emotion, identity, and social theory. Constantly experimenting across mediums, he transforms personal perception into theatrical, immersive, and thought-provoking experiences, creating work that invites audiences to see the world — and himself — differently.

Honouring the 40th anniversary of Homosexual Law Reform, Mars' collaboration with Vector Lights explores how this movement continues to shape contemporary queerness and inspire the next 40 years. Mars' bespoke light show will run 13–21 February, playing every 15 minutes from 9PM to midnight.

## The Morning People

19 February 2026  
6:30AM – 8:00AM  
Hobson Wharf

At sunrise on Thursday 19 February, The Morning People will host a Special Silent Disco at Hobson Wharf, activating the light show with an energising sunrise set on the DJ decks. On the decks, queen of hot girl techno, Love, Robbie.



Mars Cook

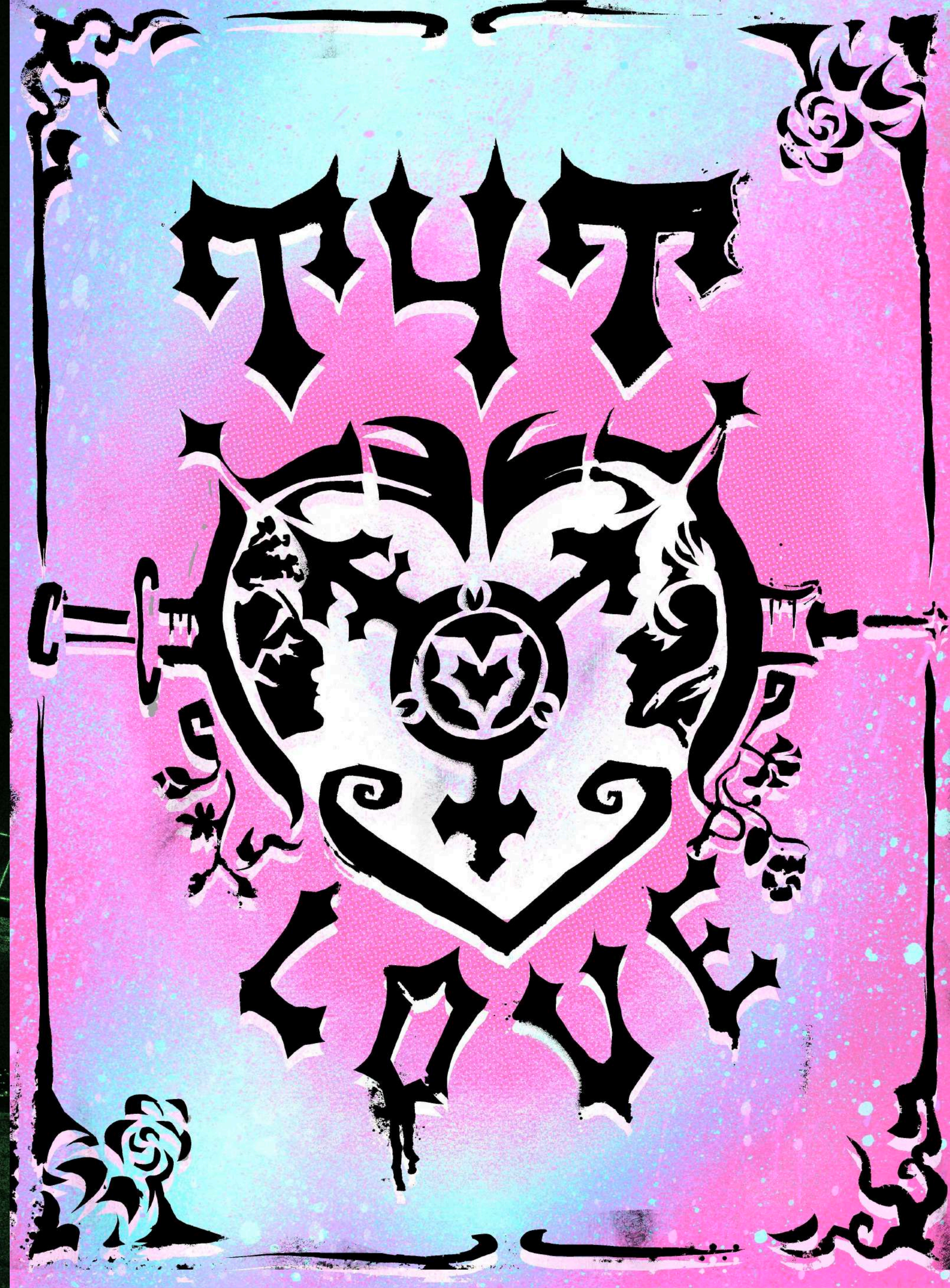
Artist in  
Residence

Mars Cook is an experimental artist working across painting, photography, performance, costume, music, and moving images. His practice explores emotion, identity, and social theory. Fascinated by light and colour, Mars experiences a form of double vision that separates colors within artificial light, shaping his signature approach to painting and visual work. Constantly experimenting across mediums, he transforms personal perception into theatrical, immersive, and thought-provoking experiences, creating work that invites audiences to see the world, and themselves, differently.

Artist Photo By: Natsha Munroe Hurn



Head to [vector.co.nz/lights](https://vector.co.nz/lights) and listen live from some of the best viewing places, including Silo Park, Bayswater Marina and Takarunga Mt Victoria.





# OUT OF THE GUTTER STREET PARTY

Page 20

28 February  
5PM – 9:30PM  
Beresford Square  
FREE

Auckland Pride’s closing event, Out of the Gutter Street Party is the manifestation of our theme Ngā Uri E.

Conjuring HERO and Coming Out Days of years gone by, Out of the Gutter is a sunset party and market for all ages. Headlined by Ramon Te Wake, MCd by Hugo Grrrl, with a lineup of artists who have thrived in Aotearoa across generations, such as Buckwheat, Taiaroa Royal, Janaye Henry, Lijah Mavaega and more! On the 28th of February the Karangahape Gaybourhood offers even more glamour, grit and legacy than usual.

Auckland Pride has curated this event to call communities into our queer history. National politician Norman Jones denouncing Homosexual Law Reform with “as far as I’m concerned you can stay in the gutter” in 1985 isn’t only a stain on the past, but familiar rhetoric in our present. Out of the Gutter is an event title deliberately chosen not only to reclaim language used against us, but to transform it. To remind us that expressing our joy is as much our legacy as is resistance towards those who seek to oppress us.

It is easy to be destabilised by our violent present and unsteady future. As queer diaspora scattered all over the

world we are part of something larger than ourselves, our lives inextricably bound with those we see, hear, and read about across oceans. Out of the Gutter is a night to strengthen our unique contexts as collectives in Aotearoa, to ground us in what has been built by and for us, to bring together generations who have fought for us with those who will continue the fight, to turn our attention to what is alive right here.

A closing night to remind us that Pride isn’t only about where we’ve been, but where we’re heading, a street party steeped in local history to bring us back home.



Ramon Te Wake

Headliner

Ramon Te Wake is a celebrated New Zealand filmmaker, musician, performer and television presenter. She first made her mark as a singer-songwriter, when she independantly created her debut solo EP, The Arrival in 2002. Her next musical project Movement is Essential was created in 2008. Ramon performed at the HERO Festival in 2001, The PROUD PARTY in 2015 and she will return to the stage, for the 2026 Auckland Pride Festival.

Ramon has worked in the film and television space for two decades. She was one of the founding presenters of Takatāpui, the world’s first indigenous queer series, which ran from 2004–2008. Ramon continues to champion trans and Takatāpui voices, creating stories that celebrate identity, resilience, and community including the festival favourite, *Wait, Wait Now* (2025), the award winning *Trans & Pregnant* (2024). *Queer and Here* (2022–2024), the critical smash hit, *Inky Pinky Ponky* (2023) and the pioneering, *The Boy, the Queen & Everything in Between* (2024).

# OUT OF THE GUTTER STREET PARTY

28 February 2026  
5PM — 9:30PM

Beresford Square  
All-Ages Event  
FREE

Ramon  
Te Wake  
Headliner

Hugo Grrrl  
Buckwheat  
Taiaroa Royal  
Janaye Henry  
Lijah Mavaega

And more  
to be announced!

Auckland Pride  
Festival 2026





# PRIDE X SPLORE

Saturday 21st February!

Splore Festival and Auckland Pride have teamed up to bring a busload of queer joy from Karangahape Road to Tāpapakanga!

Every pass includes return transport, a hosted queer crew and a rainbow of pals to explore, swim and dance with

15 Patron tickets fund 35 spots for whānau who lack the putea to make it to Splore Festival

Putting the OGs of dance music culture back at the centre of the dancefloor

This kaupapa is made possible by the Splore Charitable Trust

Rāhoroi Saturday at Splore is queer as f\*\*k!

Patron Ticket	Community Ticket
\$275	Free

Tickets & Info

splore.net/pridexsplore

# PRAISE THE LORD PLAYWRIGHT RESIDENCY

7 February  
6:30PM  
Basement Theatre  
FREE

same  
same  
but  
different.



The next resident is:

Connor Amor-Bendall

Auckland Pride is delighted to announce the return of the Praise The Lord Playwright Residency, delivered in partnership with Auckland Theatre Company, Samesame But Different, and The Robert Lord Cottage Trust.

Established in honour of trailblazing gay playwright Robert Lord, the residency champions bold new queer storytelling and fosters the next generation of Takatāpui, MVPFAFF+, and Rainbow playwrights. Last year's resident, Joshua Iosefo (Mush), undertook a focused two-week development period at the Robert Lord Cottage in November, advancing their new musical *NUMB*—an electrifying work that blends poetry, friendship, and Pasifika futurism.

Reflecting on their residency Mush notes:

*"As an artist, the currency we can find ourselves craving the most is time and space. Whether we're in between bags, closing off one project and opening a portal to another while the engine of a spaceship is humming in the background. Having the dedicated time and space to clear the cache and build a proper shrine so that you can worship at the altar of creativity and imagination, truly made me realise why this opportunity is named the 'Praise the Lord Residency'.*

*Sometimes the idea that's been missing a few screws or needs an oil change, just requires a change of scenery. The southerly Antarctic wind in Ōtepoti also helps, hitting the nervous system with a needed reset button so that on a cellular level, both you and the work can feel like you're finally breathing together. In my case, I started my residency shortly after closing multiple portals and projects. True to my procrastinating nature, the last spaceship was the one I had left locked in a garage for 5 years with an expired WOF and registration. I packed my spaceship of a script in my suitcase, and surrendered to the calm and patient pitstop of the Robert Lord Cottage. A task I thought impossible was given life again, the tyres changed, the battery resparked and the engine now running. I felt permitted and encouraged to "do the hard thing" and the humming in the background was soothed by the songs of the surrounding manu. As opposed to static that fizzed and cackled sounds of 'you need to finish this'.*

*The queer lineage of the cottage echoed collective encouragement, reminding me as well as all artists that 'you were born to do this'. Creativity is divine, and I am so thankful that through the Praise The Lord Residency, I was able to meet the holy trinity of time, space and art, receiving their blessing before letting my spaceship ascend from her garage - Finally closing a portal, before opening another."*

Connor Amor-Bendall is a writer and actor who hails from Tairāwhiti. She has recently completed a Master of Creative Writing from The University of Auckland, and has a Master of Journalism from The University of Melbourne. She has written for the likes of Ensemble, Broadsheet (Aus), NINE News (Aus), Antithesis Journal, YoVocal Magazine, and InView.

In 2024 Connor's debut play, *The Clitoris Conundrum*, premiered to a sold-out season at Basement Theatre and will return to Q Theatre next month for Pride. Connor won the 2024 V48 Hours WIFT Best Female / Gender Diverse Script Award for her film *Down Slayment*. Her first short film, *What is Left Unsaid*, is in post-production and she is developing her second, *Lest We Forget*, as part of Day One 2025.

A graduate of The Actors Program, Connor's on screen credits include *Cassy Beaton* in *The Ridge*, *Bridget Kinkelly* in *Literally Dead*, *Peter* in *Sweet Tooth*, *Alpha* in *Power Rangers*, *Celia* in *Testify*, and *Briar Linton* in *Shortland Street*. Connor was a participant in *Proud Voices* on Screen's 2025 Queer Producers Incubator, and Auckland Theatre Company's 2025 Emerging Writers Table. She's passionate about making work that explores the nexus of art, queerness and the political sphere.

Auckland Pride Festival 2026 same same but different. AUCKLAND THEATRE COMPANY

Don't miss Connor Amor-Bendall's playreading at Basement Theatre on 7 February 2026 at 6:30PM, presented in partnership with Samesame But Different. Following this, they will undertake a paid writing residency at the Robert Lord Cottage, supported by Auckland Theatre Company, culminating in workshops to share elements of the work with peers, whānau, collaborators, and partners.



Get your FREE tickets here!







Events

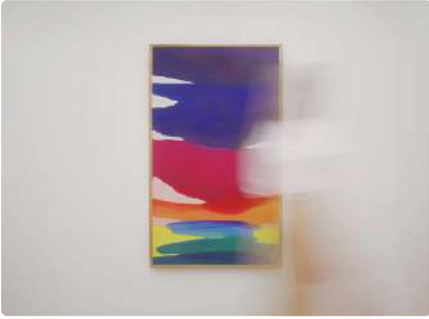


Rainbow Riders Tāmaki Makaurau  
**Yarn for Pride**

We're celebrating our LGBTQI+ community and the Karangahape Road cycleway with colourful yarn bombs this Pride Month! Take a stroll or cycle along K'Road to admire the bike parking decorated with joyful knitted and crocheted designs. We'd love for you to join in the fun and add your own decorations.

Activation





 Feb 1-28, All day  
 Karangahape Road  
 FREE



The Arts House Trust  
**Chasing Rainbows**

Chasing Rainbows showcases works from The Arts House Trust Collection exploring the captivating spectrum of colour. Featuring contemporary artists from Aotearoa, this exhibition invites reflection on colour's enduring emotional and symbolic power.

Exhibition





 Feb 1 - 28  
 The Arthouse Trust  
 FREE  
 Adults (18+ years)



Pride on TAP  
**Mix & Mingle - Pride '26**

Kick off Pride '26 at Pride on TAP's signature mixer, Mix & Mingle. This inclusive social event brings together Auckland's LGBTTQIA+ community for some relaxed, Sunday Funday vibes. Meet new people, connect with friends, and celebrate the start of Pride Month with your rainbow whānau. All Rainbow community and allies welcome!

Community





 Feb 1, 2 - 6pm  
 Mr. Illingsworth  
 FREE  
 Adults (18+ years)



Normal Company  
**Gemma vs The Normal Worms**

Deep in the bowels of the Lost Worm Galaxy, two humans struggle to end all war. But first, they must escape from the stifling influence of... The Normal Worms. 15 hilarious audio episodes, infecting a mind near you. WARNING: Contains 420% references to sex, drugs, & psychedelic worms.

Comedy

 Feb 1-28, All day  
 Online Streaming  
 From \$20  
 Adults (18+ years)




Events



Blackout Poetry Aotearoa, PrideFest Out West  
**Express Your Gender Collage Workshop**

In a world where strict, arbitrary definitions try to tell us who we should be, why not express your inner self by gluing hot pink boots on a frog! Or sticking an eyeball on a nice piece of mid-century furniture, I don't care! Scissors, glue, guidance, commentary, and weird old books provided.

Craft




 Feb 9, 6 - 8pm  
 MoveSpace  
 FREE



Theatre of Love and Ace-ssential Workers  
**We're Weird for Other Reasons**

A world-first theatre project entirely devised by members of the Ace/Aro/Aspec community. This is a joyful and insightful exploration of our varied experiences and identities, brought to the stage for our community, friends, the curious and kind.

Performance





 Feb 10-14, 8 - 9pm  
 Basement Theatre  
 \$8



MOTAT  
**Mile High Comedy Club**

Join MC Hugo Grrrl, trolley dolly Medulla Oblongata and classy comics Janaye Henry, the 'beary' talented Matt Coombe, and the award-winning James Mustapic for a night of cocktails, cockpits and LOLs. Grab your ticket today and brace for comedic impact, this is a ride you won't want to miss! Full line-up to be announced.

Comedy

 Feb 12, 7 - 8.40pm  
 MOTAT Aviation Hall  
 \$20  
 Adults (18+ years)



Puketāpapa Climate Action  
**Learn to Ride - Pride Edition**

Celebrate pride while getting confident on two wheels! Whether you've never ridden before or want to build confidence on a bike, this fun & inclusive workshop is for everyone – all genders welcome. You'll learn: balance, braking, pedaling, and practical tips to ride comfortably and safely. RSVP via Humanitix.

Sports





 Feb 4, 5 - 7pm  
 Bike Hub Mt Roskill  
 FREE



Dalley Sundar Law  
**Rainbow Family Building**

Join Dalley Sundar Law at Auckland Pride for an empowering evening exploring how rainbow families are built and supported. From surrogacy and adoption to immigration solutions, donor agreements, co-parenting — our expert team will guide you through the legal landscape with clarity and compassion. Leave with practical insights to help you navigate your journey with confidence.

Workshop





 Feb 5, 6.30 - 8pm  
 39 Cafe & Bar  
 FREE  
 Adults (18+ years)

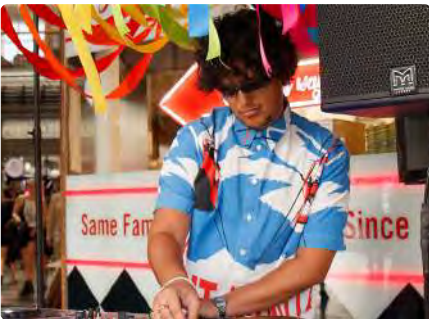


Hugo Grrrl  
**Drag King Megashow**

A camp and cocky cabaret featuring an enormous lineup of more than twenty incredible humping, thumping drag kings. Hosted by Hugo Grrrl. Starring Theo Throb, Large Hard Ron Collider, Haute Dish, Johnny Raven, Margarita Blades, Fizzy Pop, Kaizer, Stiffe Breeze, Dick Slayson, Finn Gerring, Mx Splicit, Freya Finch, and many more.

Performance




 Feb 7, 8 - 10.30pm  
 TAPAC The Auckland Performing Arts Centre  
 \$30  
 Adults (18+ years)



Small Rave  
**Small Rave Presents: Auckland Pride Festival Beginner DJ Workshop**

A hands-on beginner DJ workshop for anyone who wants to dive into mixing and curating music. This workshop includes a presentation on DJing led by SMALL RAVE's Fergus Waveforms and guest, and small-group sessions to try the equipment, listen, or observe. Includes a workshop booklet to take home!

Workshop





 Feb 12, 7 - 9pm  
 Small Rave  
 \$5



No Homo: Queer Comedy  
**No Homo: Queer Comedy - Auckland Pride Edition**

No Homo: Queer Comedy is back for Auckland Pride in 2026! Join your host James Mustapic alongside Aotearoa's finest queer comedians for a fab night of giggles and gags!

Comedy




 Feb 12-13, 7.30 - 8.30pm  
 Phoenix Cabaret  
 From \$25  
 Adults (18+ years)



Codeword Cabaret  
**Codeword Cabaret: Enemies & Lovers**

A variety show that commits to the 'variety', Codeword Cabaret: Enemies & Lovers is guaranteed to surprise and delight. Expect everything from comedy, to song, to drag and burlesque. The Cabaret will be held at TAPAC on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th February. Face your enemies and meet your lovers - or vice versa.

Performance





 Feb 13-14, 8 - 10pm  
 TAPAC The Auckland Performing Arts Centre  
 \$29.50



Equity New Zealand  
**Gay Rage The Workshop**

A movement and emotional embodiment workshop for creatives. Connect with your anger and aggression through the body. Use it. Release it. Award-winning artist Hamish Annan guides you through safe, physical techniques to access emotion through movement, not memory. Impulse, breath, body, and voice. Register now.

Workshop

 Feb 14, 10am - 12.30pm  
 The Fale, Samoa House  
 FREE  
 Adults (18+ years)





# E pakihiwi tahi ana, Aotearoa.

On your side, Aotearoa.

JOIN US

AMI.CO.NZ



## OPEN ACCESS

### Events



Gus Fisher Gallery  
**Pillow Painting**

Embrace your romantic side in this Valentine's pillow painting workshop to mark the exhibition opening of 'Dreaming from afar'. In this drop-in workshop, you'll borrow inspiration from Tyrone Te Waa's presentation of paintings on fitted sheets to hand-paint a pillowcase. Adorn a pillow for the romantic, platonic and self-love in your life.

Craft




 Feb 14, 10.30am - 1.30pm  
 Gus Fisher Gallery  
 FREE



Hugo Grrrl  
**Hugo's Rainbow Show**

A musical, magical adventure exploring the science of the skies above. Expect original songs and stories, and of course outrageous costumes in this novel rainbow-reading-style experience about the magic of meteorology. Hugo's Rainbow Show is for everyone! But best for two to ten year olds and our neurodivergent whānau.

Performance




 Feb 14, 1PM & 3PM  
 TAPAC The Auckland Performing Arts Centre  
 \$15



Justice for Palestine  
**QUEER AS IN FREE PALESTINE**

Ahlan wa sahan! Experience the joyful spirit of a Palestinian café here in Tāmaki. During the café we will host a kōrero with queer Palestinian New Zealanders, who will share their stories and were for queer allies to tautoko their struggle for liberation. Come for the musiq, fresh qahwa and halwa; stay for the solidarity and community vibes!

Community





 Feb 14, 2 - 5pm  
 OPEN Coffee  
 FREE



Maraki Productions  
**TAKAPAPA**

TAKAPAPA. An indigi-queer film night to celebrate the vastness of our queer identities, exploring intergenerational threads that bind whakapapa, identity and belonging. Join us at Basement Theatre, February 14th from 6:30pm - 8:30pm.

Film





 Feb 14, 6.30 - 8.30pm  
 Basement Theatre - Studio  
 FREE  
 Adults (18+ years)



CHURCH  
**CHURCH presents PRIDE**

Lobes will be graced with an aural journey of discovery and nostalgia, and limbs will be freed to expression. The congregation shall come together in a familiar, caring, and safe space—Neck of The Woods, located on Karangahape. Our collective exists to provide, create, and maintain a safe and inclusive space for our queer community.

Party

 Feb 14, 10pm - 4am  
 Neck of The Woods  
 \$30  
 Adults (18+ years)



Burnett Foundation Aotearoa  
**Big Gay Out 2026**

The queerest event of the year is back. Join us at Coyle Park on Feb 15th for music, markets, and ALL the vibes at the biggest rainbow event in Aotearoa. Follow our Facebook event or visit [biggayout.co.nz](http://biggayout.co.nz) for all the latest updates.

Community




 Feb 15, 12 - 7pm  
 Coyle Park  
 FREE



Hugo Grrrl  
**Elder Queers Give Advice**

Spend quality time with a golden oldie! Our gorgeous rainbow kaitiaki will be available to chat with any keen youngsters, sharing advice, anecdotes and intergenerational visibility. Swing by our cosy space and soak up some wisdom. We can't wait to kōrero with you. Find details of each pop-up event online.

Community




 Feb 15, 21, 28, Various times  
 Various locations  
 FREE



Yeah Nah Productions x Peachy Productions  
**The Clitoris Conundrum**

Cam can't cum, and it's ruined every relationship she's ever had. After falling hard for Ava, she's ready to try anything to make this time different. After its sell-out debut season in 2024, Playwright Connor Amor-Bendall and director Sean Rivera are bringing The Clitoris Conundrum back.

Performance

 Feb 17-21, 6.45 - 8pm  
 Q Theatre, Loft  
 From \$30





Haute Dish  
**Potluck: a smorgasbord of drag talent!**

Summer, Pride, and a whole lot of queer chaos. Drag king Haute Dish hosts Potluck, a nightly feast of drag where the menu changes every evening. Expect a smorgasbord of talent, mouth watering looks and sizzling performances. No two shows are the same! Come hungry for spectacle, leave with crumbs of queer magic (and maybe a new fave performer). Bring friends, bring pride, and bring your appetite.

Performance

- Feb 17-21, 8 - 9pm
- Basement Theatre
- From \$17
- Adults (18+ years)



UoA Queer Students Association  
**Craft Carabiners & Keychains!**

DIY keychains, carabiner charms, phone charms or whatever your heart desires! We'll provide all the materials - charms, carabiners, keychains, phone straps, and everything else you'll need. All you need to bring is yourself, your pride, and a friend (or come make one at the event)! RSVPs are essential! Find us on insta: @qsa.uoa

Craft

- Feb 20, 2 - 5pm
- Queerspace
- FREE
- Adults (18+ years)



SPiCE  
**Rainbows in the Reserve**

Join SPiCE and Indian Origin Pride in celebration of our rainbow community! Bring a picnic and enjoy a fun and relaxed afternoon of activities and entertainment in Sandringham Reserve. Everyone welcome!

Community

- Feb 20, 4 - 6pm
- Sandringham Reserve
- FREE



RocketWerkz  
**Board Gaymer Night**

Join our rainbow community and allies for board games at RocketWerkz with views of Auckland and the Hauraki Gulf. Enjoy games like Catan, Wingspan, Pandemic and more, or bring your own. We will offer a short studio tour plus light refreshments. Please arrive before 6 pm as tower doors lock. Spaces are limited so RSVP now.

Community

- Feb 19, 5 - 8pm
- RocketWerkz Studio
- FREE



Ethnic Rainbow Alliance  
**Queer Clay Club - ERA Edition**

Design and decorate your own clay tile — a miniature artwork that tells a story that matters to you. It could be a memory, a symbol of identity, a moment of joy, or something you want to honour. No experience needed: just bring your voice, your imagination, and a willingness to play. Presented with support from Creative Henderson.

Community

- Feb 19, 6 - 9pm
- Te Au o Te Koopua
- FREE
- Adults (18+ years)



Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga & Vixen Temple  
**The Magic of Her Body**

'She enthral me, enslaves me — her body absolute — is my worship.' Performance artist Vixen Temple, with historian Kerryn Pollock of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and musician Vicky Weeds, reads Katherine Mansfield's sensual diary entries and sapphic-coded short stories at gothic mansion Highwic (1862).

Performance

- Feb 20-21, 6PM & 8PM
- Highwic
- From \$20
- Adults (18+ years)



Hugo Grrrl!  
**Drag Queen Megashow**

A glittering and gay drag extravaganza with an enormous lineup. Twenty fabulous local drag queens will be lighting up the TAPAC stage this pride. Hosted by Hugo Grrrl. Starring! Medulla Oblongata, Crystal Quartz, Margarita Blades, Carmen Composed, Fey Fapae, The Tea Gurl, Petty Cash (Tom Clarke), and many more.

Performance

- Feb 20, 8 - 10.30pm
- TAPAC The Auckland Performing Arts Centre
- \$30
- Adults (18+ years)

Pride & Play



No Buts...  
Just Be There



23 Feb | Bar Albert | 5 - 10pm

I HAVE SEXUAL HEALTH CHECKS

Drop-in HIV & STI testing, with same day results & treatment! Free and available to everyone.

3 Poynton Terrace, Auckland

Mon-Wed: 10am-5pm  
Thurs: 10am-8pm  
Fri: 10am-4pm

test'n'treat  
FAST • FREE • CONFIDENTIAL



SAME DAY TREATMENT  
PREP • PEP • DOXYPEP  
BODYPOSITIVE.ORG.NZ



Building Rainbow Families

Thursday 05 February 2026 - 6:30-8:00pm  
Café 39, Ponsonby, Auckland

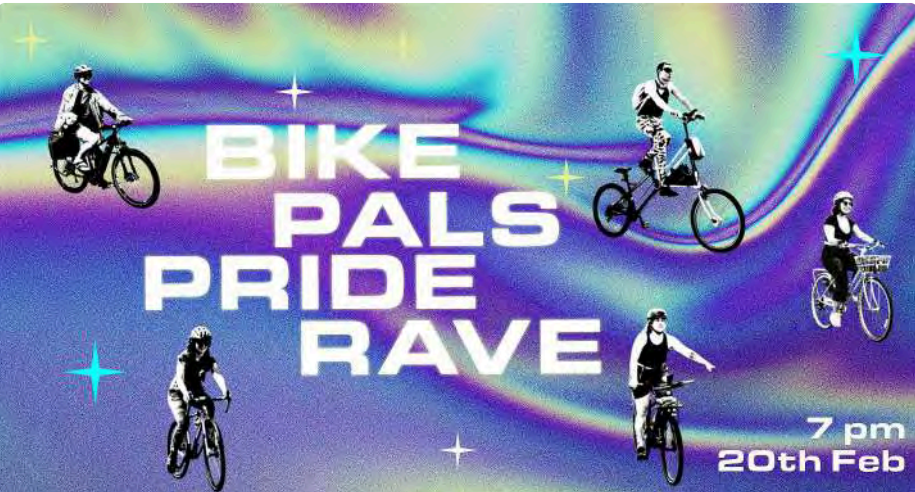






# OPEN ACCESS





## Events



Bike Pals  
Bike Pals Pride Rave

It's bike rave time! We're taking over the waterfront with bikes, lights and music. Join us at Bike Hub Queens Wharf from 7pm for tunes, quick safety checks, bike decorating and more. At sunset we roll out for an easy ride at a social-pace — lights on, music up — cruising 8km of separated paths, cut-throughs, and quiet streets. All bodies on all bikes welcome!

Community





 Feb 20, 7 - 10pm  
 Bike Hub Queens Wharf  
 FREE  
 Adults (18+ years)



Proud Voices On Screen  
Proud Voices On Screen at Auckland Pride

Join us for a day of short films, talks and networking with other lgbtqia+ voices in the Aotearoa screen industry. Watch great films, mingle and hear from queer filmmakers about their recent projects. All levels of experience welcome. Come and go as you please. 11am - 5pm. Schedule at proudvoicesonscreen.org.

Film



 Feb 21, 11am - 5pm  
 The Button Factory  
 FREE  
 Adults (18+ years)



The D\*List  
Embroidery for Crafty Queers

Learn to embroider with fellow queers from your tutor Von. In this three-hour workshop you will create a patch expressing what pride means for you. An introduction to embroidery, you will learn hand sewing hacks and basic stitch techniques. This course is designed to be a chill, fun opportunity to explore embroidery as a creative outlet.

Craft




 Feb 21, 12 - 3pm  
 The D\*List Community Hub  
 FREE



Outrunnerz NZ  
Outrunnerz Pride Edition

Auckland's only LGBTQIA+, Takatāpui and MVPFAFF communities inclusive run club. Meet us on Saturday, 21 February, 7:30am, at Hobson Wharf for a vibrant, free community run/walk. Wear your favourite colour to flood the waterfront with Pride! After the run, stick around for a mini Pride party to celebrate inclusion, wellbeing, and connection. Tickets are free but must be booked to secure your spot.

Sports





 Feb 21, 7.30 - 10am  
 Hobson Wharf  
 FREE



BARBA Presents  
BARBA AUCKLAND PRIDE 2026

On Saturday 21st of February, BARBA says "Hola Auckland!" once again. Step into the BARBA realm, making its hot and sweaty return in Tāmaki Makaurau. The ultimate night for unapologetic queers. We're here to serve sex-positive realness, self-expression, art & music.

Party





 Feb 21, 8pm - 2am  
 Whammy Bar  
 From \$25  
 Adults (18+ years)



Sapphic Sounds  
Sapphic Sounds Presents: PRIDE 2026

Sapphic Sounds is back for PRIDE 2026, celebrating our mission to uplift our sapphic community, trans, non-binary people, and allies! Keep the vibes going after the Auckland Rainbow Parade at Mothership for a late-night afterparty. Dance, connect, and enjoy a stacked lineup of local and queer DJs and performances!

Party

 Feb 21, 10pm - 3am  
 Mothership  
 \$30  
 Adults (18+ years)





Theta Project  
PROPAGANDA: Pride Edition

Get ready for our BIG PRIDE PARTY on Saturday 21 February! Doors open at 8pm for sunset drinks on the deck after the Auckland Rainbow parade, before we party into the early hours. We're taking over Sweat Shop once again and turning it gloriously gay for the night. With a huge dance floor, covered deck, and multiple bars, it's the ultimate Pride party venue.

Party

- Feb 21, 8pm - 4am
- Sweat Shop Brew Kitchen
- \$49
- Adults (18+ years)



Misheard  
QUEER AUTUMN 2

QUEER AUTUMN returns to Whammy Bar on Sunday, the 22nd of February, with some of the best alternative bands in Tāmaki Makaurau playing loud songs and fighting for the rights on rainbow, takatāpui, and transgender kiwis before the election year plunges us into endless debates about whether or not we're allowed to exist.

Music

- Feb 22, 5 - 9pm
- Whammy Bar
- From \$15
- Adults (18+ years)



The D\*List and Bookish Ceremony  
Bookish Ceremony: queer disabled edition

Your favourite local queer book club, Bookish Ceremony, is connecting with The D\*List for a special queer disabled edition. Kōrero about books and connect with like minded folks! The book pick will be announced in January on Instagram @bookish.ceremony.

Literature

- Feb 23, 6 - 8pm
- The D\*List Community Hub
- FREE
- Adults (18+ years)



The Open Book  
Rainbow Reading Party

Share space and queer titles with each other at our beautiful bookstore after hours. Perfect for booklovers, neurodiverse folk, and anyone who might be seeking a more low-key pride event. Expect a gentle evening of tea-drinking, browsing our bookshelves, mingling with other queer booklovers, and of course reading!

Community

- Feb 27, 5.30 - 8pm
- The Open Book
- \$5



Theia Music Ltd  
Theia: Girl, In A Savage World - Debut Album Release Show

This Pride, celebrate the release of Theia's critically acclaimed debut album GIRL, IN A SAVAGE WORLD. Don't miss the chance to experience Theia (Waikato, Ngaati Tiipaa, Ngaati Aaamaru) in this intimate show at one of Tāmaki's most iconic music venues, Whammy.

Music

- Feb 27, 7 - 9.30pm
- Whammy Bar
- From \$20
- Adults (18+ years)

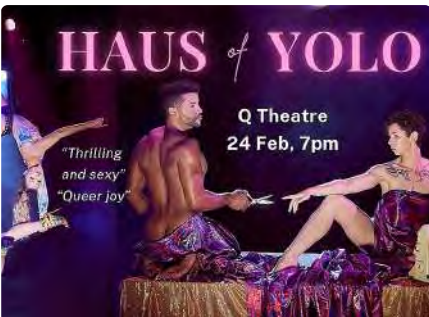


Gamersphere NZ  
Pride & Play: Board Gayming... In Style

Enjoy up to five hours of interactive board games in a vibrant, inclusive atmosphere, complete with a free cocktail on arrival and hosted gameplay with the Gamersphere team. D&D fans can join a separate dedicated room featuring a Pride-themed quest run by a professional GM. Take in stunning views of the Auckland Harbour and Sky Tower as you play, meet new people, and enjoy great food in a premium setting.

Community

- Feb 23, 5 - 10pm
- Bar Albert - voco Auckland City Centre
- \$40
- Adults (18+ years)



The Dust Palace  
HAUS of YOLO

Party cabaret. Live sewing. World-class circus. One night only. Head designer (and part-time conman) Welt Couture will create their "Auckland" collection live on stage — as acrobats, models, and misfits bring each look to life through jaw-dropping circus and camp comedy. This is fast fashion - couture on a deadline.

Performance

- Feb 24, 7 - 8pm
- Q Theatre, Rangatira
- From \$39



Hugo Grrrl  
Fresh Tease: A Beginner Burlesque Revue

The hottest up-and-coming strippers, titillators and rule-breakers feature in this stacked lineup of exciting newcomers in the Tāmaki burlesque scene. Fresh Tease promises to be a bold, brash and brassy celebration of the rising stars of Auckland alternative arts. Hosted by Hugo Grrrl.

Performance

- Feb 26, 7.30 - 9.30pm
- TAPAC The Auckland Performing Arts Centre
- FREE
- Adults (18+ years)



Hugo Grrrl  
Pride Pro Burlesque

The best in the burlesque biz! A star-studded cast of powerhouse professionals unite for this strip-show spectacular sure to leave you thoroughly hot and bothered. Starring the legendary Hannah Tasker-Poland, Kiki Kisses, Michelle Kasey, Lucy Lynch, Hells Bells, Cia Muller and Oli Craddock. Hosted by Hugo Grrrl.

Performance

- Feb 27, 8 - 10pm
- TAPAC The Auckland Performing Arts Centre
- FREE
- Adults (18+ years)



Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki  
Pride Festival 2026 at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki

Celebrate at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki with a day of art, music, performance and self-expression. This festival brings together rainbow artists and communities in a joyful programme honouring creativity, identity and connection. No bookings required!

Community

- Feb 28, 10am - 5pm
- Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki
- FREE

# Haute Dish's POTLUCK

A Smorgasbord of drag talent

SUMMER, PRIDE, AND A WHOLE LOT OF QUEER CHAOS. EXPECT A SMORGASBORD OF TALENT, MOUTH WATERING LOOKS AND SIZZLING PERFORMANCES. NO TWO SHOWS ARE THE SAME! COME HUNGRY FOR SPECTACLE, LEAVE WITH CRUMBS OF QUEER MAGIC (AND MAYBE A NEW FAVE PERFORMER). BRING FRIENDS, BRING PRIDE, AND BRING YOUR APPETITE.

FEB 17-21 | BASEMENT THEATRE | TICKETS FROM \$17

ADULTS (18+ YEARS)





OPEN ACCESS

Events



Pride Cèilidh  
Pride Cèilidh

A welcoming night of easy, guided Celtic social dances to live music — no partner needed, and a great way to meet new people. Enjoy a light supper, folk storytelling, and a musical item from queer folk band Moon Goose. Early dances are ideal for tamariki and beginners, with space later for faster movers.

Community

- Feb 28, 5 - 8pm  
Auckland Old Folks Association  
From \$10



New Zealand Fashion Museum  
Inside the Closet -  
Fashion through the  
drag lens

Visit Britomart and step inside the fabulous world where drag meets fashion. This outdoor exhibition on the Pavilion panels features life-size portraits of 13 remarkable performers – from legendary K Road queens to rising stars, drag kings to TikTok sensations – each wearing a colour from the Pride Progress flag.

Exhibition

- Feb 1-28, All day  
Britomart - The Pavilions  
FREE

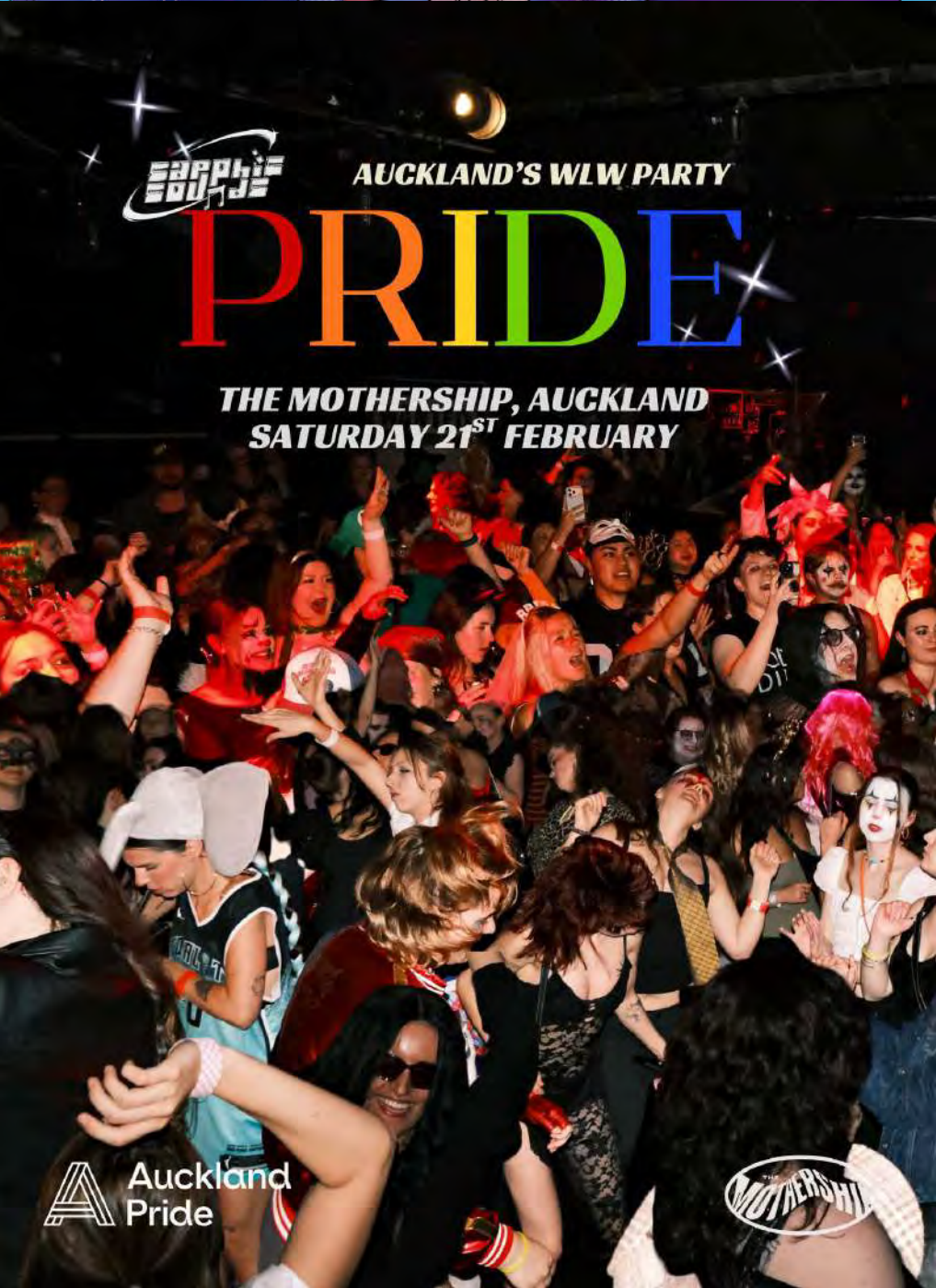
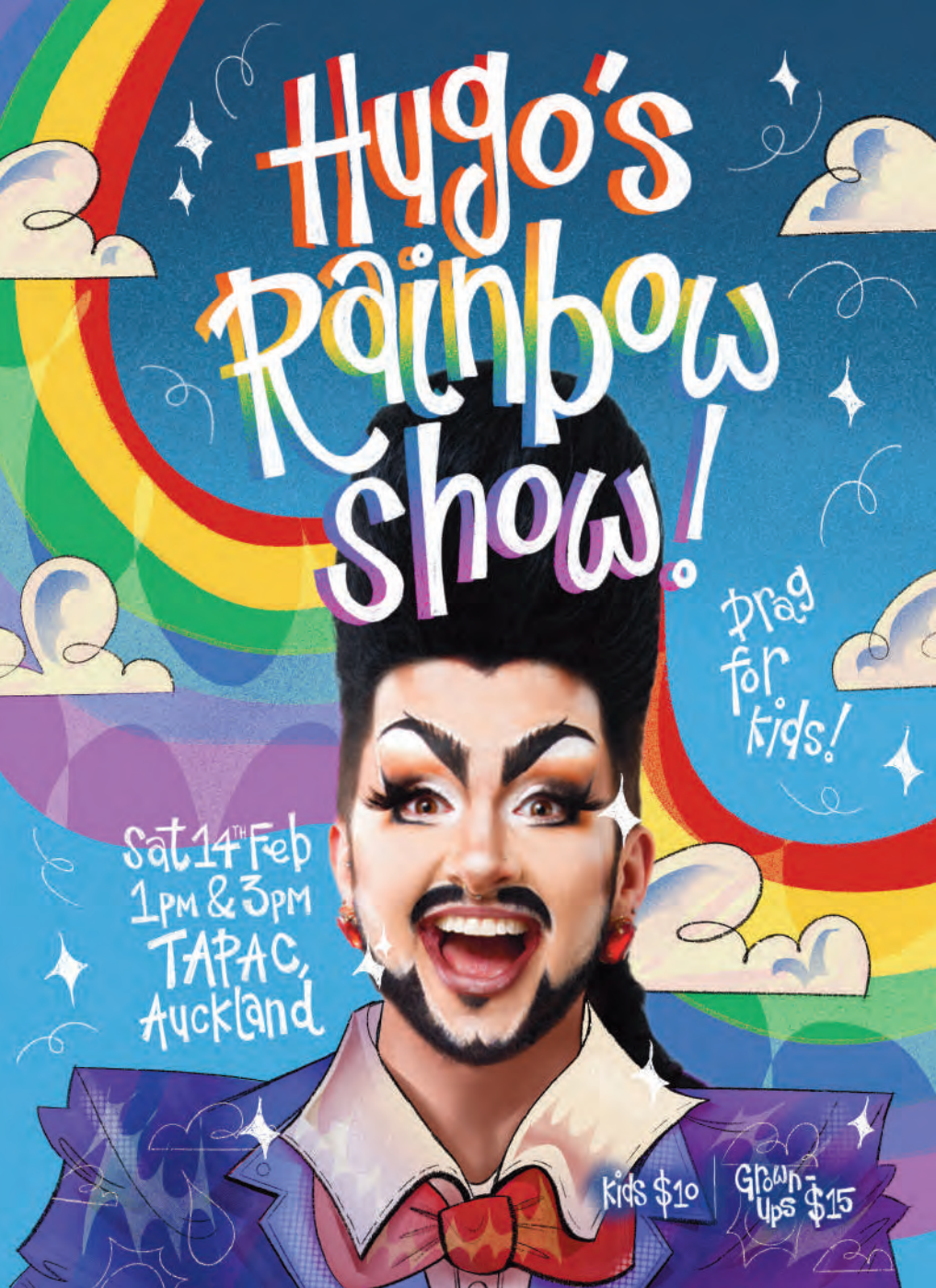


Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland Museum  
Pride Whānau Day

Express yourself at the Museum! Join us on a loud and proud Pride parade. Dive into our dress-ups, learn a chant and take part in a mini-parade in the Museum, led by silly, sparkly drag-king extraordinaire Hugogrrrl and friends. For quieter types, we'll have craft activities and face painting all day, and an artist-led workshop for older kids. Check out our website listing for further details.

Community

- Feb 28, 10am - 3pm  
Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum  
FREE



RADIQAL MOVEMENT  
PRIDE 2026



This Pride, Radiqal Movement is bringing you a full month of queer-affirming movement, community, and celebration. From group fitness classes to community activities and Pride-only events, everything on this page is part of our Pride 2026 programme - led by our wonderful kaimahi and volunteers.

Throughout February, you'll see a "PRIDE 2026 SPECIAL" pricing option on each eligible service (excluding bouldering & line dancing), alongside our regular sliding scale payment options. This Pride-only option offers a \$10 class special, making it even easier to move, connect, and celebrate together.

For more information about each event, go to: [radiqalmovement.com/pride2026](https://radiqalmovement.com/pride2026) or scan the QR Code.



Q Total Body

A total-body class for every body this Pride.

- 1 Feb, 9AM  
The Y Auckland  
\$10



Q Box

Build confidence and endurance in gloves this Pride!

- 3, 10, 17, 24 Feb, 6PM  
The Y Auckland  
\$10



Q Mobility

Low-impact, mobility-focused movement in an adaptable space.

- 3 Feb, 7:15PM  
The D\*List Community Hub  
\$10



Queer Country Line Dancing

Boot-scoot and groove this pride month w/ Sapphic Sounds & Radiqal Movement.

- 13 Feb, 7PM  
Mount Eden War Memorial Hall  
\$25



Rainbow Tracks: A Pride Hīkoi in the Waitakere Ranges

W/ The Charlotte Museum & Arataki Visitor Centre.

- 21 Feb, 10AM  
Arataki Visitor Centre  
FREE



Q Yoga Vinyasa

Vinyasa flow, introducing core Āsana (yoga poses) in this pride special.

- 22 Feb, 8AM  
Cadence Studio  
\$10



Mermascs Swim & Coffee

Reclaiming beach swims with likeminded merfolk this Pride!

- 22 Feb, 10:30AM  
Point Chevalier Beach  
FREE



Q Zumba w/ Shawn

Dance, laugh, and celebrate Pride w/ Shawn & Radiqal Movement.

- 27 Feb, 6:30PM  
Mount Albert War Memorial Hall  
\$10



Boulder Co. & Coffee

A fun Saturday trip to Boulder Co. for a climb & coffee this Pride!

- 28 Feb, 11AM  
Boulder Co. Auckland  
\$18





# THE CHARLOTTE MUSEUM TE WHARE TAKATĀPUI- WĀHINE O AOTEAROA



the  
**Charlotte  
MUSEUM**  
Te Whare  
Takatāpui-Wāhine  
o Aotearoa



**Queer Clay Club Exhibition**

After a year of workshops around the motu, the Queer Clay Club is bringing together the finished plaques for a special opening night in Tāmaki Makaurau. Join us & Small Batch Pottery Co for an evening of story, memory, clay, and community.

📅 4 - 28 Feb (Opening Night: 4 Feb, 6 - 9PM | 📍 18+)  
📍 The Charlotte Museum | 🆓 FREE



**Pride Quiz**

Join us for a Pride Quiz created by us!! Show off your queer knowledge and learn more about our histories and our present. Grab your team or come solo! It will be a fun night with our rainbow whānau at your favorite local Sapphic Museum.

📅 13 Feb, 7 - 10PM  
📍 The Charlotte Museum | 💰 \$15



**Rainbow Tracks: a Pride hīkoi in the Waitakere Ranges**

Join us, Radical Movement, and the Arataki Visitor Centre for Rainbow Tracks: a Pride hīkoi in the Waitakere Ranges. Welcoming all LGBTQIA+ and takatāpui folk, this event combines movement, connection, and Te Taiao for a wholesome Saturday outing you won't want to miss.

📅 21 Feb, 10AM 📍 Arataki Visitor Centre | 🆓 FREE

## COMING UP THIS YEAR

In 2026, The Charlotte Museum Te Whare Takatāpui-Wāhine o Aotearoa will launch **Collective Perspective**, a series of new exhibitions featuring local queer artists—offering emerging artists the opportunity to present their work within a museum setting, exhibiting alongside established creators whose practices have helped shape our cultural landscape.

By bringing these voices together, we aim to expand the narratives represented within the museum and affirm the vital role of queer perspectives in art. Through this project, we hope to cultivate an environment where artists gain meaningful experience working and exhibiting, while becoming part of a dynamic network of both new and seasoned voices.

Join us as we celebrate the diverse expressions within our community and support the beginnings of this exciting museum initiative! Keep an eye out on our website: [charlottesmuseum.co.nz](http://charlottesmuseum.co.nz)





# BEAR NZ WEEK 2026

4 — 8 February



## Naked Yoga



Prepare for the excitement of Bear Week 2026 with a relaxing Naked Mens Yoga class. Suitable for everyone from beginners to experienced yogi. This calm, intimate experience sold out last year. As this is an intimate and structured event, the doors will be locked at 4pm.

4 Feb, 4PM | Studio One Toi Tū | \$10 (SOLD OUT) | 18+

## Meet & Greet



A civilised meet and greet to kick off Bear New Zealand Week 2026, in the Abstract Hotel's spacious courtyard. Bar available, snacks provided.

4 Feb, 6PM | Abstract Hotel | FREE | 18+

## Funny, Furry, Fierce!



The Funny, Furry, Fierce comedy show is always a standout event at Bear New Zealand week, and this year should be no exception! Host Neil Thornton has put together a stellar lineup of comedians to get us laughing.

5 Feb, 7PM | Classic Comedy Club | \$35 | 18+

## Underbear

URGE  
EVENTS



URGE Events presents the world famous Underbear party! The clothes are coming off, and the beats are turning up! Get ready to dance the night away at UnderBear Party, where the only dress code is your best undies. Cuddle room, coat check included.

5 Feb, 9PM | Phoenix Cabaret | Tickets from \$40 | 18+

## Urban Walk



Explore Auckland from a different perspective, join us as Cameron leads us through some of our urban highlights. Starting at 10am, and finishing at the Ponsonby International Foodcourt for lunch.

6 Feb, 10AM | Meeting Location TBC | FREE | 18+

## Ponsonby Lunch



After the Urban Walk, hungry bears will meet at the popular Ponsonby International Food Court for lunch. Hosted by Luca, 12 noon, 106 Ponsonby Rd.

6 Feb, 12PM | Ponsonby International Food Court | FREE | 18+

## Ass Class



Dr George's "Ass Class" teaches folks how to get the maximum pleasure and fun from their anal exploration. There's something for everyone in this class; come and pick up some new tips and tricks from the latest science in anal health pleasure. Arrive early and take advantage of Body Positive's sexual health clinic. (Test before the class, results after)

6 Feb, 2PM | Body Positive | \$15 (SOLD OUT) | 18+

## Haus of Bears



"Haus of Bears" is a concert and variety showcase that celebrates the creativity, talent, and diversity of LGBTQI+ communities in Tāmaki Makaurau. The project will bring together musicians, dancers, drag performers, choreographers, make-up artists, and technicians to create a professional, inclusive live event during Bear New Zealand Week 2026.

6 Feb, 7PM | Phoenix Cabaret | \$20 | 18+

## Mr Bear NZ 2026



Who will take the title of Mr Bear New Zealand this year? Join us for an unforgettable night as New Zealand's finest bears take the stage, competing for the coveted title.

If you would like to put your hand up to be a contestant, you can find out more info: [bearnewzealand.co.nz/week/](https://bearnewzealand.co.nz/week/)

6 Feb, 9PM | Phoenix Cabaret | FREE | 18+

## Bears & Board Games



It's neurospicy socialisation time! A fun afternoon playing board games at Dice and Fork board game bar and eatery. Come nerd out over some classic board games.

Free event, but registration required as capacity is limited. Snacks and drinks available at the venue.

7 Feb, 12PM | Dice & Fork | FREE | 18+

## Tri-Nations Party

URGE  
EVENTS



Get ready for a night of hot, sexy, and safe fun with friends old and new—whether they're from across New Zealand or around the world. Plus, join us in welcoming the newly crowned Mr. Bear New Zealand 2026 to the spotlight.

7 Feb, 9PM | Phoenix Cabaret | \$40 | 18+

## Bear Brunch



Hilton and Keith's monthly Bears Meetup over Brunch has been an introduction to Bear friendship for many of us over the years. Join them at the Long Room, 114 Ponsonby Rd, at 12 noon.

Capacity is limited, so registration is essential.

8 Feb, 12PM | Long Room | FREE | 18+

## Gear Social & Swap Meet



Event by Gear Up New Zealand. Their social events have become so popular they have added a relaxed monthly Sunday in the sun at Cafe 39 Ponsonby Rd. If you're looking for something to wear later at the Leather and Gear Party, we have a swap meet where you can try before you buy.

8 Feb, 3 - 6PM | Cafe 39 | FREE | 18+

## Wet Fur



A relaxing and steamy afternoon in Centurian's brand new premises! Discount entry available at \$20.

8 Feb, 2PM | Centurian | \$20 | 18+

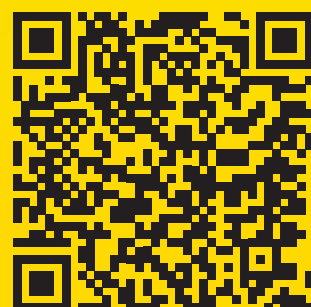
## Leather & Gear Party



Presented by Gear Up New Zealand, this is also our official Bear Week closing event. 6-10 pm at GAY, 262 Karangahape Rd. Tickets \$20, includes coat check. An introduction to the fetish scene in Tāmaki Makaurau. Come to chat, dance, have a drink, compare gear, meet the Pups.

8 Feb, 6 - 10PM | G.A.Y | \$20 | 18+

For more information  
about each event, go to:  
[bearnewzealand.co.nz/week/](https://bearnewzealand.co.nz/week/)



BUY TICKETS HERE





MOTAT

Science + Tech + Play

# Mile High Comedy Club

TAKING COMEDY TO NEW HEIGHTS



Auckland  
Pride



THURS 12 FEBRUARY

TICKETS AT MOTAT.NZ



Matt Coombe



Janaye Henry



James Mustapic



To be announced





Standing with pride,  
every day.

We champion inclusive communities  
and equitable futures across Aotearoa.

[dlapiper.com](https://dlapiper.com)

# PROUD CENTRES

Page 43

For the first time, Auckland Council and Auckland Pride have come to a written agreement which unequivocally *“recognises the unique social and artistic contributions of Takatāpui, MVPFAFF+ and rainbow communities throughout Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland and their undeniable impact on the social wellbeing and cultural identity of this city.”*

This written recognition is the result of local demonstrations involving both cultural teams and frontline staff, a crucial response to the present and a commitment to the future. There have been many transformations of the relationship between Auckland Pride and Auckland Council over thirteen festivals, but the last eighteen months particularly has embedded our meaningful collaboration.

It's a collaboration which manifests through this year's festival with the return of Auckland Council Proud Centres, a programme of free and low-cost events throughout Tāmaki Makaurau in Libraries and Community Centres. This collaboration between frontline kaimahi at Libraries and Community Centres, Auckland Council Arts and Culture team and Auckland Pride has created opportunities for rainbow communities which last year-round.

In 2026, with nearly double the amount of programming in Proud Centres since the last Auckland Pride Festival, there is something for everyone to enjoy; from quilting workshops to queer bookclubs to exclusive author talks, prom to teen pride clubs, and over 150 others. These are events which reach beyond the city's urban hub to deliver new hobbies, friends, and much-loved favourites to your doorstep.



*“This programme may not reflect the final programming, please check online through this QR Code for all up to date info.”*





Events



Remuera Library  
Community Poetry Zine

Ever felt the call to write? Had the need to express something about your identity in short form? This could be your chance! We're putting together a small, poetry oriented zine that reflects the voices and talents of our Takatāpui and Rainbow community here in Tāmaki Makaurau. Submissions close on February 14th 2026.

Literature

Feb 1-14, All day  
Remuera Library  
FREE



Botany Library  
Creative Writing Competition for Young Adults

Calling all young writers! Submit your original work anytime throughout the month to Botany Library. For age 12 and up. Exciting prizes up for grabs! Winners will be announced in early March. Prompt: "Hope grows where acceptance lives". Submissions closes: 28th February 2026 | 5:00pm.

Literature

Feb 1-28, All day  
Botany Library  
FREE



Auckland Pride  
Love is Love: Take 3 Romances

Borrow three romance novels from Auckland Council Libraries or online with Libby, and you're in to win one of five \$100 GiftPay vouchers! Find your perfect match with our displays and reading lists curated by our librarians, from sweet rom-coms to steamy scenes, and ace/aro situationships to pan partners, whatever you fancy!

Literature

Feb 1-28, All day  
Auckland Council Libraries  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



Parnell Library  
Pride Lives Here: An Exhibit of Auckland's Queer History

Visit Parnell Library for a display celebrating the history and stories of Auckland Central's queer community. Through photos, posters, and other historical materials, explore pivotal moments and everyday life for LGBTQI+ locals over the decades.

Exhibition

Feb 1-28, Various times  
Parnell Library  
FREE



Albany Village Library  
Blackout Poetry

Find your own meaning within the page of another's words! In this workshop we will be upcycling withdrawn library books and making blackout poems from the pages. This workshop will mix poetry and art as we create poems and works of art from the pages. Open to all ages, unleash your inner poet!

Literature

Feb 1, 2 - 3pm  
Albany Village Library  
FREE



PrideFest Out West  
W\_acking for All: Punking/Waacking dance workshops

Step into the fierce and fabulous world of W\_acking and its roots in Punking - a style born from resistance, joy, and unapologetic identity. These sessions are beginner-friendly, uplifting, and designed to support mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing. Come celebrate Pride in a space that's joyful & safe for all!

Dance

Feb 2, 9, 16, 23, 4 - 5.30pm  
Te Atatū Peninsula Community Hub  
FREE



Kanga Training, PrideFest Out West  
Proud Parents Kangatraining

Kangatraining is a pelvic floor-safe postnatal fitness class for mums, dads, aunties, uncles, grandparents, friends, and all forms of whānau. No babysitter needed - move, stretch, dance, and build strength while keeping pēpi close in a carrier. This is a safe, inclusive space for Rainbow whānau, allies, and friends. Registrations essential.

Sport

Various dates & times  
Various venues  
FREE



PrideFest Out West  
Kotahitanga in Colour

A PrideFest Out West activation where our community comes together to build one giant, travelling Pride flag. Each workshop focuses on a single rainbow colour, exploring the meaning of the Pride flag while crafting a unique textile piece with recycled and sustainable materials. Guided by The Recreators.

Workshop

Feb 2, 7, 14, 19, 21, 22, 26, Various times  
Various venues  
FREE



Pride Fest Out West  
Synergize with Squad 180

A body-positive, inclusive Yoga/Pilates fusion class where every body is welcome. A flowing blend of Tai Chi, Yoga, and Pilates to help you strengthen, stretch, and reconnect with your body at your own pace. Synergize supports rainbow whānau, allies, friends, and anyone seeking gentle, empowering movement.

Sports

Feb 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 26, Various times  
Te Atatū Peninsula Community Hub, New Lynn Community Hub  
FREE



Auckland Central Library  
Our Stories on Screen: Daily Docos and Movies at Tāmaki Pātaka

Drop in and visit the FREE daily screenings of documentaries, movies and community stories at Tāmaki Pātaka Kōrero, Auckland Central Library this February. Our large screen on the ground floor will be proudly broadcasting Takatāpui and Rainbow stories for all to enjoy.

Film

Feb 1-28, Various times  
Auckland Central Library  
FREE

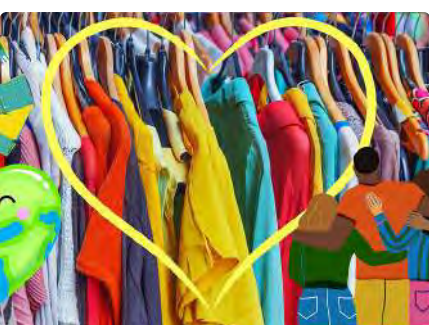


Auckland Central Library  
Proud Stories

Looking for takatāpui and rainbow themed reads? Keen to connect with our community stories? Want to know more about the rich history of Tāmaki Makaurau through a Takatāpui and Rainbow lens? Come and browse our curated Pride book displays at Tāmaki Pātaka Kōrero, Auckland Central Library this February!

Literature

Feb 1-28, Various times  
Auckland Central Library  
FREE



Highland Park Library  
Clothing Swap at Highland Park Library

Support sustainability, inclusivity, and creativity! Bring up to 5 pieces of clean, undamaged clothing to swap (only give what you would be happy to receive) and get the opportunity to take home up to 3 preloved, new-to-you pieces of clothing. This event is for teens and adults. Register on Eventbrite to attend.

Community

Feb 1, 10.30am - 12.30pm  
Highland Park Library  
FREE



Messy Rainbows, PrideFest Out West  
Soft Sensory Reset (with Messy Rainbows)

A peaceful, neurodivergent-friendly space designed for adults who need a moment to breathe, regulate, and gently unwind. Move through low-pressure stations featuring fidget trays, dough for grounding motions, aromatherapy elements and more. Give yourself permission to slow down.

Workshop

Feb 3, 10, 11, 24, Various times  
Rānui Library  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



Botany Library  
Express Yourself: Badge Making for the Whānau

Join us for a fun badge-making workshop! Design and create your own colourful badges to express your creativity and individuality. All materials provided - just bring your imagination and enjoy a relaxed, creative space! All ages session on Tuesday February 3rd. 12+ session on Tuesday 10th of February.

Craft

Feb 3, 10, 3 - 5pm  
Botany Library  
FREE



Te Atatu Peninsula Community Centre  
Beginner Roller Dance with Skate Nation

Every Tuesday this February, join the fab team from Skate Nation for a month of FREE beginner Roller Dance classes! Learn the basics of Roller Dance by applying simple footwork to the beat of the music. You'll build coordination, practice quick weight changes, and explore rhythm and tempo in a fun, supportive environment.

Dance

Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, 7 - 8pm  
Te Atatū South Community Centre  
FREE



Arataki Visitor Centre  
Tiny Activism: Badge Making at Arataki

Come along to Arataki Visitor Centre on Wednesday 4 February, from 1-3pm, and take part in Tiny Activism. Design and create your own Pride Pin to keep, take home and wear with Pride!

Craft

Feb 4, 1 - 3pm  
Arataki Visitor Centre  
FREE

Events



Events



Queer Joy Quilt Aotearoa  
**Queer Joy Quilting Workshop**

Join a quilting workshop series centred on queer joy. During the first workshop, we will connect and kōrero about what queer joy means to us, plan our patchwork squares, and learn some basic patchwork techniques we can use. The second workshop will be spent creating our patchwork squares using our chosen techniques.

Workshop

Feb 4, 11, 6 - 8pm

Sandringham Community Centre

FREE



Studio One Toi Tū  
**Feelings in Moments - Elliot Thorp**

Elliot Thorp's work explores the contrast between the soft domestic nature of a quilt and the anxious, hopeful, or uncertain thoughts we hold. Elliot's quilts capture the universal, everyday chatter in our minds, turning private vulnerability into a shared and colourful experience. Exhibition Opening: 4 Feb, 5-7pm.

Exhibition

Feb 5 - Mar 5

Various times  
Studio One Toi Tū

FREE



Studio One Toi Tū  
**Green Noise - Tove Spary**

Green Noise is Tove Spary's reflection on her experiences with Ihi Ora, the Grafton based mental health services. Her work explores the lived disharmony between her trans-self and her material conditions. Ihi Ora, a brutal concrete and glass structure, is enveloped on all sides by the lush greenery of Pukekawa (Auckland Domain). Exhibition Opening: 4 Feb, 5-7pm.

Exhibition

Feb 5 - Mar 5

Various times  
Studio One Toi Tū

FREE



Queer Joy Quilt Aotearoa  
**The Queer Joy Community Quilt 2025 Exhibition**

The patchwork quilt is a labour of aroha and kotahitanga, and the result of the makers' skill sharing, solidarity, and commitment to creating. The quilt is an expression of each artist's intersectional understandings of queer joy, reflecting cultural and personal histories. The exhibition opening is on February 4th, 5pm-7pm.

Exhibition

Feb 5 - Mar 5

Various times  
Studio One Toi Tū

FREE

Events



Botany Library  
**Stories for Every Heart @ Botany Library**

Come along to our vibrant storytime celebrating love, followed by a fun craft session where kids can create their own colourful masterpieces. This family-friendly storytime is designed to spark imagination, inclusion, and creativity in a welcoming space.

Community

Feb 6, 13, 10.30 - 11am

Botany Library

FREE



PrideFest Out West  
**Whau Zine Fest!**

Enjoy works from zine makers and artists from around Aotearoa New Zealand, ranging from poetry to politics to comics to essays! Enjoy FREE entry for the Whau Zine Fest! Make sure to bring cash, as the closest ATM's are on Memorial drive or in LynnMall.

Community

Feb 7, 10am - 2pm

New Lynn Community Hub

FREE



Arataki Visitor Centre, The ReCreators  
**Tie Dye for Pride at Arataki Visitor Centre**

A fun and eco-friendly tie-dye workshop. Learn how to twist, scrunch, and swirl your way to vibrant patterns using upcycled white t-shirts and eco-friendly dyes. We'll provide upcycled white t-shirts, but feel free to bring your own light-coloured cotton clothing to transform. A fantastic way to breathe new life into old clothing.

Craft

Feb 7, 10.30am - 12.30pm

Arataki Visitor Centre

FREE



Te Manawa  
**Rainbow Ribbons**

Join us for a fun, creative craft session where you'll make your very own rainbow ribbon streamer to take home and wave proudly at upcoming events like Big Gay Out, the Rainbow Parade, and other celebrations. All materials provided, all ages welcome!

Craft

Feb 7, 11am - 12pm

Te Manawa

FREE



Auckland Central Library  
**Life Hacks With Librarians – Pride Editions**

Have a chat with our community librarians who can help you navigate a variety of life admin tasks such as finding information, locating resources, updating your CV, using digital devices, navigating applications for passports, updating driver licences and more. Our team is here to help!

Community

Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, 2 - 4pm

Auckland Central Library

FREE



Botany Library  
**Express Yourself: Bracelet Making**

Pop in and enjoy a relaxing afternoon of crafting as you create your own bracelets! Design them in the colours of the rainbow or colours that represent you! You can also make friendship bracelets to share with your besties and loved ones. Open to all ages | Adult supervision required for children under 8.

Craft

Feb 5, 3.30 - 5pm

Botany Library

FREE



Pakuranga Community Library  
**Rainbow Cookie Decorating**

Join us as we decorate some delicious cookies with some Pride-themed rainbow icing! Suitable for all ages. Parental supervision required for younger participants.

Craft

Feb 5, 4 - 4.30pm

Pakuranga Library

FREE



PrideFest Out West  
**Worthy: An Affirmation Workshop Series**

An intimate, creative workshop series where you'll craft your own handmade affirmation medal - a personal taonga symbolising strength, healing, and self-worth. Guided in a safe, inclusive space, you'll work with discarded and unexpected materials, transforming them into something beautifully meaningful.

Workshop

Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, 5 - 7pm

Te Atatū Peninsula Community Hub

FREE



Highland Park Library  
**Rainbow Perler Beads Craft Workshop at Highland Park Library**

Craft trinkets that you, your friends and whānau can wear with Pride. Sit down, chat, relax and get creative. Expect a relaxed, inclusive space to connect and create. All materials will be provided and you can take home your unique designs. This session is for teens and adults. Booking required through Eventbrite.

Craft

Feb 7, 2 - 3pm

Highland Park Library

FREE



Botany Library  
**Express Yourself: Clothing Swap!**

Join us again for the ultimate clothes swap! Trade your used pieces for fresh fits, express your style, and give your wardrobe a sustainable refresh. Plus, a sewing machine will be available on-site, so you can add flair, customise your finds, or make quick fixes - get creative and make your new pieces truly your own!

Community

Feb 7-8, 3 - 5pm

Botany Library

FREE



Te Kōpua Waitākere Central Library  
**Pride Cross-Stitch Patches Workshop**

Learn how to cross-stitch Pride patches to go on your favorite outfit. LGBTQIA+ patterns and material will be provided to start your creative journey with us, and to take home if you need more time. Suitable for beginner and experienced stitchers. This is a rangatahi (16+) and adult workshop.

Craft

Feb 8, 11am - 12pm

Te Kōpua Waitākere Central Library

FREE



Ellen Mellville Centre  
**Trans Politics Workshop**

What are your needs? Can we collectively organise to meet them? With advice from seasoned organisers and community participation, this session will take a grounded approach towards building a lasting trans people's organisation in Tāmaki Makaurau.

Workshop

Feb 8, 2.30 - 5.30pm

Ellen Mellville Centre

FREE



Events



Mt Albert Library  
Rainbow Adult Storytime

A special themed Adult Storytime, celebrating the differences that make us unique - like a rainbow! Then participate in a craft session with creator Rosemary Peppermint and design your own flags and badges to celebrate what you're proud of! These sessions are designed for disabled adults, but are open to all to join in.

Community

Feb 10, 11am - 12pm  
Mt Albert Library  
FREE



The Sisters Gay, Grey Lynn Library  
The Sisters Gay Present: Where Does It Hurt

Green around the gills? Taken a turn for the worse? Open wide, put your finger on the pulse, say "Ah", and we'll soon have you in the pink of health. In the latest literary salon for lesbians and other family, Sisters Gay play doctors and nurse practitioners in this grown-up storytime. Prebook on Eventfinda.

Performance

Feb 10, 6 - 8pm  
Grey Lynn Library  
FREE



Auckland Central Library  
Pride Author Talks

Join us on Tuesday evenings during Pride for a series of author talks celebrating Takatāpui and Rainbow authors. These relaxed conversations will be an opportunity to engage with their work and learn about our author's creative process. You might just discover your next favourite read!

Literature

Feb 10, 24, 6.30 - 7.30pm  
Auckland Central Library  
FREE



Onehunga Community Centre  
A Mini Version of Me

A casual, drop-in creative activity set-up in the foyer area of the centre. Participants can stop by at any time to create a small clay figure that represents how they see themselves. The foyer will be set up with clay, tools, paints, glitters, and a small display shelf with pre-made sample characters to inspire participants.

Craft

Feb 11-18, All day  
Onehunga Community Centre  
FREE

Events



Pakuranga Library  
Pride Badge Making

Join us for a fun, creative session where we'll design and make fabulously queer personalised Pride badges! Celebrate self-expression, meet new friends, and craft something you can wear with pride.

Craft

Feb 12, 4 - 4.30pm  
Pakuranga Library  
FREE



PrideFest Out West  
W\_acking for All | Rangatahi Workshop

This 6 week Rangatahi W\_acking For All series breaks down in a beginner-friendly workshop through drills, musicality training, building confidence, and guided freestyle. Whether you're new to dance or looking to grow your skills, the programme invites you to show up as you are, move freely, and experience the joy of self-expression.

Dance

Feb 12, 26, 4 - 5.30pm  
New Lynn Community Hub  
FREE



East Coast Bays Library  
Badge It With Pride

Create your own rainbow badges! Whether you are celebrating your identity, showing support for friends, or just love bright colors, this session is all about expression, community, and creativity. We'll have tons of supplies—pins, stickers, markers, glitter, and all the rainbow vibes you need.

Craft

Feb 12, 5 - 6pm  
East Coast Bays Library  
FREE



Botany Library  
Express Yourself: Rainbow Tie-Dyed Ecobags

Pop in to tie-dye your own ecobag in bright, fun colours to create a sustainable and unique accessory that matches your identity and fits. For ages 12+, Registrations via Eventbrite.

Craft

Feb 12, 5 - 7pm  
Botany Library  
FREE



Botany Library  
Love Makes the World Go Round Rhymetime

Join us for Love Makes the World Go Round Rhymetime! Sing, move, and giggle along to songs and rhymes that celebrate kindness, being unique and love in all shapes and sizes - perfect for pre-schoolers and their caregivers!

Community

Feb 11, 10.30 - 11am  
Botany Library  
FREE



Green Bay Community House  
Rainbow Cupcake Decorating

Are you Green Bay's hottest home baker? Join us for a cupcake decorating session. Can you make the biggest, brightest cupcake for afternoon tea? Free event but koha donations can be made to the Burnett Foundation.

Craft

Feb 11, 3 - 5pm  
Green Bay Community House  
FREE

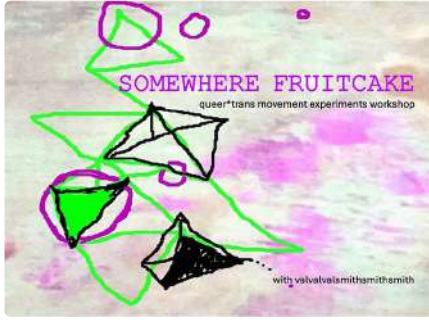


Samesame But Different  
PRIDE Poetry Speakeasy and Open Mic

Samesame But Different LGBTQIA+ readers and writers festival presents the 2026 PRIDE Poetry Speakeasy and Open Mic in association with Auckland Libraries and Studio One Toi Tū. Bring your original or favourite rainbow poetry to read or come along to listen and enjoy. With MC Michael Giacon and guest poet Hebe Kearney.

Literature

Feb 11, 5 - 7pm  
Studio One Toi Tū  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



valvalal smithsmithsmith  
SOMEWHERE FRUITCAKE: a queer\*trans movement experiments workshop

Join us in a playful exploration of movement for the contexts of performance and art making. You can expect; Practices of Hope and Failure. Flaming Somatics Tests, Queer Feelings, Homo-Shamanism, Fun with Realness and Fakeness. Come as you are, no experience required. Facilitated by val smith.

Workshop

Feb 11, 6 - 8pm  
Grey Lynn Library  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



Pt Chevalier Community Centre  
Queer Wears - Pre-BGO Clothing Swap

Need some new threads in time for BGO? Then join us for our Gender-Affirming clothing swap. A free event where you can donate unwanted items and source a new-to-you outfit for Pride! Clothing donations are welcome - you can drop them off at Pt Chev Library between 2nd-11th Feb during opening hours, or bring them on the day.

Community

Feb 12, 5 - 7pm  
Pt Chev Community Centre  
FREE



Body Positive  
Test'n'Treat at Pride: Rainbow Sex & Wellbeing

Let's talk about queer sex, real questions, and what keeps us healthy. Join the crew from Test'n'Treat and Auckland Sexual Health, for an easy, open, judgement-free chat. We'll cover rapid testing, staying healthy, prevention tools like PrEP and DoxyPEP, and treatment options. Just good info and honest kōrero.

Community

Feb 12, 5 - 7pm  
Studio One Toi Tū  
FREE



Remuera Library  
Safe Space Crafternoon

Come and enjoy a safe space to be creative and celebrate our takatāpuhi and rainbow communities! Inspired by the Queer Joy! Project, there will be craft materials and inspiration for some amazing collage posters and bookmarks, as well as letter beads for bracelets. There's no rules! All ages, no registration needed.

Craft

Feb 12, 5.30 - 6.30pm  
Remuera Library  
FREE



Avondale Library  
Queer Book Club

Join us for a queer book club! Here you can chat about your favourite books with queer themes and recommend them to others. Drinks and snacks will be available. For ages 18+. Please book your free ticket via Humanitix.

Literature

Feb 12, 6 - 8pm  
Avondale Library  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



Events



Forest & Bird Youth Auckland Hub  
Reclaim Your Pride 2026

Let's give old fabric new life by making them into handheld pride flags! The unique patterns and textures make every flag personalised and unique to you. All fabrics kindly donated by Auckland tailors.

Workshop

Feb 13, 2 - 4pm  
Studio One Toi Tū  
FREE



Mt Roskill Library  
Messy Rainbows Potion Play

Get messy with us this Pride Month! Explore textures, colours, and sounds. Our messy sessions will be focusing on making potions to tea party concoctions where you'll be able to strengthen your motor functions and learn through play! Please note that tis event is recommended for children 4+ with parental supervision.

Workshop

Feb 13, 3.30 - 5pm  
Three Kings Tennis Pavillion  
FREE



PrideFest Out West  
Pronoun Badge Making

Drop in the Te Papa Rewarewa and make a badge that represents you! Decorate a unique badge with your pronouns, or anything that reflects who you are.

Craft

Feb 13, 3.30 - 4.30pm  
Te Papa Rewarewa | New Lynn Memorial Square  
FREE



Onehunga Oranga Hub  
Bingo Queen with Miss Trinity Ice

Hosted by queens, it's the only bingo where everyone wins! If it's not prizes, it's a great night filled with laughs and entertainment from beginning to end. This is a free event. Spaces are limited, so registrations are essential. This event is for people aged 18+.

Comedy

Feb 13, 6 - 7.30pm  
Fergusson Hall  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



Celestial Corner  
Celestial Love Market

Celebrate love at the Celestial Love Makers Market in Freyberg Square this Valentine's Day. Curated by Celestial Corner, featuring handcrafted goods from queer makers and rainbow allies, atmospheric music, and Elote Cartel's American Mexican street kai. Join us for a vibrant, inclusive gathering.

Community

Feb 14, 12 - 4pm  
Ellen Melville Centre  
FREE



Te Paataka Koorero o Takaanini  
Waiata-i-te-Whare: Pride Edition

Nau mai, haere mai! Throughout the day you'll be able to create your own charms with Remy Schwenke, get your chosen family portraits taken, and enjoy a special surprise musician you definitely won't want to miss. This is a space to come together, create, sing, and celebrate the many ways we show up for each other.

Community

Feb 14, 12 - 8pm  
Te Paataka Koorero o Takaanini, Takanini Library and Community Hub  
FREE



Glen Innes Library  
Crafting Pride: Badgemaking Workshop

Get creative and make a badge that shows what makes you unique! This activity is all about celebrating individuality and making something that represents you! Suitable for all ages—just bring your creativity!

Craft

Feb 14, 1 - 2pm  
Glen Innes Library  
FREE



Onehunga Library  
Love Stories

Onehunga Library is celebrating Love is Love + Library Lovers Day + Valentines on February the 14th cos it's a such a lover-ly combination! Come to our Takatāpui and Rainbow Community focused book discussion for snacks and chats about your fave love stories and add to your 'must-read' list.

Literature

Feb 14, 1 - 3pm  
Onehunga Library  
FREE



GendAffirm  
GendAffirm Presents: The Spotlight Series Exhibition

Join us for GendAffirm's Spotlight Series Exhibition, a celebration of trans visibility and empowerment. This exhibition showcases powerful photographic portraits of trans and gender-diverse people thriving in a wide range of careers, showing our community that they can be anything they want to be.

Exhibition

Feb 14, 9am - 5pm  
Te Paataka Koorero o Takaanini, Takanini Library and Community Hub  
FREE



Dodgeball For All, PrideFest Out West  
Summer Rush Dodgeball Tournament

Whether you're a seasoned player or just here for the vibes, everyone's welcome on the court. Movement is for everyone, and we're proud to create a space where you can play your way in a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment. Come for the dodgeball, stay for the community. Grab your team and join us!

Sports

Feb 14, 9am - 5pm  
Te Atatū Peninsula Community Hub  
\$10



Titirangi Community House  
Rainbow Heart String Art

Craft your own Pride-themed artwork to take home. We'll provide the materials—wood, nails, and plenty of rainbow string. Come together, celebrate Pride, express yourself, and make something meaningful in a warm and welcoming community space. Everyone is welcome—bring your creativity and your colours!

Craft

Feb 14, 10am - 12pm  
Titirangi Community House  
FREE



Glen Eden Library  
Love Letters: Glen Eden

In The Love That Dares, queer love speaks its name through a wonderful selection of surviving letters between lovers and friends, confidants and companions. This event is a casual space to enjoy reading queer love letters aloud & share our thoughts. You are also welcome to make a bracelet or write your own love letter.

Literature

Feb 14, 11am - 12pm  
Glen Eden Library  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



Studio One Toi Tū  
An ode to queer joy: making quilted plushie charms

Queer joy is a deeply relational experience for many of us, and is amplified through our community, loved ones and chosen whānau. This Valentine's Day, we invite you to craft a quilted plushie charm- for, or inspired by someone who nurtures your queer joy.

Workshop

Feb 14, 1 - 3pm  
Studio One Toi Tū  
FREE



Te Kōpua Waitākere Central Library  
Proud Voices Memoir Writing Workshop

Join Lil O'Brien for a free memoir writing workshop on how to write about the loves of your life - exes, partners, friends, and whānau - while staying true to your own story and sharing your journey. This interactive workshop is for adults 18 and over - all materials provided. Spaces are limited, so book your spot today!

Literature

Feb 14, 1 - 3pm  
Te Kōpua Waitākere Central Library  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



Chinese Pride New Zealand  
Rainbow Parade Sign-Making 彩虹游行标语牌制作

Are you keen to walk with Chinese Pride New Zealand in the upcoming Rainbow Parade on 21 Feb? This is a banner/sign making session for anyone who is interested in making your own signs for the day. Materials will be provided but you are more than welcome to bring your own.

Community

Feb 14, 2 - 4pm  
Mt Albert Library  
FREE



Botany Library  
Pride in Every Stitch: Upcycled Denim Tote Bag Session

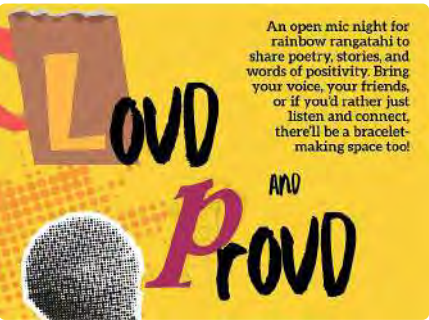
Bring along your old or abandoned jeans and transform them into a stylish tote! All sewing equipment will be provided, and our step-by-step demonstration makes it super easy even if you're a beginner. Come create something trendy, meaningful, and tote-ally you. For ages 16+. Registration via Eventbrite.

Craft

Feb 14, 3 - 5pm  
Botany Library  
FREE



Events



Auckland Libraries  
**Loud and Proud: Open Mic Night for Rainbow Rangatahi**

An open mic night for rainbow rangatahi to share poetry, stories, and words of positivity. Bring your voice, your friends, or if you'd rather just listen and connect, there'll be a bracelet-making space too!

Performance  
Feb 14, 4 - 7pm  
Grey Lynn Library  
FREE



Gribblehirst Community Hub  
**Gribblehirst Hub Pride: Queer Prom**

Welcome to Gribblehirst Hub's Queer Prom, where we invite queer people of all ages to come dance the night away as your authentic selves- whether that be in your own skin, with the partner you want or without- whatever you decide suits you best. Dress up or down, dance or sit on the sidelines, and show up however you want.

Community  
Feb 14, 5 - 9pm  
Gribblehirst Community Hub  
FREE



PrideFest Out West  
**Love Between the Pages: Speed Dating**

Join us for Love Between the Pages: Speed Dating — a 2-hour, platonic-focused social event for 18+ at PrideFest Out West. Facilitated by Danika and Kitty from Queer Speed Dating, this inclusive event invites you to mix, mingle, and connect in the welcoming sanctuary of the library. Booking required.

Community  
Feb 14, 20, Various times  
Te Pātaka Kōrero o Te Re-warewa | New Lynn Library  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



Prismatica  
**Prismatica**

Plants have always brought people together in many ways - to grow for food to eat, to decorate gardens and houses, for collecting, and occasionally as lessons in financial models. Prismatica is about coming together – to buy plants, meet other collectors and growers, talk about our shared passions, and learn from each other.

Community  
Feb 15, 9am - 1pm  
Mt Eden War Memorial Hall  
FREE



PithSwag  
**Writers Club**

Trying to write, but struggling to get into the routine? Working hard at your craft, seeking community? Wishing other writing clubs were on a Tuesday? If you answered yes to any of the above, this space might be for you! A quiet, focused co-working space for writers, followed by a structured peer feedback session.

Literature  
Feb 17, 5 - 8pm  
Fickling Centre  
FREE



Green Bay Community House  
**Rainbow Wraps**

Join us for a free lunch and make the best rainbow coloured wraps ever! We'll have a variety of brightly colored healthy wrap fillings for you to make a tasty lunch to enjoy with us in the sunshine. We'll be collecting donations for the Burnett Foundation.

Community  
Feb 18, 12 - 1pm  
Green Bay Community House  
FREE



Blackout Poetry Aotearoa, PrideFest Out West  
**Express Your Gender! Collage Workshop**

Drop in and make a unique collage or artwork, hosted by the team from Blackout Poetry Aotearoa! Using found images and upcycled materials, and transform these materials into vibrant and individual artowkrs that express your gender, or simply make any collage artwork! Free for all, all materials provided.

Craft  
Feb 19, 4 - 6pm  
Te Pātaka Kōrero o Te Re-warewa | New Lynn Library  
FREE



PrideFest Out West  
**Rainbow Roadshow - My Beautiful Whānau**

Rauhina Cooper shares her beautiful bilingual pukapuka Tōku Whānau Rerehua: My Beautiful Family. Illustrated by Isobel Joy Te Aho-White, this joyful session celebrates diverse whānau, identity, pride, and belonging, inviting tamariki and their caregivers into a warm, welcoming space. Perfect for tamariki and their grown-ups.

Literature  
Feb 20-21, Various times  
Te Pātaka Kōrero o Te Re-warewa | New Lynn Library  
FREE



Pt Chev Community Centre  
**Pt Chev Big Gay Out Rainbow Brunch**

Start your BGO day in style! Enjoy the sweet sounds from DJ Devine, relax in the sun with a mocktail slushie, grab a barista-made coffee, spin yourself a smoothie with the pedal-powered smoothie bikes, and enjoy facepainters, the photo booth and, of course, a leisurely buffet brunch. This is a completely FREE event.

Community  
Feb 15, 10.30am - 12.30pm  
Pt Chev Community Centre  
FREE



Rānui Library  
**Terracotta Pot Painting for Adults**

Decorate your own terracotta pot in any way that inspires you—rainbows, affirmations, bold colors, symbols of strength, messages of love, or anything that reflects you and your personal journey. Take home your pot along with seeds to plant—a living reminder of pride, resilience, strength, and new beginnings. Register now.

Craft  
Feb 15, 11am - 1pm  
Rānui Library  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



Studio One Toi Tū  
**Life Drawing with a Model – Tony Guo**

A fun life drawing class teaching you how to observe a model's pose in real life and translate it into a drawing. By the end of the class, you will complete a few drawings on some quick poses and a more detailed drawing from a longer pose.

Workshop  
Feb 16, 6 - 8.30pm  
Studio One Toi Tū  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



Highland Park Library  
**Badge Making Workshop at Highland Park Library**

Join us for a fun, hands-on activity where you can design and create your own badges to show your uniqueness and celebrate the beauty of diversity. Expect welcoming, inclusive space for all and an opportunity to express your identity through art. All materials for badge making will be provided. This workshop is for all ages.

Craft  
Feb 17, 3.30 - 4.30pm  
Highland Park Library  
FREE



Mt Albert Library  
**Rainbow Crafternoon**

Join us for a special Rainbow Crafternoon with local creative craft expert Rosemary Peppermint. Design and make your very own unique creation to take home that celebrates who you are and what you're proud of! All materials provided. Open to the young and young at heart.

Craft  
Feb 20, 3.30 - 4.30pm  
Mt Albert Library  
FREE



Te Manawa  
**Rainbow Reels**

Join us for a special Pride Month screening at Te Manawa! A knight from a futuristic medieval world must rely on his shapeshifting nemesis to prove his innocence when he is framed for a crime he didn't commit. Suitable for 11+ or with parental supervision. Please note that this event requires registration.

Film  
Feb 20, 4 - 6.30pm  
Te Manawa  
FREE



Wesley Community Centre  
**PUKETAPAPA PRIDE CELEBRATION Bike + Train to the Pride Rave**

Join us for pre-ride activities, including bike safety checks by Mt Roskill Hub mechanics, bike decorating, face painting, Zumba, and snacks and refreshments. Our ride to the Bike Pals Pride Rave departs Wesley Community Centre at 7pm.

Community  
Feb 20, 5 - 7pm  
Wesley Community Centre and Roskill Youth Zone  
FREE



Te Oro  
**OHN RUNWAY WORKSHOPS**

John Tanuvasa, founder and CEO of Ohn Clothing will be hosting four model workshops to build confidence, develop runway and posing skills, and introduce young talent to the world of fashion. These sessions will lead into a final-day fashion show, where participants will showcase what they've learned in front of an audience.

Workshop  
Workshops: Feb 20, 21, 22, 27 at Various time. Show: Feb 28  
Te Oro  
FREE

Events



Events



Glen Eden Library, Naomi Azoulay  
A Collage Workshop:  
Stories Carried Across  
Waters

Come relax & feel your flow state with the famous & fabulous artist Naomi Azoulay! Create intuitive collages that honour the many journeys, identities, and whakapapa that shape life in Tāmaki Makaurau. We will use images, colour, and texture to explore belonging, resilience, and the interwoven stories that connect us.

Craft

Feb 21, 10am - 2pm  
Glen Eden Library  
FREE



PrideFest Out West  
Geek Out For Pride!

West Auckland's rainbow pop-culture celebration — a safe, inclusive festival for geeks of every flavour! Explore our artist alley packed with local creators, food trucks and more. Whether you're into comics, cosplay, gaming, crafting, collectibles, fantasy worlds or sci-fi obsessions, this is your space to celebrate it proudly.

Community

Feb 21, 10am - 4pm  
Te Atatū Peninsula Commu-  
nity Hub  
FREE



Te Manawa Community Hub  
Author Talk: Laura  
Vincent, Author of Hoods  
Landing

Hear author Laura Vincent discuss love, life and death across four generations of women in her debut novel. Described as “a Southern Gothic-via-rural South Auckland anti-tragedy,” Hoods Landing is about shoddy pasts, ambiguous futures and the imperfect bonds that tie family together.

Literature

Feb 21, 2 - 3pm  
Te Manawa  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



The Quiet Chaos Club  
The Quiet Chaos Club

A community event where queer, neurodivergent, and disabled folks can come together in a stress-free environment. We invite participants to bring along a “side quest”, whether it's a craft, tactile stim, or small project, so you can engage quietly while soaking in insights from our featured guest speakers.

Community

Feb 22, 11am - 12.30pm  
Studio One Toi Tū  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



Avondale Library  
Author Talk with Gina  
Cole

A special author talk with Gina Cole, winner of the 2017 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards. Gina is best known for Black Ice Matter, and for her debut novel, Na Viro which explores the innovative subgenre of Pasifikafuturism. Our talk will focus on Gina's journey as a queer author and her approach to telling LGBTQ+ stories.

Literature

Feb 25, 6 - 8pm  
Avondale Library  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



Pukekohe Library  
Inclusive Storytime

A 30 minute inclusive themed storytime session featuring stories, rhymes, singing and dancing. A great opportunity to encourage an interest in books while building language and literacy skills.

Literature

Feb 26, 10.30 - 11am  
Pukekohe Library  
FREE



Te Manawa  
Find Your People  
(Rangatahi/Youth)

Join us for a book kōrero celebrating rainbow reads – pukapuka | books by and about LGBTTIQA+ experiences. Come along to meet other rangatahi who enjoy reading, chat with our friendly librarians, and leave with a kete of reading inspiration! This session is for youth aged 14–18. Book to secure a spot.

Community

Feb 26, 4 - 5pm  
Te Manawa  
FREE



Mt Roskill Library  
Mt Roskill Teen Pride  
Club

Join a welcoming space where LGBTQ+ teens and allies can connect, create, and be themselves. We'll have snacks, crafts, games, and plenty of time to chat in a relaxed, supportive environment. Come make friends, express yourself, and celebrate pride in community. Suitable for ages 13-18.

Community

Feb 26, 4.30 - 6pm  
Mt Roskill Library  
FREE



Auckland Central Library  
Booknic

Come join us for a Booknic to celebrate PRIDE. All ages welcome! We will provide some catering and library books. Meeting point is Central City Library before we venture up to Albert Park. Bring your favourite book and blanket and come have fun with other Takatāpui and Rainbow book lovers.

Community

Feb 22, 12 - 3pm  
Auckland Central Library  
FREE



PithSwag  
Tell Us What You're  
Reading!

An open-mic for readers! Can't stop gushing to your friends about a novel? Compelled by a historical archive? Wish everyone on earth would read somebody's masters thesis? We want to hear about it! Sign-up online and prepare a slideshow presentation on your chosen text, or just come along to listen.

Literature

Feb 22, 1.30 - 3pm  
Fickling Centre  
FREE



Albany Village Library  
Love Letters

A casual space to enjoy reading love letters aloud from “The love that dares” . “Alongside the more famous names coexist beautifully written letters by lesser-known lovers. Together, they weave a narrative of queer love through the centuries, through the romantic, often funny, and always poignant words of those who lived it.”

Literature

Feb 22, 2 - 3pm  
Albany Village Library  
FREE



Mt Albert Library, Earth Action Trust  
Takatāpui and Rainbow  
Community Flood  
Resilience Workshop

Held in partnership with Earth Action Trust, join us for this workshop on Flood Resilience designed for takatāpui and rainbow communities. Learn how to keep yourself safe and resilient in flood emergency scenarios, and have the opportunity to ask our experts any questions you may have in a safe and inclusive environment.

Workshop

Feb 22, 3 - 4pm  
Mt Albert Library  
FREE

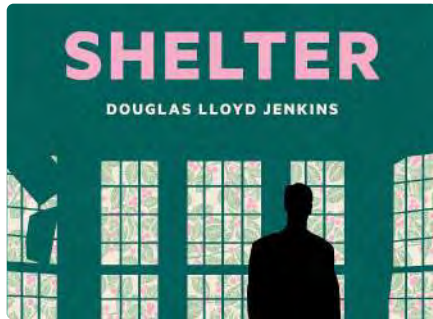


Te Manawa  
Find Your People  
(Pakeke/Adults)

Join us for a book kōrero celebrating rainbow reads – pukapuka | books by and about LGBTTIQA+ experiences. We'll use guided activities to get the conversation going! Come along to meet others who enjoy reading, chat with our friendly Librarians, and leave with a kete of reading inspiration! This session is for 18+.

Community

Feb 26, 6 - 7pm  
Te Manawa  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



Remuera Library  
Author Talk – Douglas  
Lloyd Jenkins

Join local author Douglas Lloyd Jenkins, who will be interviewed by fellow author Stephanie Johnson about Douglas's book Shelter. Douglas Lloyd Jenkins is an acclaimed New Zealand writer, academic, museum director and television presenter. Despite winning numerous awards for his writing, this is Douglas's debut novel.

Literature

Feb 26, 6:30 - 7:30pm  
Remuera Library  
FREE



Positive Women  
HIV & The Law: Report  
Launch & Community  
Awareness Event

Join Positive Women Inc., Burnett Foundation, Body Positive, and Toitū te Ao for a special launch of a new report exploring the experiences of people living with HIV in Aotearoa. Based on a nationwide survey, the report offers fresh insights and clear recommendations to help ensure people living with HIV are informed, supported, and safe.

Community

Feb 27, 3 - 7pm  
Ellen Melville Centre  
FREE



PrideFest Out West  
Drag Bingo X Trinity Ice

Join us for three hilarious and highly competitive games of bingo, hosted by our fabulous drag queen Trinity Ice! Spaces are limited - bookings are essential. Grab your ticket now! This event is best suited for people ages 15+. An alcohol and drug free event.

@janelle.makes.a.mess

Comedy

Feb 27-28, 7 - 9pm  
New Lynn Community Hub  
FREE

Events



Events



Queers & Wares: Pride

Queers & Wares: Pride is an annual celebration of queer creativity, community, and connection. Come hang out, browse beautiful handmade pieces, vintage clothing, and art - all by local artists. We are proud to support small, sustainable businesses here in Tāmaki Makaurau.

Community

Feb 28, 10am - 3pm  
Studio One Toi Tū  
FREE



Mt Roskill Library  
Rainbow Crafternoon:  
Unconventional Self-  
Portraits

Join us for a fun, creative, and affirming art session where you'll design an unconventional self-portrait that celebrates your unique identity. No art experience needed—just bring your imagination. Connect with others, explore self-expression, and enjoy a relaxed afternoon of queer-centered creativity and community.

Craft

Feb 28, 2 - 3pm  
Mt Roskill Library  
FREE



PrideFest Out West  
Something Colourful -  
Beading Workshop for  
Rangatahi

Join this two-hour beading session where you get to rummage through secondhand beads and give them a new life. Choose to make either a necklace or a keychain of your own! You can bring along inspiration or you can just let your creativity flow! For Ages 13 - 17. Facilitated by @janelle.makes.a.mess

Craft

Feb 28, 10am - 12pm  
Te Pātaka Kōrero o Te Re-  
warewa | New Lynn Library  
FREE



Highland Park Library  
Rainbow Tie-Dye  
Workshop at Highland  
Park Library

Design your own wearable art using bold, brilliant colours. Whether you're an experienced maker or trying tie-dye for the first time, our facilitators will guide you through different techniques. All materials provided, leave with a one-of-a-kind creation! This session is for teens and adults. Booking required through Eventbrite.

Craft

Feb 28, 2 - 3pm  
Highland Park Library  
FREE



Onehunga Library  
Live Art Comp

It's wild, it's fast and it's all on display. Join us at the Onehunga Library Live Art Comp where a talented team of queer artists will battle it out for on-the-day supremacy. Cheer on your fave and be inspired by awesome art.

Performance

Feb 28, 1 - 3pm  
Onehunga Library  
FREE



Auckland Libraries Reading  
Engagement  
Queer Romance Writing  
Workshop

Join author Jamie Sands (Mt Eden Witches, Fairyland Romances and Detective Duarte series) for a free queer romance writing workshop. Learn how to plan, plot and write inclusive romance stories and create characters Rainbow readers will take to heart. Develop your style and find your audience. Open to adults 18+ - book today!

Literature

Feb 28, 4 - 5.30pm  
Mt Albert Library  
FREE  
Adults (18+ years)



Marydahfairy  
Braid + Paint with  
Marydahfairy

Braid + Paint is a calm, low-sensory creative workshop for teens and adults. Participants learn a simple braiding technique and weave their braid onto canvas, then build a gentle personal artwork using colour and texture. The session offers a quiet space for reflection, connection and closing Pride Month with softness.

Workshop

Feb 28, 2 - 4pm  
Onehunga Community Cen-  
tre  
FREE



Auckland Queer Writers  
The Auckland Queer  
Writers Anthology Book  
Launch

Come celebrate the launch of the Auckland Queer Writers Anthology 2026! A dozen queer writers from around Tāmaki Makaurau have come together to produce short stories and poetry on the theme of the Progress Pride Flag. We'll have live readings, free food and drink and books available to purchase.

Literature

Feb 28, 7 - 9pm  
Studio One Toi Tū  
FREE

AUCKLAND PRIDE  
2026

11-28 FEB  
more info at  
prowlproductionsnz



PROWL  
PRODUCTIONS



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Open Rehearsal



Step behind the curtain at Aotearoa's first PROWL FEST and witness the magic of our award-winning show PROWL. This free open rehearsal gives you a front-row look at the attitude, energy, and fierceness of street dance-theatre in action.

11 Feb, 6 - 7:30PM | Te Oro | FREE / RSVP Required

Free Waacking Workshops



Dive into camp cabaret mayhem with two free waacking workshops, open to all skill levels. Learn waacking foundations, musicality, storytelling, and unapologetic femme flair through playful prompts, fun exercises, and supportive queer energy.

13 Feb, 2 Sessions: 5:30 - 7PM & 7 - 8:30PM | Te Oro | FREE

Waacking Battle Night



Step into the spotlight, darlings! PROWL FEST's Waacking Battle Night serves fierce theatrics, musical flair, and unapologetic queer excellence. Whether you're new to the style or a seasoned slayer, this battle is your moment to test your skills, flex your identity, and be seen.

14 Feb, 6PM | Raynham Park | \$10 - \$15 (FREE for Battlers)

Free Waacking Workshops & Community Jam



As part of Aotearoa's first PROWL FEST, Prowl Productions presents a full night of free queer street-dance magic. Werk it, twirl it, claim your space. PROWL, PROTECT & STAND.

17 Feb, 2 Sessions: 6 - 7:30PM & 7:30 - 9PM | Community Jam: 9 - 10PM  
Ellen Melville Centre | FREE

PROWL Show + After Parties



Back and revamped and reimagined, PROWL is a street dance-theatre spectacle exploring femininity, identity, and the fluidity of self. The show challenges traditional narratives while celebrating the fire, strength, and flair of femme expression.

27 - 28 Feb, 8PM | Raynham Park | \$18 - \$25

PROWL Fest 2026

Presented by:  
Prowl Productions x Proud Centres x Raynham Park

Rise. Swerve. Prowl. This Pride, Auckland transforms into a queer, camp cabaret playground as Prowl Productions unleashes Aotearoa's first PROWL Festival, a celebration of femme power, street dance, and unapologetic expression. Every move hits with musical flair, theatrical energy, and camp cabaret magic.

For more information, follow us on Instagram: @prowlproductions



# COMMUNI-TEA:

## ANTI-BLACKNESS IN "INCLUSIVE" SPACES

Written by: Black people who are tired of your shit

### PREFACE:

This piece is offered with aroha and a deep commitment to the growth, safety, and flourishing of our takatāpui and wider queer communities here in Aotearoa. It emerges not from anger or to cause division, but from the mamae of lived experience of our Black whānaunga, and the hope that by naming uncomfortable truths, we can begin to build spaces that are genuinely inclusive, respectful, and grounded in solidarity. We envision a future where our diverse identities can thrive together—honoured, protected, and celebrated—not commodified or erased.

May these words be a step towards greater understanding, accountability, and collective uplift.

He waka eke noa.  
Tihei mauri ora.  
- the team at Utu-ā-Matimati

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** Firstly, we want to acknowledge that the native people of Aotearoa and the people of the Pacific Islands have their own struggles, history, and systemic oppression. As Tangatā Te Tiriti we acknowledge we are on Māori land and believe in Māori sovereignty. We also want to acknowledge that the Black identity is one many people across the world feel they share a connection to. This is thanks to our shared colonizers who did not care to understand our nuance and in the quest of dominance **used the concept of race to rationalize their brutality.** We are speaking specifically of people of African descent who were and are categorized as Black. Racialisation has been going on for centuries and we want to differentiate between being categorized as Black vs Black being a descriptive for having ample melanin. **All people of African descent can be categorized as Black but not all people with darker skin are of African descent.**

### THE MYTH OF UNIVERSALITY

Just because we're all POC that doesn't mean we have the same struggles and history.

Envision this: you go somewhere new for a holiday, and you see someone handing out moko kauae body stickers on the street. How would you feel if you saw non-Māori people wearing moko kauae because they felt like it was 'cool' or 'trendy' and washing it off when they felt like it? Without knowing what it means and how deep this tradition goes. What if that person was wearing it in a place that is meant to be a safe space for Māori? You'd probably think it was weird at best and downright offensive at worst, a slap in your ancestors' face.

It would seem obvious to have humility and respect when partaking in someone's culture, although this doesn't always happen, especially when non-Black people partake in Black culture. With how widely Black culture is appropriated on social media, people often don't know, or don't care to learn about the origins of the culture. They just think it's 'cool' and 'trendy'—that Black culture is basically just 'internet culture' or 'internet slang.'

### 'INTERNET SLANG'..PLEASE IT'S NOT GIVING CUNT, IT'S GIVING COLONIAL

We're sure you've heard at least some of these terms—whether on social media or in conversations with your friends: 'Purr', 'Period', 'Periodt', 'Slay', 'AF' (e.g., 'tired AF'), 'Ate' (as in 'she ate'), 'Gagged', 'It's giving...', 'Ghetto', and 'Gowrl.'

You may have heard people call those terms 'Internet slang' or 'Gen Z slang'. And it may surprise you to know that it's not either of those, but rather AAVE.

AAVE (African American Vernacular English) is a distinct form of American English. While its exact roots are not clear, linguists agree that a large portion of the origin and grammar of AAVE arose from the enslavement of Black Americans.

It's sad to see that the dialect Black Americans created during enslavement and oppression is now just called 'internet slang' or 'Gen Z slang' when the roots of AAVE began long before corporations co-opted it on X.

### IT'S NOT 'JUST HAIR'

Hair oppression is a very real thing that Black people have endured for centuries. As much as non-Black celebrities can wear cornrows and box braids, it will never erase the fact that Black people have been—and still are—oppressed for our hair textures and styles. Cornrows and box braids are intrinsically tied to Black history, especially that of Black Americans. During enslavement, Black Americans used braids as escape maps, weaving pathways to freedom into their hair. They also hid rice grains in the braids to sustain them while escaping from the slave plantations.

### Our hair was used as a mode of survival.

It's undeniably linked to Black history and the struggles that Black people have faced. But now, non-Black people are using it to be 'trendy' and get likes on Instagram.

An unfortunate reality here in Aotearoa is that Black hair braiders often charge Pasifika and other non-Black minorities less to get their hair braided because their hair textures are considered 'easier to handle.' If you have 4b or 4c hair, you'll probably have to pay more to get your own cultural hairstyle done—despite needing your hair to be braided as a protective style specifically for your hair texture. Non-Black minorities don't need it to protect their hair as they have different hair textures than Black people do.

**For us, it's protection. It's our culture—our history. For them, it's just an aesthetic.**

### APPRECIATION VS APPROPRIATION, HUH.. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

You might be thinking, "Well duh, I know the difference." But I'd bet that most of you have not examined and attempted to rectify your internalised anti-Blackness.

When someone we know tried to communicate with people in an 'inclusive' space about them appropriating cornrows, the response they got was, "Of course we know about cornbraids, we're not stupid."

Sis. That's not even a hairstyle.

Anti-Blackness can show in moments like this: silencing Black people for your own comfort, instead of having the humility to acknowledge harmful behaviour and apologize.

We get it.... it's not all black and white, and there's some overlap of cultures being similar in some ways, but whenever we see non-Black people with wavy-ish hair (but claim it's curly) wearing box braids, it looks corny AF.

**It's giving early onset baldness.**

Their hair textures are not meant for Black hairstyles, so it's not only damaging their hair follicles—it's damaging our spirits. **We're sick and tired of seeing that BS!**



### CULTURE IS SHARED, YES. BUT, IT SHOULDN'T BE STOLEN

We believe non-Black people should approach Black culture with the understanding that they are not a part of that culture or community—because they aren't. They should try to learn about Black culture, rather than commodifying pieces of it because they think it's trendy while ignoring the historical and cultural significance. Non-Black people do not have an ancestral connection to Black culture and Black history and should approach it with the curiosity and respect of an outsider instead of with the intention to benefit from or appropriate it.

Simply put, having melanin doesn't mean you can dig into everyone else's cultures as you wish. Too often, people cherry pick the aspects of Black Culture they see as being 'cooler' or useful for social elevation.

**Our culture is not a social propellant.**

### WHY CAN'T WE HAVE A SPACE FOR US?

I remember attending a Ballroom event here in Aotearoa that was advertised as an 'inclusive' space for everyone, regardless of ethnicity or cultural background. The thought of having a space like that sounded so nice to me—especially because Ballroom was a space created by people like me, for people like me.

But when I got there, it wasn't anything like I thought it would be. There weren't any other Black people there. I felt like I didn't belong. I saw non-Black people wearing my cultural hairstyles and using AAVE. It made me feel isolated and uncomfortable and, while I tried to stay and have a good time, I couldn't ignore the lingering feelings of alienation and loneliness.

First published in Utu ā Matimati Zine #2.  
Find out more about this publication:  
[utuamatimati.com](http://utuamatimati.com)



When it comes to other minorities in Aotearoa, people are often protective of their cultural spaces and customs, only wanting members of their community to be able to participate, which is understandable. However, when it comes to Black culture, people are all too eager to appropriate and share it with people who are not even Black. They wouldn't do this with their own cultural spaces, but when it comes to Black culture, they think it's acceptable.

BIPOC OR IPOC?

In these spaces—spaces that are meant to be for everyone, especially Queer POC—fewer and fewer Black people are attending. You might see elements of our culture, but we're barely there, and this isn't a coincidence.

In Queer spaces, people will acknowledge that these spaces exist because of Black and Brown queer people. For example, in Ballroom, they'll give a quick nod to the Black and Latin Americans who created and fought for it. However, that's as far as their allyship seems to go—it's tokenistic at best and performative at worst.

It's really disheartening getting excited for and showing up to events that claim to respect us, that talk about how our ancestors founded them—while in the same breath allowing the appropriation of our hair, speech and spirituality.

Being less than 1% of the population in Aotearoa, finding safe spaces for Black—especially Queer Black—folks is proving to be almost impossible. The anti-Blackness we experience bleeds down from every community as a by-product of colonialism, and we are the final bucket. It's hurtful from white people and it's more hurtful from people of colour.

Why is the space that was created for us and by our ancestors ultimately not safe for us? It's ironic how other minorities insist on appropriating AAVE and Black culture, yet they forget to include actual Black people in it.

CHECK YOUR ANTI-BLACKNESS

"Race is real because we perceive it. Racism is real because we enact it." - Adam Rutherford, How to Argue With a Racist: History, Science, Race and Reality

Anti-Blackness is deeply tied to the idea of proximity to whiteness—meaning that the closer someone is to whiteness, whether in appearance, culture, or social standing, the more privileges they tend to have. In contrast, Blackness is positioned as the lowest and most devalued identity in racial hierarchies.

Anti-Blackness doesn't just disappear because people claim to be 'not racist.' It requires actively unlearning biases, questioning the systems in place, and uplifting Black voices in meaningful ways. It means giving Black creators their credit, standing against colourism, and recognizing how neocolonial structures still impact Black communities today. It means seeing anti-Blackness for what it is—a system designed to uphold whiteness at all costs—and refusing to participate in it.

At its core, anti-Blackness means Blackness is devalued, but Black culture is constantly taken, repackaged, and profited from by Non-Black people. Appropriating Black culture while ignoring anti-Blackness is just continuing the colonizer's work. Because if there's one thing history has proven, it's that Black people create, innovate, and thrive—despite a world built to keep us at the bottom. The question is, who benefits from keeping things that way?

And more importantly—what are we going to do about it?

ULTIMATELY—YOU MAY HAVE IT, BUT IT IS NOT YOURS

When questioned about their appropriation of aspects of Black Culture, Non-Black people will often respond with, "Well, the people of that community gave me the garment/jewelry/braids/etc., so it's mine now."

You may have the garment, but it's not yours. You may have the braids, but they're not yours. You are not connected to those things because you are not a part of that culture. They are not yours.

Ultimately, it is natural to want to learn more about other culture— humans are naturally curious beings, and there is a lot to celebrate. However, there comes a point when curiosity becomes entitlement to knowledge and experiences that are simply not your own.

You may have taken the language, hairstyle, the culture—but you will never carry the weight of its history. Give Black culture the same protection and respect you give your own.



Performers featured in Jennie Livingston's 1990 documentary Paris Is Burning.  
Off White Prod./The Kobal Collection

PICTURED: '26/'26 shows at Basement Theatre. House: Can't Think Straight - 2026. Large Rectangle: may mga uod ang utak mo - 2026, photo Jinki Cambroneiro. Octagon: House of Ilok - 2026, photo Scott Maxim. Oval: Little Gay In - 2026. Hexagon: Little Gay In - 2026. Small Rectangle: Scorned - 2026.

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PRIDE

SUMMER

FEB-APR 2026

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Maramataka  
MĀORI GROUP SHOW  
11 FEB - 07 MAR 2026

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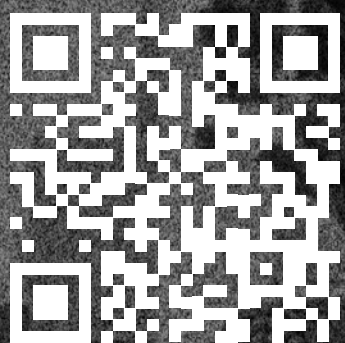
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