

About TheatreWorks

Mairangi Players are a community theatre group that has been at the leading edge of the North Shore theatre scene in Auckland since 1952.

We operate as TheatreWorks, which is also the name of our theatre in Birkenhead.

Our point of difference is putting youth-centred productions at the core of our activities.



TheatreWorks Birkenhead

Recreation Drive,
Birkenhead,
North Shore

PO Box 34-455, Birkenhead

Phone: 028 418 1604
email info@mairangiplayers.co.nz

Script Writing and Directing Labs

for youth aged 13 to 19.

The labs:

With support from the Kaipatiki Local Board of Auckland Council, TheatreWorks are running professionally-led script-writing and directing labs aimed at fostering community involvement in theatre. The labs will run from May to July 2020. There will be 10 weeks of labs on Sundays, run by professional tutors—see about The Tutors in this flyer.

Following the labs, the scripts will be performed for the public on stage in our 70-seat theatre under the direction of the student directors in a short season at TheatreWorks.

Writing Labs: Every Sunday between the 3rd of May and the 5th July. From 10am - 1pm.

Directing Labs: Every Sunday between the 10th of May and the 19th of July, from 2 - 5pm. No lab on the 14th of June (or the afternoon of the 7th of June).

Combined workshop session on the 7th of June from 10am - 1pm.

Applications:

Applicants should be aged 13 to 19 on May 3rd, and keen to pursue writing or directing for theatre.

You need two references, for example from your Drama or English teacher.

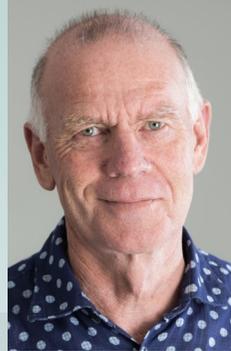
Places are limited to 10 for each class.

There is no tuition fee but participants will have to become members of Mairangi Players. The annual membership fee is \$15.00.

Applications must be submitted by 9 April 2020—email us for a link to the online form, for a pdf form or just for more information at info@mairangiplayers.co.nz

The tutors:

Gary Henderson



Gary is a New Zealand playwright and theatre writing teacher whose work is produced and published locally and internationally. He has taught courses at Unitec, AUT, Auckland University, and the International Institute of Modern Letters at Victoria University.

His most travelled play is *Skin Tight*, written in 1994 and performed regularly ever since. The original New Zealand cast performed it at the Edinburgh Fringe in 1998, winning a Fringe First Award. In 2016 a French translation by Xavier Maillieux - *Te tenir contre moi* - was produced by Théâtre L'Instant in Montréal, and last year it had a season at the New Theatre, Dublin.

His most recent premiere was his acclaimed sci-fi thriller *Shepherd* at The Court Theatre, Christchurch, in 2015. Current projects are an original new play for The Court, *The Breath of Silence*, and an adaptation of David Geller's book *Things That Matter* for the Auckland Theatre Company.

In 2013 Gary received the Playmarket Award acknowledging his significant artistic contribution to New Zealand theatre, and last year he was the University of Auckland writer in residence, based at the Michael King Writers' Centre.

Benjamin Henson

Benjamin is one of New Zealand's busiest theatre directors, forging a diverse career, spanning form, scale and medium including original works, scripted premieres and opera. Prior to New Zealand, Benjamin worked for one of the UK's largest youth arts organisations, leading participatory projects for primarily at-risk youth, including taking six productions a year to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe for nine consecutive years. Ben later trained in theatre direction at the Mountview Academy of Theatre arts, London, while continuing to direct for the London fringe and cabaret circuit. Following projects in Germany and France, Ben was director in residence at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford.



Under theatre collective Fractious Tash Ben has received critical acclaim for *Earnest*, *Not Psycho* and *Titus*, which was then remounted for a sell-out season at the Pop-Up Globe (featuring Beyoncé covers by NZ's only steelpan band, no less).

Ben opened ATC's 2018 season with the NZ premiere of *Red Speedo* by American playwright Lucas Hnath. He then closed their 2019 season with *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead*, winning best production design in the Auckland Theatre Awards. The award-winning production of Last Tapes' *Valerie* is currently touring NZ, following dates in Australia and Edinburgh, adding to its accolades the coveted Fringe First Award at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.