

# Tertiary Drama Pathways in Aotearoa



**Drama**  
NEW ZEALAND  mahi whakaari  
o Aotearoa

[www.drama.org.nz/advocacy](http://www.drama.org.nz/advocacy)



# Tertiary Pathways in Aotearoa NZ

This (Brochure) was created by Drama NZ for ākonga, whānau and kaiako to explore the pathways for Drama study beyond High School. Drama students in Aotearoa NZ can continue their Drama studies from certificate level through to Bachelors and Doctorate degrees at the following Tertiary providers.

Some of these programmes and courses may be taken in conjunction with other subjects at University/ Polytechnics or Kura, some are stand alone courses.

Drama examines and challenges established ideas and prejudices. It encourages critical and creative thinking and innovation. It generates new ideas and reflects on society.

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To find more interactive links related to the institutions listed in this brochure, please visit our website

[www.drama.org.nz/advocacy](http://www.drama.org.nz/advocacy)

or use this QR code



# University Programmes



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**AUCKLAND**  
Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau  
NEW ZEALAND

## Auckland University of Technology

**Location:** Auckland

**Programmes:**

- Bachelor of Communications Studies
- Postgraduate options

**Prerequisites:** University Entrance

Follow your passion and challenge yourself to forge a career in creative arts and design. A combination of hands-on, real world learning and theory that will enable you to prepare for a career in a range of different creative areas, including acting, art and design, contemporary dance, graphic design and animation, screen arts, photography and visual arts.

**Contact:**

- 👤 Dr Rosser Johnson
- 🔗 <https://academics.aut.ac.nz/rosser.johnson>
- 🌐 <https://www.aut.ac.nz>

## Auckland University

**Location:** Auckland

**Programmes:**

- Bachelor of Arts in Drama
- Bachelor of Arts honours in Drama
- Master of Arts in Drama

**Prerequisites:** University Entrance

We combine the literary study of drama with experience in all aspects of performance. As well as learning about the history of the theatre, you will have the opportunity to develop skills in speaking and presentation, acting and staging. Course work includes the opportunity to participate in a public production directed by an outside professional.

**Contact:**

- 👤 Claudia Marquis
- ✉ [c.marquis@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:c.marquis@auckland.ac.nz)
- 🌐 <https://www.auckland.ac.nz>





## Waikato University

**Location:** Hamilton

**Programmes:**

- Bachelor of Arts

**Prerequisites:** University Entrance

The programme of study uses a theory-through-practice approach to teaching and learning, to enable students to gain an informed understanding of theatre and dance. A major in Theatre Studies is a rich and challenging pathway to an undergraduate Arts degree which can have a wide range of vocational applications.

**Contact:**

- 🌐 <https://www.waikato.ac.nz>



## Victoria University

**Location:** Wellington

**Programmes:**

- Bachelor of Arts in Theatre
- Graduate Diploma in Arts
- Post Graduate study

**Prerequisites:** University Entrance

Gain skills in theatre production—including script writing, set design and directing. You'll also delve into the areas of dramaturgy, acting, stage management, design, publicity and devising.

With support from experienced lecturers and using a fully equipped theatre, Studio 77, you'll discover what it takes to put on a production—from the kernel of an idea to the final curtain and pack out.

**Contact:**

- 🌐 <https://www.wgtn.ac.nz>



Women Beware Women by Thomas Middleton and Fiona Samuel, Actors Stephanie Ramlose, Lauren O'Hara, Chloe Jaques Designers Rosie Gilmore, Jacqueline Cox - credit Philip Merry

## Drama NZ Associate



### Otago University

**Location:** Dunedin

**Programmes:**

- Bachelor of Performing Arts
- Or as part of a Bachelor of Arts
- Includes postgraduate studies.

**Prerequisites:** University Entrance

At Otago, practice and analytical investigation inform and support one another. You'll study different times and cultures from a theatre perspective, ranging from Shakespeare, to performance art, to bicultural theatre.

Your lecturers have professional as well as academic expertise in the fields of acting, producing, directing, criticism, stage design, lighting and sound design, playwriting and translation.

**Contact:**

🌐 <https://www.otago.ac.nz>



We all want a space to feel safe and to be able to explore ourselves and not be judged for it.

**Drama** class provides that.



**Marwin Silerio**

Personal Trainer and Actor  
Bachelors in Performing Arts Majoring in Screen & Theatre Acting

# Degree and Diploma programmes

Drama NZ Associate



## Toi Whakaari: NZ Drama School

**Location:** Wellington

**Programmes:**

- Bachelor of Performing Arts (Acting)

**Prerequisites:** Applications require either audition or portfolio work.

Toi Whakaari has 5 full-time courses for performing arts students. We also offer masterclasses and workshops. The Bachelor of Performing Arts (Acting) is run over three years, this intensive degree programme is designed to train a Responsive Actor – an actor who has the courage, skill and flexibility to meet any opportunity as they build a career in our ever-changing arts landscape. As an actor in training at Toi Whakaari, you will work across screen and live performance in class, studio and full productions. You will work solo, in an ensemble and in collaboration with other training artists across other disciplines in the kura.

**Contact:**

✉ [drama@toiwhakaari.ac.nz](mailto:drama@toiwhakaari.ac.nz)

🌐 <https://www.toiwhakaari.ac.nz>

Drama NZ Associate



## National Academy of Singing and Dramatic Art - NASDA

**Location:** Christchurch - at Ara Institute of Canterbury

**Programmes:**

- Bachelor of Performing Arts (Musical Theatre)
- Post Graduate Diploma in Creative practice
- Master of Creative Practice
- NZ Certificate in Performing Arts (level 4)

**Prerequisites:** University Entrance and by audition

You'll gain practical experience in performance and production work in key theatre disciplines such as acting, singing and dance, as well as studies in spoken voice, music theory, theatre history, technical theatre skills and research methods. From the second year, you will refine your programme of study to suit your strengths and interests, choosing to specialise in music theatre, or continue with a broader pathway defined by your own areas of interest and ability. In the final year, most assessment is focused on performance in practice and allows for considerable work integrated learning in industry settings and further specialisation to develop other, performance-related skills within the worlds of applied theatre and theatre for the stage.

**Contact:**

🌐 <https://www.ara.ac.nz>  
search "NASDA"

Credit Triebels Photography



## Drama NZ Associate



### Unitec

**Location:** Auckland

**Programmes:**

- Certificate in Study and Career preparation (level 4) - screen arts acting and technical production.

**Prerequisites:** <https://www.unitec.ac.nz/> search "Screen Arts, acting"

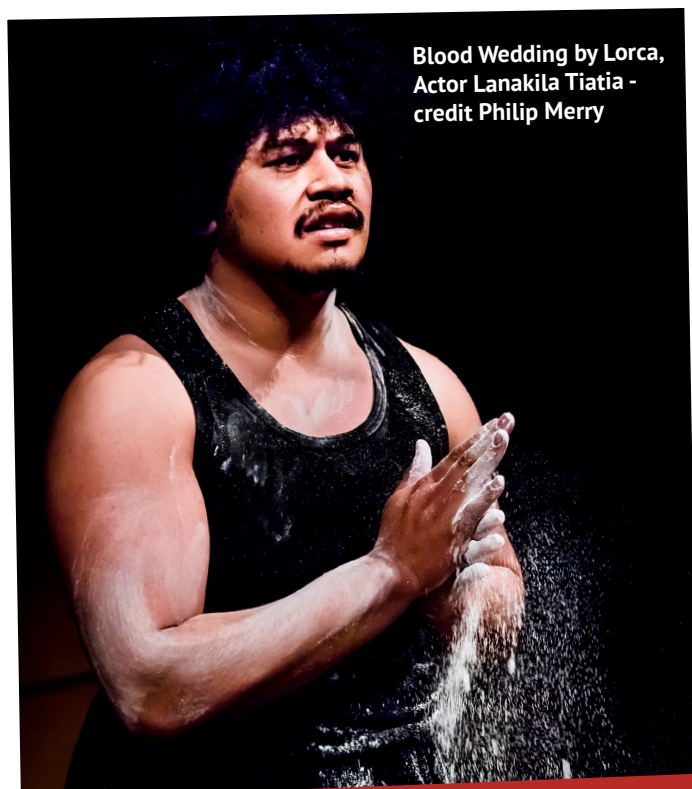
- Bachelor of Performing and Screen Arts
- Post Graduate Diploma in Creative Practice
- Master of Creative Practice

**Prerequisites:** UE and by Audition

For 30 years Unitec School of Performing and Screen Arts has been training many of Aotearoa's finest actors, makers and directors, we offer a rich opportunity for trainee actors to grow their craft, discover areas of passion, take risks, discover their voices and develop the knowledge and skills they need to build a career and take their place amongst the storytellers of the future.

**Contact:**

- 👤 Vanessa Byrnes
- ☎ 09 815-4321 ext. 8726
- 🌐 <https://www.unitec.ac.nz>



### Wintec - Waikato Institute of Technology

**Location:** Hamilton

**Programmes:**

- Bachelor of Music and Performing Arts

**Prerequisites:** University Entrance and some pathways have portfolio or audition requirements.

This degree is for those who want to find their own musical voice and actively engage and learn in a flexible and authentic environment. Students will have access to recording studios and practice/rehearsal spaces, including fully equipped production edit suites. Students will have the opportunity to undertake collaborative real-world projects with students from other disciplines, and with the industry. The degree has pathways in Performance, Audio Production, Composition and Theatre.

**Contact:**

- 🌐 <https://www.wintec.ac.nz>

## Drama NZ Associate



Te Auaha - NZ Institute of Creativity

**Location:** Wellington Central

**Programmes:**


- Bachelor of Creativity (Performing Arts)

**Prerequisites:** University Entrance plus audition

If you've completed a two-year Performing Arts diploma, you can gain the Bachelor of Creativity (Performing Arts) degree with a further one year's study. You'll develop a body of work in your specialisation. Learn more about creative collaboration and building a career in the creative industries. Specialise in Māori and Pacific Dance, Commercial Dance, Drama or Musical Theatre.

**Contact:**

- 🌐 <https://www.teauaha.com>



**Drama** definitely helps you to work in teams, helping you work towards a common goal and directing teaches a lot about leadership

**Campbell Wright**

BA in Psychology and Theatre  
Communications - NZ Police



# Certificate and Diploma Courses

## EXCEL

SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

### EXCEL School of Performing Arts

**Location:** Auckland

**Programmes:**

➤ Certificate in Drama level 4 first year

**Prerequisites:** Level 1 NCEA plus audition must be 16 years to audition

➤ Diploma in Drama level 5 second year

**Prerequisites:** Level 2 NCEA plus audition must be 16 years to audition

Our Kaupapa is to develop performing artists in a whānau environment, building their spiritual walk and seeing them become creative influencers.

**Contact:**

🌐 <https://www.excel.ac.nz>

## SOUTH SEAS FILM SCHOOL

YOOBEE  
COLLEGES

### South Seas Film & Television School

**Location:** Auckland

**Programmes:**

➤ New Zealand Diploma in Drama (Screen Acting) (Level 6) - Skills Active Aotearoa Limited.

**Prerequisites:** application, audition and interview

This two-year diploma provides in-depth and practical training through developing your toolbox: voice, body, imagination and collaboration. We allow time for your physical and vocal practice to become embodied. You will explore multiple acting techniques for screen and live performance, and develop your own critical and creative thinking. Alongside this core training, you will get real experience of how film and television departments collaborate through a steady stream of practical filmed projects.

**Contact:**

🌐 <https://www.yoobee.ac.nz>



## The Actors Programme

**Location:** Auckland

**Programmes:**

- The Actor's program

The Actors' Program is a one-year, relevant, challenging, up-to-date training course for actors, and is strongly, uniquely and directly connected to the stage and screen industry. Our tutors are all professional practitioners and potential employers currently working in the New Zealand stage and screen industry.

**Prerequisites:** must be 19 years of age - entry by audition



- The Director's program

Challenging, exacting, and aligned to current practice in the industry, this intense one - year course works in tandem with the The Actors' Program to provide a unique insight into the inner workings of the actor. Trainee directors receive tuition and mentorship from the country's leading industry professionals and build up a comprehensive set of craft tools.

**Prerequisites:** must be 19 years of age - entry by audition and interview

**Contact:**

✉ [info@theactorsprogram.co.nz](mailto:info@theactorsprogram.co.nz)

🌐 <https://www.theactorsprogram.co.nz>



## Te Auaha - NZ Institute of Creativity

**Location:** Wellington Central

**Programmes:**

- NZ Diploma in Drama
- NZ Diploma in Performing Arts - Musical Theatre

**Prerequisites:** Level 2 NCEA plus audition for Diploma courses

This two-year practical course puts you centre stage and in front of the camera, giving you the tools to develop your own stories for stage and screen. Learn about the many roles that exist within the theatre, film, broadcast and digital screen industries. Training includes classes in acting techniques - improvisation, script analysis, movement and voice – as well as theatre production practices. You'll have the opportunity to train and perform in Te Auaha's professional theatres and see your work on the big screen at Te Auaha's cinema. During the course you will collaborate with the Film School and audition in front of industry professionals.

**Contact:**

🌐 <https://www.teauaha.com>





## Hagley Theatre Company

### Hagley Theatre Company

**Location:** Christchurch

**Programmes:**

- Certificate in Performing Arts - Hagley College

**Prerequisites:** As a post-secondary, pre-tertiary course of study, all applicants must be ages 18+ with positions in our first year intake dependent on the number of students returning for a second year of study. Entry is by application, interview and audition.

Hagley Theatre Company is a self contained, independent training and performance programme attached to Hagley College in Christchurch, New Zealand. The course of study is one or two years in length and has been designed for those looking at further professional study and a career in the performing arts.

**Contact:**

 <http://hagleytheatreco.co.nz>

Blood Wedding by Lorca, Company - credit Philip Merry



# Drama related courses

The following courses are for those students who are wanting Drama and Theatre/Film related courses: They include qualifications in management and behind the scenes work in theatre, film, television and design.

## Drama NZ Associate



### Toi Whakaari: NZ Drama School

**Location:** Wellington

**Programmes:**

- Bachelor of Performing Arts (Management)
- Bachelor of Design (Stage and Screen)
- NZ Diploma in scenic construction and properties
- NZ Diploma in costume construction

Toi Whakaari has 5 full-time courses for performing arts students. We also offer masterclasses and workshops.

**Prerequisites:** Applications require either audition or portfolio work.

Our School is at the leading edge of theatrical collaboration in New Zealand and embraces the talents of set and props makers, designers, directors, technicians, actors, managers, costumiers, playwrights, filmmakers and dramaturgs. You will be equipped with skills beyond the performing arts such as leadership, collaboration and resilience.

**Contact:**

✉ [drama@toiwhakaari.ac.nz](mailto:drama@toiwhakaari.ac.nz)

🌐 <https://www.toiwhakaari.ac.nz>



### SOUTH SEAS FILM SCHOOL



### South Seas Film & Television School

**Location:** Auckland

**Programmes:**

- Diploma in TV and film Production

In this one-year intensive course, you'll deep-dive into the world of film and television production and come out ready to go straight into the industry.

Delivered out of our South Seas Film School Campus, the course is intense and is packed full of deep and immersive learning-through-action.

You'll get a taster for all of the industry roles before picking your specialisation in:

- Drama directing & scriptwriting
- Documentary directing & research
- Camera, audio and lighting
- Production management
- Post-production

🔗 <https://www.yoobee.ac.nz> search "Diploma in Film and TV Production"



- Certificate in Creative Media

**Location:** Auckland

This course has been especially designed to give you a taste of every digital design discipline to see where your passions lie. Over 20 weeks, you'll try graphic design, film-making, animation and interactive design.

🔗 <https://www.yoobee.ac.nz> search "Creative media"

**Contact:**

🌐 <https://www.yoobee.ac.nz>

## Cut Above Academy

**Location:** Auckland

**Programmes:**

- Certificate in Professional Makeup Artistry for Fashion, Film and Media

**Prerequisites:** Advanced techniques in stage and screen including corrective, character and period makeup, body art and stage FX.

Build your business skills so you can be your own boss or assist with the running of a small business.  
MAKEUP ARTISTRY FOR FASHION, FILM AND MEDIA

- 🔗 <https://www.cutabove.ac.nz> search "Makeup artistry for fashion, film and media"



- Diploma in Special fx and Prosthetic Makeup artistry (level 5)

**Prerequisites:** Entry is open to beginners with an interest in art, fashion or design, or graduates of the Certificate in Makeup Artistry (Level 4).

Beginning in the Production Design workshop you will progress from basic instruction in makeup, costume, props, hair and wig styling for stage, screen and photography to a class project of pre-production planning and experience as backstage crew on a professional production.

- 🔗 <https://www.cutabove.ac.nz> search "Special Effects & Prosthetic"

**Contact:**

- 🌐 <https://www.cutabove.ac.nz>

## The Makeup School

**Location:** Auckland

**Programmes:**

- Diploma in Film/TV/ Fashion and Special Effects

**Prerequisites:** Our diploma in Film, TV, Fashion and Special Effects course is designed to provide students with the skills, knowledge and confidence to succeed as a professional Makeup Artist and Hairstylist. This exciting and intensive course includes an Extension Special Effects course which is a requirement for those that wish to pursue a career in TV & Film. This course stresses the "hands on" approach to learning.

**Contact:**

- ✉ [info@themakeupschool.co.nz](mailto:info@themakeupschool.co.nz)

- 🌐 <https://www.themakeupschool.co.nz>



## Massey University

Toi Rauwhāangi College of Creative Arts

**Location:** Wellington

**Programmes:**

- Bachelor of Creative Media Production

**Prerequisites:** University Entrance

We offer internationally acclaimed degrees in Design, Māori Visual Arts, Fine Arts, Commercial Music and Creative Media Production.

We provide an inspiring learning environment and a supportive and professional faculty that will give you the knowledge and skills you need to succeed in all creative industries.

With an excellent reputation for innovative creative arts research and practice, Toi Rauwhāangi is New Zealand's oldest and most comprehensive creative arts school.

**Contact:**

🌐 <https://creative.massey.ac.nz/>

Contact:

🌐 <https://creative.massey.ac.nz/contact-us/>



Credit BODY FX (Drama NZ Associate)

## Yoobee Colleges

**Location:** Christchurch

**Programmes:**

- Certificate in Makeup Artistry

The Certificate in Makeup Artistry offers extensive, practical learning of a range of techniques in all areas of makeup, including beauty, high fashion and photographic, theatre, television, film and special effects makeup.

**Prerequisites:** 17 years - and see website for details

🌐 <https://www.yoobee.ac.nz> search "Certificate in makeup artistry"

**Contact:**

🌐 <https://www.yoobee.ac.nz>

### Drama NZ Associate



## Te Auaha - NZ Institute of Creativity

**Location:** Wellington Central

**Programmes:**

- NZ Diploma in Screen Production (Level 5)
- NZ Diploma in Dance - Commercial Dance
- NZ Diploma in Performing Arts - Māori and Pacific Dance

**Prerequisites:** Level 2 NCEA plus audition/interview for Diploma courses

Follow your passion and perform. Learn your craft at Te Auaha in New Zealand's cultural capital. Train in our studios and theatres. We have a number of rehearsal and performance spaces and hold shows throughout the year. Our culture is warm and embracing and you'll learn alongside others who share that creative spark. There are opportunities for collaboration with students from a diverse range of art forms.

🌐 <https://www.teauaha.com> search "Performing arts"

**Contact:**

🌐 <https://www.teauaha.com>

## Weltec and Te Auaha

**Location:** Wellington

**Programme:**

- NZ Certificate in Makeup Artistry ( level 4)

**Prerequisites:** NCEA level 2, or above

Learn corrective techniques, fashion makeup and hairstyling for runway, editorial and private clients. Study special effects, including character design, facial manipulation, ageing, wig styling, trauma effects and body art. Gain valuable business and creative collaboration skills. Develop your skills during events like the World of WearableArt.

- 🔗 <https://weltec.ac.nz> search “Certificate in makeup artistry level 4”

**Contact:**

- 🔗 <https://weltec.ac.nz>



Credit BODY FX (Drama NZ Associate)

## Unitec

**Location:** Auckland

**Programmes:**

- Certificate in Study and Career preparation (level 4) - screen arts acting and technical production.
- Programmes in Screen Arts

**Prerequisites:** <https://www.unitec.ac.nz/> search “Screen Arts, Acting and Technical Production”

Study filmmaking and television at Unitec and you’ll start by exploring the basic skills of camera work, directing, editing, production, sound and scriptwriting. It’s a great overview of the production process and helps you to decide what area of specialisation most captures your interest. The department is structured like the real Film and TV industry, so that when you work on productions, you will work with students and staff from all other disciplines. You’ll be guided by industry experts and inspired by visiting filmmakers, writers and directors.

**Contact:**

- 👤 Vanessa Byrnes
- ☎ 09 815-4321 ext. 8726
- 🌐 <https://www.unitec.ac.nz>



Credit BODY FX (Drama NZ Associate)



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