

Waiora Te Ūkaipō – The Homeland

Waiora Te Ūkaipō – The Homeland is a live theatrical play which will take place at the Opera House on the 27 and 28 February at 7.30pm, and 1 March at 4pm.

The Opera House is located at 113/111 Manners Street, Te Aro, Wellington.

At a Glance – This Show has:

- Wheelchair Accessible Venue
- NZSL Interpreted Performance on 28 February, 7.30pm
- Audio Described Performance on 1 March, 4pm
- Touch Tour on 1 March, 3pm
- No Relaxed Performance
- Mix of visual and auditory – lots of spoken language in English and te reo Māori
- No Content Notes Currently Available – please check back here later
- Video Walkthrough Available



Included in this document

This document includes information about ticketing, the venue, accessible performances, and the show. You can use the links below to jump straight to the information you need or scroll down to read through everything.

[How to Get Tickets](#)

- [Access Tickets](#)
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How to Get Tickets

Tickets for Waiora Te Ūkaipō – The Homeland cost \$49 - \$79 depending on what type of ticket you choose.

Tickets can be purchased online on the [TicketMaster website](#).

Access Tickets

Access Tickets for Tickets for Waiora Te Ūkaipō – The Homeland are priced at \$20. Access tickets are available for anyone who might face barriers to attending shows because of disability or other access needs. You can book an Access Ticket by emailing access@festival.nz or calling Sameena on **04 830 7854**.

You may be asked some questions about your access needs, such as if you would prefer an aisle seat, if you need to be seated early, if you are coming for NZSL etc. You will also be asked about who else is attending with you, so that all tickets can be booked together if possible.

These questions are to help make coming to the show as easy as possible. You don't have to say what your disability is or give any information about it unless you want to.

Companion Tickets

If you need someone to come with you to support you to attend the show, we may be able to provide you with a companion ticket. This might be a friend, family member, partner, support worker, or someone else who would help make it easier for you to attend the show.

Companion tickets are limited and subject to availability for some events.

For more information or to book a companion ticket contact us by emailing access@festival.nz or calling **04 830 7854**.

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About the Opera House

The Opera House is located at 113/111 Manners Street, Te Aro, Wellington. It is not far from the corner of Manners Street and Cuba Street, and it is across the road from Te Aro Park.

Here are some photos of what it looks like from outside. This first photo was taken from across the street.



This photo was taken from the pavement outside.



Video Walkthrough

At this link, you can watch a [walkthrough video of the Opera House](#).

Getting to the Opera House

Parking

The Manners Street area can be busy at night, which might mean more traffic or taking longer to find a car park. Allowing extra time before the start of the show may be helpful. Paid parking is available in designated bays within 5 minutes' walk of the theatre. You can find parking options on [Parkopedia](#).

The closest mobility parking spaces are on Cuba Street and Edwards Street.

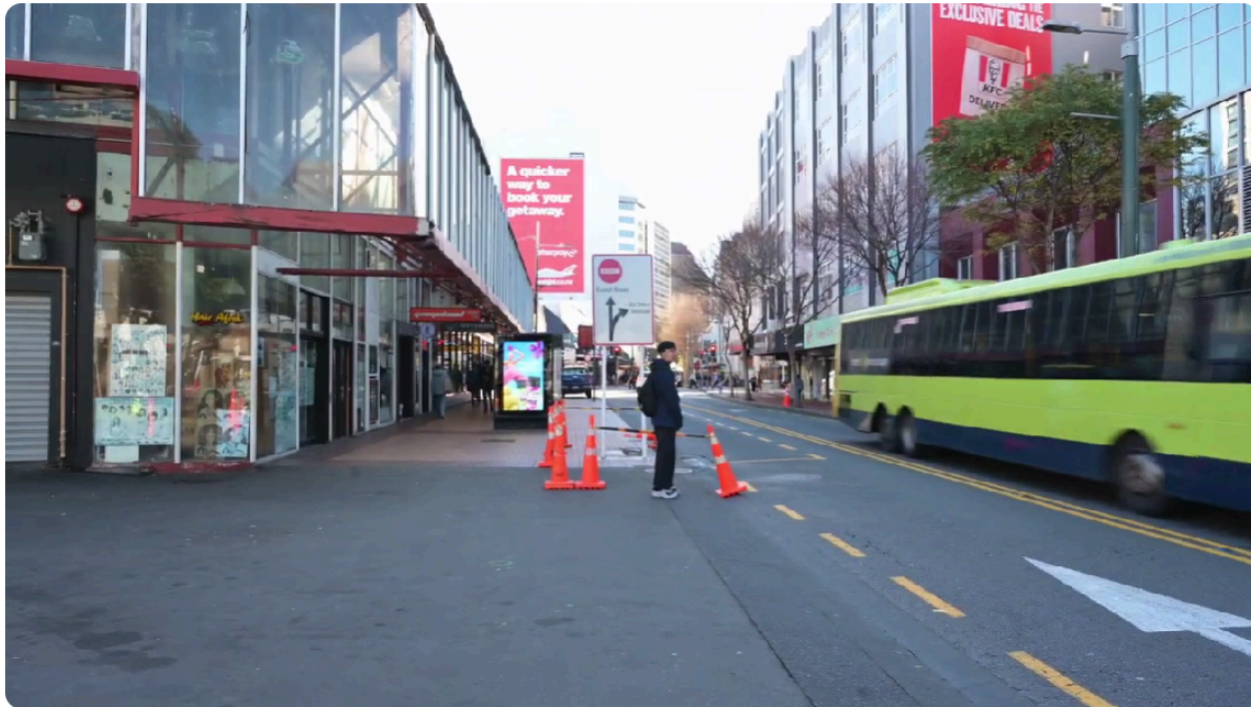
Taxis and Drop Off Points

The closest taxi ranks are on Wakefield Street, Dixon Street, and Courtenay Place.

There is no dedicated drop off point directly outside the theatre, but Lower Cuba street may be a convenient nearby drop off point.

Public Transport

There are several bus stops near the Opera House, including one across the street.



The [Metlink website](#) can be used to plan your journey and find the closest bus stop for your route.

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Accessibility

The Opera House has flat access to the building.

There is stair-free access to most of the seating in the stalls area, and there are dedicated wheelchair spaces in the stalls seating on both ends of rows E, G & H. To book one of these spaces, please contact us by emailing access@festival.nz or calling Sameena on **04 830 7854**.

Please note that the dress circle and gallery seating are accessed via stairs and there is no lift available. The dress circle is accessed via two flights of stairs, and the gallery is accessed via six flights of stairs.

There is one accessible toilet. It is located partway down the right-side passage to the stalls. The door to the toilet is off the right wall of this hallway.

For more information about the accessibility of the Michael Fowler Centre, you can [contact Venues Wellington](#) or contact the Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts' Access Producer, Sameena, by emailing access@festival.nz or calling on **04 830 7854**.

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Inside the Opera House

At this link, you can watch a [walkthrough video of the Opera House](#).

The front entrance to the building has three sets of doors. You can enter through any of these. They will be held open when there is a performance on.



There is a small bump on the threshold between the pavement and the foyer. It shouldn't be big enough to cause a barrier, but it's good to watch out for!

The doors open directly into a black and white marble tiled foyer. The foyer is an open space which has the box office booths, stairs to upstairs, and a concession stand in it.



Once you have entered the marble tiled foyer, directly ahead is a wide marble staircase leading to the upper floors of balcony seating.



Box Office

On either side of the staircase, there are wide pillars. In each of these, you will find a Box Office booth. This is where you can go to buy tickets or pick up tickets that you have already purchased or reserved.



Concessions Stand

To the right of the entrance, by the far wall of the foyer, is the concession stand. Here, you can buy snacks and drinks to enjoy during the show, or at the interval.



The fridge in the concession stand creates a humming sound in the foyer, which you might be able to hear. When there are a lot of people in the foyer before a show, this sound will be less obvious.

It may get a bit noisy when there are a lot of people in the foyer, with shoes on the marble floor and voices bouncing off lots of echoey, hard surfaces.

Places to Sit

On either side of the staircases are short, wide hallways leading to the stalls seating sections of the theatre. This photo is of the right-hand corridor.



Both hallways have bench seating along the wall. This is the bench in the left corridor.



If you find the foyer too noisy, or if you need a place to sit, this might be a good place to come and rest. This would also be a quiet place to sit if you need to leave the theatre for a while during the show.

You can wait for your show to start in the foyer or on the seats in the hallway. It may get noisy if there are a lot of people. You can also wait outside if you prefer, which may be quieter.

An announcement will be made in the foyer when it is time to go into the theatre.

Bathrooms

There is only one unisex accessible toilet in this building. To find it, go partway down the right-side passage to the stalls. The door to the toilet is off the right wall of this hallway.



There are more toilets upstairs.

Theatre Entrances

If you are standing facing the staircase, the hallway to your left will lead you to seats 1-20, and the hallway on the right will lead you to seats 21-50.

When it is time to go into the theatre, staff called ushers will open the double doors that lead from the passages into the stalls seating.



The marble floor gives way to a wooden floor with a very slight ridge where they join.



Inside the Theatre

Once inside the theatre, the floor slopes down towards the stage without any steps.

There is a dedicated wheelchair space with a slight tilt immediately opposite each entrance. There are more dedicated wheelchair spaces on both ends of rows E, G & H.

This photo shows the wheelchair space near the entrance.



There are panel heaters along the wall, as you walk down to the seats. These may be hot to touch if they are turned on.



The stage in this theatre is raised at about waist height for an average adult.



There are two balconies with seating directly above the stalls. This theatre can seat a total of 1361 audience members.



Halfway down rows N, O, P and R, there are pillars from floor to ceiling, which are there to support the balcony above. These stick out a little way into the row. There should still be enough room to move past these easily, but you may need to watch your feet and make sure any mobility aids don't catch on them.



Seating

Seats for this show are allocated. Your seat number will be printed on your ticket. You can show a staff member your ticket if you need help finding your seat number. Ushers are also available to show you where your seat is located.

All of the seats have arms. The seats need to be folded down before you can sit on them.

There are dedicated wheelchair spaces near the entrance and on both ends of rows E, G & H. If you or someone you are attending with uses a wheelchair, please email access@festival.nz or call Sameena on **04 830 7854** to book one of these spaces.

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Audio Described Performance and Touch Tour

On 1st March, the performance will start at 4pm. This performance will have audio description available, and there will be a touch tour starting at 3pm.

If you wish to attend the touch tour or be able to listen to the audio description during the performance, you can book by emailing access@festival.nz or calling Sameena on **04 830 7854**.

You do not have to attend the touch tour if you don't want to, but booking for it lets us know you are coming for the audio description. The touch tour is free. You will need to collect a headset if you would like to listen to the audio description. Sighted companions with a ticket for the show are welcome to attend the touch tour too.

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NZSL Interpreted Performance and NZSL Briefing

On 28th February, the performance will start at 7.30pm. This performance will have NZSL interpretation.

The show will be interpreted by Platform Interpreting.

To book for the NZSL performance, please email access@festival.nz. Those who have booked will be sent an NZSL pre-show briefing video before the day of the performance.

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Spoiler Alert!

The next sections of this document give more information about the show and what to expect as an audience member. We've tried to avoid spoilers, but if you want everything to be a surprise, you can skip these sections.

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About The Show



Show Blurb

Written & Directed by Hone Kouka. Tawata Productions.

“I am standing in the water so I can touch home...”

Set in the summer of 1965, *Waiora* follows Hone, who brings his family from the East Cape to the South Island in search of a better life. As they gather for a beachside birthday hāngī with their Pākehā guests, buried secrets and cultural tensions rise to the surface. Far from their tīpuna, the family must navigate questions of identity, belonging and survival.

Originally commissioned by the Festival in 1992, Waiora is landmark piece of New Zealand theatre exploring the impact of colonisation, the urban drift, and the tension between past and future.

An “urgent and vibrant story” (Stuff), Waiora is a powerful reflection on family, culture, and belonging.

Presented in partnership with the Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts, Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival, Auckland Theatre Company and Tawata Productions.

What to expect as an audience member

This show is being presented in a theatre style, which means that the performers will be on the stage, and the audience will remain seated for the duration of the show. There will be lights on the stage, but the seating area will be dark during the performance. Just before the show begins, there may be a blackout, which means that all the lights will be turned out briefly.

There is no audience participation in this show, you are free to just watch.

We ask that audience members don't try to talk to the performers, and that you keep your voice low if talking to people around you so that other audience members can hear the show.

If you need to leave during the performance, please move carefully but promptly to the aisle to avoid blocking other people's view. When you're ready to come back in, a staff member will help you return to your seat at an appropriate time.

Please feel free to approach staff members at any time if you need help.

At the end of the show, there may be another blackout, then bows from the performers as the audience claps. The lights will come back up so you can see to leave the theatre. You are welcome to stay and chat or have a drink in the bar or foyer after the show.

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Content Notes

This is a new production which is currently in rehearsal. As such, these content notes are not complete as many details have not yet been confirmed. We will update these notes as more information becomes available. Please check back here later, or refer to

the show blurb for an indication of the types of themes that will be explored during the performance.

The show will have:

Strobe lights

Flashing lights

Haze Effects - this show uses haze effects which will make the stage look like it is smokey or has fog on it. This is not real smoke.

Loud and Sudden Noises

Physical violence - the characters will sometimes act violent towards each other. This is planned and choreographed and the actors are not really hurting each other.

Family Harm and Violence

Simulated smoking onstage - Two characters will use e-cigarettes on stage. These give off a vapour similar to what comes out of a vape pen. There will not be any real cigarette smoke on stage.

Swearing

Racist language

Distressing Themes – Waiora Te Ūkaipō includes distressing themes of colonisation and its impact on iwi Māori and whānau Māori

If any of the content in the show is distressing to you, you're welcome to close your eyes, cover your ears, or leave the theatre at any time. There is a place in the foyer for you, and we can bring you back in when you're ready.