

SCHOOLFEST 101

Kia ora and welcome to SchoolFest!

Our guide to ensure your students get the most out of the
2020 New Zealand Festival of the Arts



Goodbye Naughton, Te Ata Festival, Porirua | Aotearoa/New Zealand

CONTACT US:

Emma Deakin & Ruby Eade

schoolfest@festival.co.nz

04 473 0149



Thank you to Wellington Community Trust for making it all happen.

CONTENTS

CONTACT US:	1
Introduction.....	3
Lemi Ponifasio.....	3
Laurie Anderson.....	3
Bret McKenzie	3
Bookings.....	4
Before the Festival.....	4
Preparation and Research: Teacher Resource Packs	4
Getting to the Fest	4
Transit Coachlines.....	4
Arrivals	5
Performance Times	5
Ticketing Information.....	5
On the Day.....	6
Pre and Post show Talks.....	6
After the Performance.....	6
Theatre Top Tips	7
Other Things to Know	8
Dress Code	8
Filming and Photography.....	8
Free Events	8
TE ATA.....	8
Young Minds Take the Library	8
Access and Inclusion	9
Audio Description	9
Touch Tours.....	9
NZSL Interpretation.....	9
Physical Access	9
Post-Festival.....	10
Teacher Resources	10
Feedback.....	10

INTRODUCTION

As well as being a dynamic creative learning opportunity, live performance is all about having fun, engaging the imagination and walking away with lasting memories of the experience.

This guide is to help your students be active and empowered audience members. SchoolFest wants students to feel comfortable, get involved, ask questions, offer opinions and share their experiences with the world.

This year we have a new format for the Festival with three internationally renowned artist as guest curators, each shaping a signature series of events across the Festival. This new format offers students a diverse and rich array of work to experience, as well as hopefully allowing them to investigate what a festival is, can be, and who is it for.



LEMI PONIFASIO

Lemi Ponifasio is a ground-breaking international artist whose work exists as the border between the political and the mystical, the ancient and the avant-garde. Join Lemi as we explore who we are and the future we want to create.



LAURIE ANDERSON

Grammy Award-winning New York artist Laurie Anderson performed at the very first New Zealand Festival of the Arts in 1986. She returns now, three decades later, this time with a “crazy array of things” to intrigue and inspire you.



BRET MCKENZIE

Oscar-winning songwriter and half of the Grammy Award-winning duo Flight of the Conchords, Bret McKenzie is one of Wellington’s most successful artistic exports. With events for families, comedy lovers and music buffs, Bret is bringing a buzz to his hometown in the Festival’s final week.

BOOKINGS

All bookings can be made online at festival.co.nz/schoolfest

Remember these Key Dates for your SchoolFest bookings:

- Monday 3 February 2020: Confirm final numbers for all bookings for SchoolFest
- Monday 10 February 2020: All invoices sent to schools
- Thursday 17 February 2020: Payment needs to be made for all SchoolFest bookings

BEFORE THE FESTIVAL

PREPARATION AND RESEARCH: TEACHER RESOURCES

To help students to get the most out of their SchoolFest experience and add greater context to the event they attend we have developed teacher's resources for our Guest Curators and each SchoolFest event.

These packs are available for free to download from our website festival.co.nz/schoolfest. If you have trouble finding them email us at schoolfest@festival.co.nz.

Teacher Resources include:

- Information about the company and show
- Curriculum links
- Further reading and resources
- Videos and reviews
- Pre- and post-show questions and activities

We encourage you to talk with your class about what they are going to see and encourage them to do some research of their own so that you can share what you have found out together.

GETTING TO THE FEST

TRANSIT COACHLINES

The award-winning and family-owned Transit Coachlines is offering a special promotion to make SchoolFest more accessible to schools around the region.

Your school may be eligible for discounted return travel to SchoolFest.

Wellington Regional Schools – including Upper Hutt and Porirua: Transport costs range from \$184-\$368 return, including GST.

Other areas including Kāpiti, Wairarapa, Whanganui and Palmerston North: Transit is offering a special rate to make attending SchoolFest easier for schools in these areas too. Contact them to find out more.

To take advantage of the SchoolFest rates, schools need to book with Transit no later than the end of Term 4. Please contact Emma at Transit Coachlines to book emmaj@tranzit.co.nz quoting "SchoolFest 2020 Transport"

ARRIVALS

If you are bringing large groups of students by bus, please let us know in advance. You will need to organise an appropriate drop off and pick up location with your bus driver. Information about parking at the various venues can be found [here](#).

It is a good idea to alert the SchoolFest team of your travel plans in advance.

PERFORMANCE TIMES

Doors generally open 30 minutes before the show starts. Allow plenty of time to get to the venue. Please note that most venues exercise a strict lock out policy if you do happen to arrive late.

Some shows have a pre- or post-show Artist Talk. These generally last up to 30 minutes. Don't forget to factor this into your travel plans.

TICKETING INFORMATION

You will collect your tickets from a SchoolFest team member at the venue before the performance. Depending on the performance there will be allocated seating or general admission. For General Admission (GA) it is likely your group will be shown to your seats by a member of staff.

Suitability is based on our recommendation only, and we have provided content warnings where appropriate. The New Zealand Festival of the Arts takes no responsibility for any offence caused, but please feel welcome to contact the SchoolFest team to discuss any concerns about a show's content. For many SchoolFest shows we cannot accommodate extra numbers on the day of a performance. If you would like to bring extra students, please contact us on 04 473 0149 in advance to check availability.

Remember, once tickets are purchased they are non-refundable. They may be transferable in good time, subject to availability.

ON THE DAY

When you arrive, stick together. Find a place for your students to wait and look for the SchoolFest banner. A SchoolFest team member will be close by. They are there to help you so make sure you check in and say hello. This is where you will pick up your tickets.

All students attending a SchoolFest show will be given a feedback card. These are for students to write, reflect and respond to the show. They can be returned to us on the day or posted back to the festival office – attention: SchoolFest Team, PO Box 10113, The Terrace, Wellington 6143, New Zealand.

PRE- AND POST-SHOW TALKS

Double check to see if there is a pre or post-show talk for the performance. This is a chance for students to learn more about the context around a performance. Performers will break briefly after the show and come back for a 20 – 30 minute session.

Many of the events have free artist talks, check online at festival.nz to see which events provide this opportunity.

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

- Use the SchoolFest banner as a place where your students can meet you after the performance.
- Fill in and hand back your feedback cards.
- You may see some people capturing live vox pops (informal comments on a recording device) of audience reactions. Students are encouraged to get involved.

THEATRE TOP TIPS

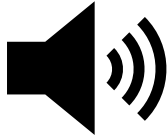
Everyone involved in a production, the cast and crew, work very hard to give a great performance. The tips below will help you, your students, and the performers enjoy the performance.



Plan to get to the venue early because if you are late you may not be allowed in the show. We'd hate you to miss any of the performance.



It is always a good idea to visit the bathroom before the performance begins. You don't want to have to leave in the middle of the show.



Make sure to listen to any announcements that are made during the performance about the rules of the theatre that you are attending and the location of fire exits.



Taking pictures or recording video is not allowed during most performances. The show is also the intellectual property of the producers so please be considerate of their property.



Turn off your mobile phone before entering the theatre. Other than the noise and disruption it could make, it can also interfere with the sound system – even on silent. Light from your phone can also disturb other audience members, so please make sure it is completely turned off.



Theatres are made to carry sound so everyone can hear. If you talk, not only will others in the audience hear it, but those on stage. While we want you to actively participate and get involved where appropriate, please do not talk during the show.



Keep your feet off the seat or balcony in front of you. If you must leave during the performance, wait for an appropriate break in the show or exit during intermission.



Performers love to get a lot of applause at the end of the show. You can sometimes applaud and laugh at appropriate times during the performance. Stand and applaud if you really thought the show was great.

OTHER THINGS TO KNOW

DRESS CODE

For Schools Only events there is no set dress code. Tidy school uniform or casual dress is fine. For the Festival shows (where students are attending public evening shows) students may be seated among people who are looking forward to a special evening, so again tidy school uniform or casual dress is fine, but you can encourage your students to enjoy dressing up for the occasion.

FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

As part of SchoolFest 2020 audience you may be filmed or photographed for marketing and promotional purposes. Please advise the SchoolFest team if you do not consent to this.

FREE EVENTS

SchoolFest offers a range of free events for your students. Pop into *MAU: House of Night and Day* at Te Papa, listen to Laurie Anderson's *Concert for Dogs*, or explore hidden huts with *Urban Hut Club*. More information [here](#)

TE ATA

Te Ata, a festival within the Festival, brings together artists from Aotearoa and around the world in exchange with young New Zealanders who wish to take a bold, brave and active role in shaping the culture of the place where they live. There are opportunities for students to participate in events and workshops, get in touch via schoolfest@festival.co.nz to find out more.

YOUNG MINDS TAKE THE LIBRARY

Bring the whānau to the National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa for a Writers festival for children and young adults. We'd love to hear from students to be tour guides for the *Pūkana* exhibition currently showing at National Library of Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa and to interview our writers on the day. We also want to receive stories from young writers aged 8 – 17 years to be read out by the students at the event. Find out more on our website [here](#) or [contact us](#).

ACCESS AND INCLUSION

It's your SchoolFest and we want to make sure access is never a problem for you. Some of the SchoolFest events include Audio Description, Touch Tours and New Zealand Sign Language interpretation.



AUDIO DESCRIPTION

Audio description is auditory narration, through a small headset, for people who are Blind or with low vision. The audio provides a description of visual elements of the show, such as scenes, settings, actions and costumes.



TOUCH TOURS

Shows listed with this symbol provide a free pre-show Touch Tour for people who are Blind or with low vision. This is an opportunity for those audience members to explore pieces of set, props, show costumes, and occasionally meet the artists.



NZSL INTERPRETATION

Shows listed with this symbol will be interpreted into New Zealand Sign Language or offer other specific access for audiences who are D/deaf. If interpreted into NZSL, one or two professional performance interpreters will translate the show live. Specific seating will be allocated to audiences who are D/deaf to ensure a clear view of the show and interpretation.

PHYSICAL ACCESS

Please let us know in advance if you require a wheelchair space so we can ensure it is booked in. More information about the access available at specific venues can be found on our [Venues](#) page. All venues have limited wheelchair seating.

For more information about access and access bookings see our [Access and Inclusion](#) page online or contact your SchoolFest team schoolfest@festival.co.nz

POST-FESTIVAL

TEACHER RESOURCES

Don't forget our Festival resources! These can be found free to download from our website festival.co.nz/schoolfest.

FEEDBACK

We want teacher and student feedback about your SchoolFest experience so we can ensure SchoolFest lives on and grows.

Feedback cards will be given to students on the day for their off the cuff response to the Festival experience. We also love to receive creative responses from students post-festival. This could be anything – a review, creative writing, a drawing or artwork.

A teacher survey will be sent out to you after you have attended your event. We appreciate and thank you for your time in advance – we know how precious it is!

We look forward to seeing you at SchoolFest 2020.

YOUR SCHOOL FEST TEAM:

Emma Deakin & Ruby Eade

schoolfest@festival.co.nz

04 473 0149