

Hagley Theatre Company

Te Ropu Rēhia Te Puna Wai O Waipapa



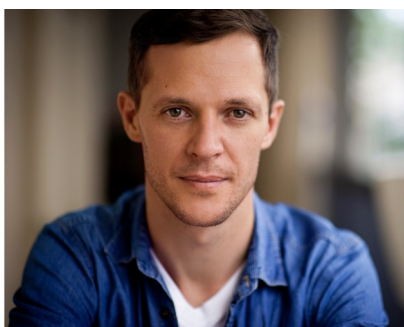
Hagley Theatre Company

About us

Hagley Theatre Company (HTC) is a self-contained, independent training and performance programme attached to Hagley College in Christchurch, New Zealand. In 2018, the Company celebrated 30 years of providing expert, hands-on tuition and contemporary performance experiences to young people from all over the country.

HTC offers students practical and theoretical study in a wide range of subjects through classes, practical workshops and a number of performance opportunities throughout the year. 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.

HTC has a reputation for providing excellent training and has achieved remarkable success with placing students into studies with Toi Whakaari: NZ Drama School and UNITEC School of Performing Arts. Over the course of our 30 year history over 250 students have gone on to further professional study with many more securing ongoing employment in theatre, radio, television and teaching.



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Hagley was such an incredible hands on experience. The opportunity to try my hand at so many aspects of performance art was invaluable to me finding my path forward and building my courage.

Gareth Reeves (Actor)

“

HTC is a rare and unique opportunity to be immersed in an environment that is full of creativity, challenges, friendship and learning. It was an unforgettable life highlight for me, and I deeply treasure my time at Hagley.

Claire Van Beek (Actor, writer, filmmaker)



The bigger picture - Ōtautahi Christchurch

Our city has been through a lot in the past decade. Yes, there is still work to do. But all around us we see newness. From the rubble, a vibrant and creative centre is emerging. The Court Theatre has built itself a temporary home in Addington, with a new theatre planned for the city centre. HTC students are offered free tickets to Court Theatre dress rehearsals, a great way to experience professional theatre. Little Andromeda is our city’s answer to Fringe Theatre. This intimate space offers up an edgy programme of local and touring shows to the public, with HTC students receiving discounts to many of these.

For those of you coming to HTC from outside of Ōtautahi, you’ll soon discover that our city is abuzz with events. From poetry and open mic nights, to music, to big shows, an Arts Festival, a Buskers Festival, outdoor summer theatre and so much more, you’ll never be at a loss for what to do.

The beautiful Hagley Park is close to our campus. This is a popular place to walk and plays host to a number of events throughout the year. We are also close to the Arts Centre, where you will find boutique shops, a market, a yellow caravan full of \$5 books, cafes and incredible architecture in the process of being rebuilt. Heading towards the city centre you’ll go past our world class Art Gallery, crossing the river to find The Strip. Here are many wonderful restaurants, Little Andromeda, and The Riverside Market. The Riverside Market is a treasure trove of foodie delights.

Other parts of our city you’ll find yourself exploring are New Regent Street, Little High (amazing food market), Dice & Slice (eat pizza and play games!), Alice in Videoland (one of the last DVD rentals in NZ, surely), Tūranga (our central library with vision) and so, so much more. This is just what is a stone’s throw from our campus.

The rest of our city is waiting for you to get to know it too- we have beaches, walks, quaint villages and people who are warm and ready to welcome you to your home-away-from-home.



Where will I study?

Hagley Theatre Company is situated on Champion Street in Edgware, a quiet suburb of Ōtautahi Christchurch. We have transformed an old school library into a theatre and this is where we train and perform. Our building has a second rehearsal/ training space, an office, a kitchenette, an area for lounging, we have a toilet block just next door and a coffee cart that takes our orders. This is a temporary, satellite campus for us while our permanent home is being transformed and we love it here! In other great news, it is expected that by the end of 2022 we will be back on Hagley Ave at the Hagley Community College campus in our brand new venue. Despite being an independent training programme, we are affiliated with the College. This means that there are certain free services that HTC students are able to draw on such as the College health centre, counselling services, library, team sports and more.

Getting to HTC

Christchurch has an extensive bus network. Bus routes #7, #44, #100 and The Orbitor all have stops close to 102 Champion Street. Christchurch is a great city for cycling in as it's so flat. There is also car parking on site for those wishing to drive.

What will I study?

The HTC programme has been developed by one of Australia's top educators, Cameron Mattox. Having been involved with NADIE and VADIE for 12 years and been part of shaping the direction of education in Australia, Cameron migrated to Aotearoa in 1990 to take up a job at Hagley Theatre Company. Cameron has created a training programme that draws on his extensive knowledge in both the education sector and the performing arts.

The HTC timetable includes the core subjects of **Acting, Film, Stage Direction, Physical Theatre, The Viewpoints, Voice, Dance, Scriptwriting** and **Yoga** with workshops in specialist topics that often include **Make-up, Clowning, Technical Theatre** and more.

HTC students will work directly with Cameron as you train in acting and stage direction. Our other subjects are taught by trained teachers and/or professionals who are currently working in their field of expertise. HTC also hosts guest tutors throughout the year. Past tutors have included Vaughan Slinn, Jonathan Hendry and Grace Hoete from Toi Whakaari, Petro Ilgenfritz from Unitec and physical theatre teacher, Fergus Aitken.

As well as dedicated class-time in specific subjects, you will learn your craft through the hands-on experience of being involved in the creation of theatre and film, with four major seasons per year. You will be directed by Cameron, our Head of Film (Richard Bell), your fellow students and guest directors.

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Hagley Theatre Company is an excellent gateway into the arts industry in New Zealand. Its hands-on philosophy allowed me gain valuable skills across all the areas of theatre. Graduating over 20 years ago, I still rely on these skills everyday to help me in the world of film and Television.

Curtis Vowell (Director, producer, actor, casting director)



About our team

Cameron Mattox | Artistic Director

Cameron has been working in theatre and drama in education for over 40 years. In this time he has taught at all levels of education, been involved in curriculum research and design and has acted in and directed numerous works. Cameron has worked in Australia and the USA teaching and directing for professional theatre companies and Universities.

Cameron is the Company's Head of Acting and tutors Stage Direction. He also directs major seasons.

Richard Bell | Acting for Screen

Richard has owned film production companies in London, Los Angeles and New Zealand. He has produced hundreds of music videos and commercials, all over the world, as well as short films, features and many live productions.

Richard works with our students on acting for screen and also teaches film and acting at the New Zealand Broadcasting School (Ara Institute of Canterbury).

Rachael Schönberger | Voice, Viewpoints, Physical Theatre

Rachael is a contemporary singer and songwriter who has been involved in all levels of music education. She has experience in voice therapy and voice development and has trained and competed in various sports ranging through mountain biking, surfing and triathlon, to Ceroc and Seido Karate. She trains weekly with ZenZenZo, a Physical Theatre Company in Christchurch.

Rachel guides our students through voice development, slam poetry project work and physical theatre.

Fleur De Thier | Dance

Fleur is an established New Zealand choreographer and has had works featured nationally in Arts Festivals throughout the last decade. Fleur is known for her diversity and connections with many different companies including Jolt Dance Theatre, Rebound, Southern Lights Dance Company, Unitec, Footnote and Hagley Dance Company.

Brendon Bennetts | Scriptwriting

Brendon teaches scriptwriting to both year levels. He has written several plays and is an experienced improviser. He has been performing with the Court Jesters (*Scared Scriptless*) for almost 20 years.

About our graduates

HTC graduates can be found in all corners of Aotearoa New Zealand's performing arts sector! Some have even established international careers for themselves. Meet a small handful of our amazing graduates and get a glimpse of what is possible with HTC as a foundation... Come join us!



David Correos | Comedian

Winner of the 2016 Billy T Award, David is quickly becoming a powerhouse of New Zealand comedy. He has a uniquely powerful, boundary pushing style which has made him an audience favourite whenever he performs.

“*Hagley gave me a safe space to learn, fail and experiment when I was first starting out which I feel is vital for any young actor/performer.*”



Claire Van Beek | Actor, writer, filmmaker

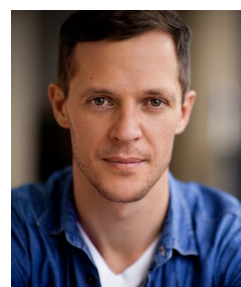
In 2020 Claire was awarded Emerging Filmmaker of the Year at NZIFF, for her short film *Daniel*. *Daniel* stars HTC graduate Matt Whelan, and is edited by Oscar winner John Gilbert (*Lord of the Rings*, *Hacksaw Ridge*). *Daniel* screened at film festivals worldwide, including at Melbourne, Edinburgh, and Clermont Ferrand. Most recently, Claire has been assistant to Tim Roth on *Punch*, and Jane Campion on *The Power of the Dog*.



Grace Hoete | Teacher, producer

Grace has had a 30 year career in the arts both locally and internationally. She has worked as a Producer, Arts Advisor, Actor, Director, and Teacher of performing arts, she is along-time practitioner of Māori theatre and Film.

“*I absolutely loved my time at Hagley Theatre Company. It opened my eyes to a whole brand new world. It completely changed my life and I am so grateful to HTC, Cameron Mattox and Sam Beveridge for introducing me to the world of performing arts. HTC nurtured my passion and gave me the grounding and foundation teachings that allowed me to follow my dreams!*”



Gareth Reeves | Actor

Also a graduate of Toi Whakaari: NZ Drama School, Gareth has been a professional actor for over 20 years, working in Theatre, Film and TV on both sides of the Tasman. Currently he is playing Harry Potter in the Australian production of *Harry Potter and The Cursed Child*.



Brynley Stent | Actor, writer, comedian

Brynley is a regular on NZ screens and stage and is the winner of the 2021 Billy T Award. She appeared on the first season of the New Zealand adaptation of *Taskmaster* and played the character Kelly-Anne Johnson on long running New Zealand soap opera *Shortland Street*.

“ I am really grateful for my training at Hagley Theatre Company. It provided me with an incredible base to begin further training and acting with the industry.



Curtis Vowell | Director, producer, actor, casting director

Curtis is a Cook Island Māori director who has worked in the New Zealand film industry for the last 20 years. His debut feature film, *Fantail*, was nominated for eight NZ Film Awards including Best Director and Best Film and had its international premiere at Rotterdam International Film Festival. *Fantail* was selected for the Melbourne International Film Festival, winning a People's Choice award. His second feature film, *Baby Done*, (with Taika Waititi and Carthew Neal's Piki Films) stars Rose Matafeo and Matthew Lewis. In 2021, it was sold theatrically to the US and UK. Curtis has also directed numerous commercials for Exit Films, Augusto and Reel Factory. Since 2020 Curtis has been directing NZ drama, *Shortland Street*.



Jarred Christmas | Comedian, writer, actor

Jarred has been a professional stand-up comedian for 22 years. He started his career in NZ and then moved to the UK. He has made numerous TV appearances on shows such as *Mock the Week*, *8 out of 10 Cats*, *7 Days*, *HYBPA* and *Jonathan Creek* to name a few. Jarred has won the NZ comedy festivals Fred Award for best comedian and also won the UK comedy industries Chortle award for "Best Host" three times. He is currently on a UK sell-out tour of his kids show, *The Mighty Kids Beatbox Comedy Show*.

“ HTC was the perfect foundation for a career in performing. My 2 years there formed skills and attitudes that I still use today. Writing, dance, acting and life lessons that spring boarded me into my career as a Comedian, Writer, and Actor. I loved my time at HTC and Cameron Mattox is the GOAT.

Audition date: Sunday 24 October, 2021 | **Apply online:** www.hagleytheatreco.co.nz

Contact us: lisa.allan@staff.hagley.school.nz

Send physical application forms to:

Cameron Mattox
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Edgeware, Christchurch, 8013