NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE

CHANGING LIVES FROM THE STAGE

STRATEGIC PLAN TO 2030

NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE

delivering performance adventures and inspirational life experiences

WHAT WE DO

We inspire and develop a team of up to 275 young performers to work together and produce a spectacular musical in major venues across the motu.
Every show is a miracle in itself – and we perform eight miracles a year!

WHY WE DO IT

The real magic happens in the months of training that lead up to the show. Our programmes can take a child from shyly hiding at the back of the room to standing centre stage.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

NYT is **all-access** – no audition required. We use musical theatre to help young people 'find their own voice', developing interpersonal skills that impact every aspect of their lives, from home to school to workplace.

SINCE 2004

45
major productions

125+
holiday programmes

Featuring well over
7,000
cast members

To a combined audience of
300,000

Scholarships remove financial barriers to participation. Our shows reach new audiences by **sponsoring tickets** & **funding transport**.

We partner with other organisations such as **BLENNZ**, **Sistema Aotearoa** and the **Otara Music and Arts Centre** (OMAC) to access communities that would otherwise be unable to participate in our programmes.

AUCKLAND LIVE

ISAAC THEATRE ROYAL

WAIKATO REGIONAL THEATRE

CLARENCE ST THEATRE

due drop Events Centre

ON THE BIG STAGE

275
young performers

50
scholarships offered

Since our first programme in 2005, NYT has gone from strength to strength, impacting the lives of tens of thousands of young people. We've come this far because of the support of many wonderful sponsors and benefactors, our hard-working staff and an amazing team of volunteers.

50
funded buses

School audiences of up to
5,000

Public audiences of up to
4,000

NYT STRATEGIC PLAN

2026 – 2030

OUR 2030 VISION

National Youth Theatre's inspiring, nation-wide programmes will offer over 2,500 opportunities annually for young people to achieve their potential both on and off the stage. We will bring the joy of youth theatre to over 35,000 audience members each year.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

INSPIRING YOUTH EXPERIENCES

Creating inspiring youth experiences is at the heart of everything we do.

EMPOWERING OUR PEOPLE

Building a strong, supported team with the opportunities and motivation for people to reach their potential

ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTH

Strengthening our foundations to enable growth.

STRATEGIC PILLAR 1

INSPIRING EXPERIENCES

Creating inspiring youth experiences is at the heart of everything we do.

Quality of Experience

OBJECTIVES:

- Provide a consistently high quality experience
- Evolve and grow our programming
- Foster a safe and inclusive culture for participants
- Provide extension opportunities through external partnerships (e.g. industry, schools and alumni)

Accessibility for All

OBJECTIVES:

- Increase opportunities for participants and audiences with accessibility needs
- Grow our outreach programme, including scholarships and school audiences
- Increase opportunities for under-represented communities

Youth Engagement Beyond the Stage

OBJECTIVES:

- Launch new creative development programmes
- Formalise and grow existing creative development programmes
- Provide youth leadership and youth engagement opportunities

STRATEGIC PILLAR 2

EMPOWERING OUR PEOPLE

Build a strong, supported team with the opportunities and motivation to reach their potential

Our Core Team

OBJECTIVES:

- Review and adapt the structure to meet the organisation's evolving needs
- Recruit broadly and inclusively to build a diverse, high quality team
- Foster a safe and supportive culture for our people

Development Pathways

OBJECTIVES:

- Foster internal development pathways and mentoring opportunities
- Develop and extend external partnerships to create opportunities and pathways (e.g. with industry, schools and alumni)

Professional Support

OBJECTIVES:

- Employ industry professionals in a range of roles
- Grow mentoring opportunities offered by these professionals

STRATEGIC PILLAR 3

ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTH

Strengthen our foundations to enable growth

Effective Governance

OBJECTIVES:

- Ensure good governance procedures
- Implement and maintain relevant policies
- Manage risk and liability, health and safety
- Integration of Te Tiriti in operations

Financial Sustainability

OBJECTIVES:

- Ensure rigorous financial processes and management are in place
- Build strong financial foundations for sustainability and growth
- Develop diverse funding streams

Sustainable Growth

OBJECTIVES:

- Extend our national presence and brand awareness
- Formalise our existing partnerships and establish new ones to help us grow
- Establish effective resource and infrastructure to enable scalable growth

Our People

NYT Board

Melanie Esplin (Chair)

(she/her)
Director of Development at the Auckland Philharmonia.

Dianne Ruela

(she/her)
Marketing Communications Specialist.

Kelly Bleakley

(she/her)
Sr Social Responsibility Manager at Lotto NZ.

Maria Stegantova FCCA

(she/her)
Principal, Technical Accounting at IAG

Rebekkah Schoonbeek-Berridge

(she/her) (Ngāti Maru)
Performer/Choreographer

Paul Smith

(he/him)
Programme Manager Sky City Entertainment

Sarah Somerville

(she/her)
Executive Director of TAPAC

Simone Corballis

(she/her)
Youth Representative

Milly Malpas

(she/her)
Youth Representative

NYT Operations

James Doy MNZM

(he/him)
Chief Executive
james@nyt.nz

Shirley Sequeira

(she/her)
Relationship Manager
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Seamus Ford

(he/him)
Programmes Manager
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Shoaib Iqbal

(he/him)
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Dr Andrew Zhu

(he/him)
Partnerships
andrew@nyt.nz

George Molloy

(they/them)
Technical Manager
mo@nyt.nz

With experienced professionals in key positions, we are able offer emerging artists pathways to a career in the arts. Paid internships lead into mentored development positions, allowing them to graduate to the wider theatrical community, or providing them with a strong base to pursue further training or branch into a related industry. Many of our previous staff have gone on to work in theatre, television, education, journalism, PR, or even to found their own theatrical endeavours.

Our tutors place great emphasis on encouraging each and every cast member to build their self-confidence, striving to be the best that they can be. They are encouraged to push boundaries and to achieve their full potential through developing a new appreciation and enthusiasm for musical theatre. We create a supportive environment where young performers can be themselves, where they are encouraged by their peers to stand up and stand out, celebrating individuality.

"I can look back on the relationships and skills I obtained throughout those years and see the direct link to the success I have now achieved."

"NYT is a community where everyone is welcome, from awkward to outgoing."

"It was my 'happy place' – where I could wholly be myself in a fun, positive and supportive environment."

"NYT allowed me a space to do what I loved, to sing and dance and perform to audiences; where that was encouraged, not something to be judged for, and to be surrounded by people who were like me.."

"I credit my live performance and public speaking ability to my time spent training with NYT. "

"NYT is not just a theatre company, it's a family"

NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE

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SCAN ME