



CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES

Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand's vision is to transform lives by mentoring potential through experiencing Shakespeare. Essentially a voluntary, not-for-profit organisation it was established in 1991 with a major focus on education, encouraging the performance and study of Shakespeare from an early age. Its objectives are **Manaaki** – to provide opportunities for personal and professional development; **Pūkenga** – to develop life skills; **Hauora** – to build resilience and wellbeing; **Whanau** – to connect people, regionally, nationally, and globally; **Tautoko** – to include and unite people from diverse backgrounds; **Mahi hou** – to inspire creativity and innovation; **Atawhai** – to cultivate empathetic communication; **Mana** – to enhance confidence with gravitas. It has strong links with Shakespeare's Globe in London.

SGCNZ is most grateful to the Ministry of Education, Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington (VUW), Raye Blumenthal Freedman Trust, Wellington City Council, Venues Wellington, Sofitel Hotel, Trinity College London, Sheilah Winn Charitable Trust, Wellington East Girls' College, Otago Community Trust, Aotearoa Gaming Trust, Lion Foundation, Pelorus Trust, NZCT and other sponsors and personal donors for assistance towards SGCNZ's annual Shakespeare Festivals. We also gratefully acknowledge the further assistance from other venues and sponsors nationwide, donors of awards, the Regional Representatives and thousands of volunteers, teachers, students, parents and others whose help is vital to facilitate these Festivals. More is essential...

SGCNZ's FESTIVALS & ASSOCIATED PROGRAMMES

SGCNZ VUW REGIONAL SHAKESPEARE FESTIVALS (SGCNZ VUW RSF)

DATES: By the end of Term 1 i.e. no later than noon Thursday 2 April 2026.

The Regional Festivals (SGCNZ VUW RSF) are held in 24 centres throughout New Zealand coordinated nationally by the SGCNZ CEO supported by Regional Representatives who facilitate each Regional Festival.

SGCNZ VUW RSF website: Dates are on the website: regionals.sgcnz.org.nz

From each of these a 15-minute adult- or student-directed scene, and a 5-minute student-directed scene, are selected by one or more Assessors to be performed at the National Festival. Groups from Schools, Homeschool clusters, and Community Youth Drama groups, Year 7-13, aged 11-19, may participate. If there are 300+ students performing in a Region, 15 schools or 50 scenes, a 3rd group may be selected. Regions with only two schools or groups involved with less than 15 scenes may have only one scene selected. NB Performances are eligible for NCEA assessment. Once selected, National Forms must be sent in immediately.

In order to capture an outstanding student not in a group selected to attend SGCNZ's VUW National Shakespeare Festival (SGCNZ VUW NSF), *one student over 15 years old on 1 March 2026 may also be chosen from each Regional Festival for Direct Entry to SGCNZ's "life-changing" SGCNZ National Shakespeare Schools Production (SGCNZ NSSP)*

SGCNZ VUW NATIONAL SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL (SGCNZ VUW National SF)

DATE: King's Birthday Weekend, Thursday 28 May – Monday 1 June 2026

For the five stimulating days of SGCNZ's National SF approximately 650 students from 24 regions gather in Wellington to perform their 15-minute and 5-minute scenes to their peers and the public. If selected, book fares and accommodation as early as possible to get the best deals. They also participate in workshops taken by leading theatre exponents and practitioners, attend talks and make enduring friendships. Three Assessors provide oral feedback and written reports, and make awards, assisted by some of the award donors. Throughout the duration of this Festival three SGCNZ National Shakespeare Schools Production (NSSP) Selectors observe the designated eligible students to assess them for compatibility, willingness to learn and suitability for selection for NSSP.

All students selected to participate MUST attend ALL of the National Festival as defined in the Schedule. Any group wanting to skip parts of it will be replaced by one eager to be there all the time.

SGCNZ NATIONAL SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS PRODUCTION (SGCNZ NSSP)

DATE: 26 September-4 October 2026 (during the school holidays) at St Pat's College, Silverstream, Hutt Valley, Wellington.

At the SGCNZ VUW National SF approximately 22 additional students will be selected to attend NSSP - a 9-day-long intensive workshop studying aspects of Shakespeare with leading tutors and, with three directors, working on scenes from three of Shakespeare's plays. These 46 students, chosen from some 4,000 nationwide, conclude the week with 2 public performances. They are joined by the Supreme Winners of the SGCNZ Costume Design and SGCNZ/Morrison Music Trust Shakespeare Music Composition Competitions. The cost is \$1,400, plus travel.

SGCNZ YOUNG SHAKESPEARE COMPANY (SGCNZ YSC)

DATE: 2-21 July 2027 (mostly during mid-year school holidays)

Throughout NSSP week, the students will be assessed for compatibility, willingness to learn and suitability to be chosen as one of 24 to form SGCNZ YSC 2026. This group, at their own expense (around \$11,800), will travel to the UK for a comprehensive two and a half-week study tour, coordinated by the SGCNZ with Travel Agent, Kerry Maher, and Shakespeare Globe Education, London. The schedule includes being rehearsed by a Globe Director and performing on the Globe stage, theatre tours, Shakespeare walks, attending performances, workshops, talks; then historical Shakespeare 'scene setting', tours and performances in Stratford-Upon-Avon.

SGCNZ TEACHERS GO GLOBAL (SGCNZ TGG)

This outstanding professional development course will take place again in 2026. The 2024 cohort loved it; their Reports are available to learn more about it! Applicants should apply as immediately as possible, as flights and accommodation need to be secured by our Travel Agent, Kerry Maher. Whilst they will be at the Globe at the same time as the SGCNZ YSC, they are discrete courses, with just a few talks and components combined. The pedagogical skills acquired through this course, taken by high calibre Globe Education Directors and Practitioners, are fully transferable into any teaching genre and subject area, including actors expanding their skills. The fulsome programme for SGCNZ TGGers also includes performing on the Globe stage!

SGCNZ ALLIED COMPETITIONS (held in parallel with the Festivals)

Although not actually part of the Festivals, SGCNZ's 6 Allied Competitions, of various arts genre, are held at the same time to enable winners to attend the National Festival to do Workshops and publicly receive their Certificates and Prizes.

Competitions in: Costume Design, Music Composition, Static Image, Poster, Video Title Card, Essay – Criteria and Entry Forms can be found on sgcnz.org.nz/Competitions

COST to Participate in FESTIVALS & COMPETITIONS

Individuals are not charged to perform in the Festivals. School Friends subscription of Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand \$225 (including GST) per school, or Home School Cluster/Community Group sub of \$120 (including GST), covers all entries. (NB the slight increase to help cover inflation!) Schools/Homeschool Cluster/Community Groups must be financial members at the time of participation in their Regional Festival. **Subscription year 1 January - 31 December 2026.** For this Friends receive four newsletters – *Accent on Shakespeare* - per annum, event discounts and other information and opportunities, including 10% discount on Shakespeare's Globe online shop; code # available on your receipt and from SGCNZ office.

2026 SGCNZ VUW Regional & National Shakespeare Festivals - Entries, Criteria & Rules

AIM: To mentor, enrich and enhance life skills through the study, production and performance of Shakespeare's works by facilitating learning experiences through our Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand's (SGCNZ) Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) Regional and National Shakespeare Festivals, as an integral part of our programmes;

To encourage inclusivity of people of diverse ethnic backgrounds in casts and settings of scenes, LGBTQI+ gender diversity, creativity and innovation, exploration of currency of themes and the human psyche through Shakespeare and allied arts.

ENTRIES - Registration is now available online at <https://regionals.sgcnz.org.nz> - start registering your entries as soon as possible. You can go in, fill in all you can, making sure that every required field with an asterisk beside it has something in each box. Then click on Modify to update your registration form and change information once known and confirmed. Remember to save your Access ID number and Password in a safe place! The website and Sharepoint Link [35SGCNZVUWRegFestivals](#) have Festival Schedules with entry closing and performance dates for each region. Note Regional Reps often update these.

CRITERIA & RULES - Do read these carefully and visit our website [sgcnz.org.nz/SGCNZ SF FAQs](https://sgcnz.org.nz/SGCNZ_SF_FAQs) for further information

- Homeschool Clusters and Community Drama Groups may enter in their own right, within the same parameters as school students
- Students must be from Year 7–13; ages no younger than 11 nor older than 19. The proportion of Year 7 & 8 students must not exceed 20% of the cast - and have an extra supervising adult accompanying them
- Students wishing to be considered for selection for SGCNZ NSSP must be aged **15** or over **on 1 March 2026**
- Performances may be set in any context, period or place - as long as the essence and integrity of Shakespeare's play is retained ... this means that contemporary or alternative settings and costuming are encouraged
- Assessment is on understanding and delivery of the text, interpretation of characters and theme, vitality and overall impression
- Familiarity with the whole play is vital - ideally read it entirely
- Appropriate inclusion of other performing art forms, as well as acting, is encouraged
- Attention should be paid to connection with the audience, mindful that the plays were written for audiences in full view of, and acknowledged by, the actors
- Consideration should be given to use of space and physicality (See *Assessment Guidelines* in Sharepoint & on website)

- Schools, Homeschool Clusters and Community Youth Drama Groups choose the region in which they perform, but may participate in *only one region*

15 Minute SCENES - Adult- or Student-directed for two or more speaking actors (NOT only monologues)

Scene/s selection: Each entry must comprise Scene(s) from any one of Shakespeare's plays or poems or up to five Sonnets – interacted between two or more actors (ie not just recited)

Script: Script may be edited - ie cut, but must be Shakespeare's words from only one play. Strongly text-based performances are encouraged, though other art forms may be included and translations into other languages

Timing: **No less than 10 mins; no more than 15 mins**

Fifteen minutes from curtain open to close (or lights on to lights off at the end) must not be exceeded
Scenes at Regional Festivals which are outside these times will not be eligible for selection for the SGCNZ National Shakespeare Festival

5 Minute EXCERPTS - Student-directed only, for two or more speaking actors (NOT only monologues)

Scene/s selection: Short scene(s) or duologues from any one of Shakespeare's plays, poems or up to three interacted Sonnets

Script: Script may be edited - ie cut, but must be Shakespeare's words from only one play. Strongly text-based performances are encouraged, though other art forms may be included and translations made

Timing: **No less than 4 mins; no more than 5 mins**

Five minutes from curtain open to close (or lights on to lights off at the end) must not be exceeded
*Scenes at Regional Festivals which are outside these times will not be eligible for selection for the SGCNZ VUW National Festival Scenes outside these times **will not** receive Scene Awards – these Student Directors and Cast **may not** receive specific awards for individuals either but **may be** selected for SGCNZ National Shakespeare Schools Production (NSSP)*

PROPS & SCENERY

- ~ Simplicity is most effective – “*let imaginary forces work*”
- ~ All scenery and props must be set up and struck afterwards within two minutes
- ~ No sharp knives, swords or other dangerous objects, including real guns
- ~ A Health and Safety briefing will be given to each group – all participants must be present
- ~ Tables and chairs will be provided; a limited number of blocks and other staging can be requested (and might be available)
- ~ Mess (eg pillow feathers, water) must be thoroughly cleaned up by the group creating it within the 2 minutes changeovers

LIGHTING

- ~ Simplicity is again encouraged
- ~ Basic lighting only is available and an operator supplied – there is not enough time for complex lighting changes to be plotted
- ~ No naked flames, including candles nor smoke machines may be used

MUSIC

- ~ The use of live music, own instruments, singing and dance are strongly encouraged
- ~ Setting to music Shakespeare's words, only from the play being performed, is allowed
- ~ Sound system is available

TRANSLATIONS

- ~ Partial or complete translation of Shakespeare's text from the one play being performed may be made into any language
- ~ At least two weeks before your Regional Festival, a copy must be sent to the Regional Representative for checking by a person proficient in that language, or another appropriate person.

TRAVEL: SGCNZ may provide a very limited amount towards cost of travel in hardship cases. Profit from door takings at Regional Festivals should be used to assist groups travel to the National Festival. Other fund-raising should begin by groups immediately on selection at their SGCNZ VUW RSF.

ACCOMMODATION: A list of inexpensive accommodation is on our website [sgcnz.org.nz/SGCNZ VUW R&NSF](http://sgcnz.org.nz/SGCNZ_VUW_R&NSF)

WARNING: Drugs and other illegal substances are strictly prohibited. Police will be notified of anyone found in possession or under the influence, with offenders banned from attending the remainder of the Festival. No smoking, vaping or alcohol is permitted within any of the venues.

SGCNZ VUW NATIONAL SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL 2026 SCHEDULE



Assessors:Tbc
Tbc

- Senior Stage & Screen NZ Actor
- Senior Stage & Screen NZ Actor

Tbc
NSSP Selectors:

- SGCNZ YSC Alum Actor/Tutor

Tbc

- SGCNZ YSC Alum/Director

Tbc

- SGCNZ YSC Alum/Actor

Tbc

- SGCNZ YSC Alum/Tutor/Actor

Venues: Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington, Te Aro Campus, Vivian Street, Wgtn 6021;
Wellington East Girls' College, Paterson Street, Mt Victoria, Wellington 6011;
St James Theatre, 87/77 Courtenay Place, Wellington 6011

Dates: Thursday 28 May to Monday 1 June 2026

Schedule:

Thursday 28 May Venue: Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington, Vivian Street Campus, Wgtn 6011;
4.00-5.30pm **SGCNZ VUW National Shakespeare Festival Registrations & Welcome Reception**
Evening **Available for theatre going**

Friday 29 May Venue: Wellington East Girls' College, Paterson Street, Mt Victoria, Wellington 6011

*8.30am-9.10am ***Registrations**
8.45am-9.00am **Special Session** for non-Group attendees
9.15am-9.25am **Mihi Whakatau & Notices**
9.30am-11.00am **Workshop 1**
11.15am-12.45pm **Workshop 2**
11.30am-12.15pm **Regional Representatives' Meeting with DJS**

Venue: St James Theatre, 87/77 Courtenay Place, Wellington 6011
1.00pm-7.15pm **Placing Calls & Health Safety Briefings – St James Theatre**
on stage (specific times as scheduled)

Venues: Optional Tours of Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington, Government House, Parliament, Te Papa, Wellington Museum, Toi Whakaari & other venues
Evening **Available for theatre going**

Saturday 30 May Venue: St James Theatre, 87/77 Courtenay Place, Wellington
8.45am-9.00am **Special Session** for non-Group attendees
8.45am-9.15am **SGCNZ YSCs' Session** – Kerry Maher, DJS & Tour Leaders
9.30am-5.30pm*****Scene Performances**
Evening **Available for theatre going**

Sunday 31 May Venue: St James Theatre, 87/77 Courtenay Place, Wellington
8.30am-8.45am **Special Session** for non-Group attendees
9.00am-4.00pm *****Scene Performances**
4.00pm-5.00pm *****Special Guest Presenters & Inspiring Alumni**
5.00pm-6.30pm **Dinner break** – own choice of restaurant (options suggested in our website)
7.00pm-9.30pm*****SGCNZ YSC Performance, Competition Prize-Giving, Scene Award Ceremony** - MC Hon tbc & other VIPs

Monday 1 June Venue: Te Herenga Waka – VUW Pipitea Campus, Rutherford House, Lambton Quay tbc
9.30am-10.30am **Scene Assessors' & NSSP Selectors' Feedback** – for students, teachers, supervisors, SGCNZ & WSS members & sponsors
11.00am-11.50am* **Public by Invitation–Guest Speaker**
11. 50am-12 noon **Whakamutunga & Karakia**

Full attendance at the Festivals is a requirement for all performing groups from * to**.

***Open to the Public – book at Ticketmaster for St James * Enquiries re Talk to 04 384 1300 or dawn@sgcnz.org.nz

Minor changes may be required - updates to the Schedule will be posted on the website and included in the SGCNZ National Festival Pack.

Subject to change – check the SGCNZ website: www.sgcnz.org.nz

SGCNZ NATIONAL SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL AWARDS

Although there are awards which acknowledge the time, research, leadership, effort, excellence, energy and various other skills qualities, we emphasise that this is a **Festival**, rich in creative learning, enjoyment in participation and gaining transferable skills. Do not think of, nor refer to it, as competition.

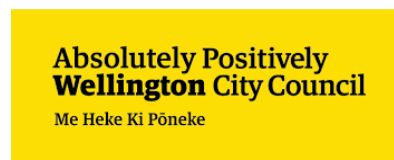
Groups outside the stated time limits will be ineligible to receive scene awards.

Recipients will be selected by the Assessors, or by their donors or nominees. Awards have been generously donated by: Nicole Barker & Tessa Ratcliffe, Johan Barton, Christopher Finlayson, Paul Foster-Bell, Jan Fraser, Dale & Nina Hendry, Curly Del'Monte (Memorial Award), Drama New Zealand, Frona King (Memorial Award), Julie Nevett and the Morrison Music Trust, Nanette Wright, Nelson Colleges 1995 Theatre Arts Class & Theatre New Zealand, SGCNZ Organisers, Glenda Pearce, Patricia Smyth (Memorial Award), Speech New Zealand, Peter Vere-Jones (Memorial Award), Sam Wanamaker (Memorial Award), Wellington Shakespeare Society, Sheilah Winn CBE (Memorial Award), Toi Whakaari: NZ Drama School, Tony Wolf, Trinity College London. We reserve the right to withhold awards if there is no suitable recipient.

National Organiser Dawn Sanders ONZM, QSM

– SGCNZ Founder/Chief Executive & Member Shakespeare Globe Council, London,
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Sheilah Winn Trust
via the

