

8 January 2024

SGCNZ UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO SHEILAH WINN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVALS 2024 & Allied COMPETITIONS

Dear Principal > HOD/TIC Drama/Arts Coordinator, Homeschool Cluster, Community Drama Group Coordinator

Would love to have you involved – whether again or for the first time – in our 33rd year of Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand **University of Otago Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festivals** (SGCNZ UOSWSF)!!

Please would you pass on the **allied Competition Entry Forms** to the relevant teachers or personnel. These can be done in the classroom or as individuals. There are great prizes and add-on 'rewards' for winners of these too!

Hopefully by now, all will be able to perform in person, and the impact of Covid will have diminished.

Having so said, if because of location or health issues you wish to submit your Festival entry digitally, please contact me as soon as possible and we can discuss this option. This also includes for those in schools/homeschool clusters/Community group in 'far-flung' areas. The exciting news is that we are booked to be in the beautiful St James again for the National Festival.

If your school/group has not been involved before, or want to have queries answered, let me know and we can have a ZOOM call with you – with others, or one-on-one. Your SGCNZ Regional Representative – see the Schedule of Festivals on the website – will be able to talk to or mentor you.

Our 141,500 Alumni are everywhere! Often they are helpful, to talk to your students or even direct your school's/homeschool cluster/community group's scene/s. There's lots of information to read, and an FAQ section on our website: sgcnz.org.nz.

New Registration Website

Because of changes at the University of Otago, we have had to move our Registration 'platform' from its website to ours with a new address: regionals.sgcnz.org.nz It looks the same as the previous one, but has had a lots of 'engine room' work done to upgrade it – thanks to Don Sanders. It still requests all the information we require for funders in the respective fields.

Why be involved?

For those in over half the schools with secondary age students, homeschoolers/ Community Drama groups involved, they know the plethora of benefits already. New participants are always welcome! The wealth of skills gained include - communication and creativity, close reading, collaboration, cooperation, interaction, imagination, inclusivity, leadership, literary and literacy skills, self-confidence and presentation, ...and many more, all fully transferable.

The University of Otago loves the fact that we are helping to develop curious and innovative minds and we are very grateful, is supporting us again this year.

Doing Will Differently

With the much evidence of the universality of Shakespeare, the 'how to present his works' is boundless - there is no right or wrong way. He certainly won't mind!

There are very few rules in our Festivals around the presentation of the 5-minute student-directed and 15-minute student- or adult-directed scenes from any of Shakespeare's plays. Do read them and note what the Assessors will be looking for. Mostly we want to encourage the enjoyment in delving into and presenting Shakespeare in any context.



Mount Maunganui College ~ Macbeth

Use of Sharepoint

In order to 'save trees', cost of postage, ensure safe and timely delivery of information, and ease of storing and sharing it yourselves as well, we are moving our principal point of communication to Sharepoint. All you have to do is to click on this year's link and more information will continue to be added when available and necessary:

Sharepoint link - SGCNZ Regional UOSWSF 2024 <https://1drv.ms/f/s!AjUPyBRfDvJ4IGd1USDhpNyzmqgG?e=YtGyl6>

Chair Paul Foster-Bell

Chief Executive, SGCNZ Trustee, Member Shakespeare's Globe Council, London Dawn Sanders ONZM, QSM M 027 283 6016 E dawn@sgcnz.org.nz

Board Johan Barton | Aaron Hape | Neil Strom | Vivienne Thomson | Bronwyn Turei | Prof Stuart Young

Globe Associate Stella Kanu | **Youth Observer** Hakaia Daly | Nishaa Senarath-Dassanayake

Patrons Vice-Regal Patron Her Excellency The Right Honourable Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand
Robyn Malcolm MNZM

Arts Event & Administration Manager Janet Davies | **Financial Advisor** Jan Bergquist | **Accent on Shakespeare Editor** Leigh Bredenkamp

Where & Who ? – Regions & Regional Representatives

You may choose in which of the 24 regions you enter - but you may enter in **one** region only. The list of these, with the draft dates and venues and SGCNZ Regional Representative (Reg Rep) contact details, is attached.

Your Reg Rep may have already contacted you regarding your Regional Festival. A list of all of these is on the SGCNZ [sgcnz.org.nz/University of Otago Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festivals](https://sgcnz.org.nz/University_of_Otago_Sheilah_Winn_Shakespeare_Festivals) website - note some Reg Reps have changed since last year. Sheridan Hickey is kindly continuing in the Whanganui/Manawatu/Rangitikei Region, but is wanting to have someone work alongside her to mentor them into the role for next year. If you know someone who might 'fit the bill' please let me know asap!

Thanks to Don, our on-line Registration platform is now 'live' meaning that SGCNZ Regional UOSWSF 2024 Registrations can start to be entered. NB Where you see eg '33SGCNZUOSWSF' it refers to the fact that this our 33rd year of Festivals!

Scene Selections

You may choose to perform scenes from any plays in Shakespeare's canon. A list of scene selections is on the SGCNZ website to offer some specific ideas. Most are less commonly performed and so provide fresh choices, while others are recognisably more frequently performed. Thinking 'outside the square' to present them in different ways is part of the challenge, though again, not essential. **Using only Shakespeare's words**, from one play (or 3 Sonnets or a poem) with editing and translations permitted, and within timing limits, are the fixed parameters.

How to Register

The instructions are easy! Find the Criteria and Board Policies enclosed and on our Registration homepage. The constantly updated Regional details will be on our website . Then register your intention to participate in the Festival, adding details as you know them. Proceed as below:

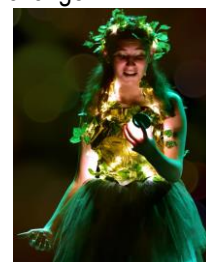
NEW in 2024: To register for the Festivals go to <https://regionals.sgnz.org.nz>

- This will take you to the Main Menu
- Under Main Menu click on the link - 'Introduction, Board Policies and Criteria'.
- Scroll down to 'CRITERIA'. Please read these and note the few, yet very specific Criteria, and Board Policies. There are new inclusions, so even if you are regular participants, please read them carefully.
- Go back to the Main Menu and, under SGCNZ Regional Festival, click 'Enter Festival'.
- After reading the Board Policies, click on the 'I Agree' box at the bottom of the page. You will then be taken to the Registration Form.
- Follow the instructions and select from the drop-down boxes.
- Do take a photo of your Password and Registration Number and keep it on your phone and write it in another safe place! (We can help you with the Access#, but not the Password if you forget that, you will need to start over again!)
- More detailed instructions, with screenshots, are included with this document.

Please let me know if you have any difficulties in using the online registration form.

Do not contact the University of Otago directly – as mentioned, they are still a valued part-funder, but no longer host the Festival Registration page. Also, a reminder that the Festivals are, and always have been, organised by SGCNZ.

Do check the Festival Schedule on either website regularly as there will be more details added and amended. Your Reg Rep will be able to see your on-line Registration and will make further contact with finer local details. Hard copy applications are acceptable, but the collation of all the information captured on-line is vital for our reporting compliance to funders, as well as making creation of the programme and lists easier.



Macleans College
~ A Midsummer
Night's Dream

A note that your SGCNZ Reg Rep is a generous volunteer, either an already overloaded teacher, or busily engaged in another job, or a retiree! Please note and meet their timeframes as to when they require information.

Whilst they work to the Action Plan provided by me, there is a degree of flexibility – for instance to allow for local variations of date (as long as held by 6 April), venue, number of Assessors (1-3), whether they have associated Workshops, and other arrangements.

National Festival 2024

The Festival will be officially opened with a Whakatauki at Te Whaea, home of Toi Whakaari: NZ Drama School, beginning at 4pm on Thursday 30 May with special VIPs and Alumni, and a social function.

The first Special Session and Registrations will take place on Friday morning 31 May at Wellington East Girls' College beginning at 8.45am, with the Mihi Whakatau empathetically performed by (recent award winner) Rangimoana Taylor at 9.15am.

The Workshops follow at Wellington East, the first from 9.30-11am and the second 11.15am-12.45am

The Placing Calls and Health & Safety briefings, obligatory for each group, are scheduled from 1pm in the beautiful St James Theatre, with the last groups on Saturday morning 1 June. At 9.30am the performance section of the Festival begins with an official Welcome by a central or local Government MP or Councillor tbc.

On Sunday 2 June the performances continue and are conclude with an Inspiring Alumni and other presenters. In the evening, the SGCNZ Young Shakespeare Company performs, followed by the presentations of our allied Competitions Prize Giving and Scene Award Ceremony.

With the change of Government, we will find out early in the year as to who will be the Minister presenting the Prizes and Awards. We will hopefully also be hosted at Parliament again for the Scene Assessors' and NSSP Selectors' Feedback session and the special Guest Talk on Monday 3 June. Once we are advised, this information will be updated on the National Schedule on our website.

All the above is free of charge for the selected groups. Non-performing groups and individuals may pay to attend the Workshops and Performances. Specific forms will be on the website in due course and available via a National Festival 2024 Sharepoint link.

To Enter the Allied Competitions

The Criteria and Entry Forms for the **SGCNZ/Dawn Sanders Shakespeare Costume Design Competition** (~ thanks to Nicole and Tessa), **SGCNZ/Morrison Music Trust Shakespeare Music Composition Competition** (~ thanks to Julie Nevett), **SGCNZ/Adam Foundation Static Image, Poster and Video Title Card Competitions** and **SGCNZ/Ida Gaskin Shakespeare Essay Competition ~ with English at Otago** (with thanks to the University of Otago, Michelle Linterman and NZSA) are all enclosed.

Please ensure that the relevant HODs/teachers/Performing Arts Coordinators/Arts Prefect/Captain in your school are given the enclosed hard copies of the allied Competition Forms - or put in their pigeon-holes. All are also available online.

These Competitions may be used either as class projects to create the entries or given to keen students in the respective genre to work on independently. In addition to monetary prizes, there are exciting flow-on opportunities and benefits for the winners of these, as outlined in the Criteria.

Eligibility to Participate

- All students from Year 7 - 13, ages 11 - under 20 years old (who are still studying at secondary school level), are allowed to participate in the Festivals.
- If you are including Year 7 and 8 students, to be eligible for selection for the National Festival, there may be no more than 20% of them in the cast. (There may be more in the Regional Festivals only.)
An extra Supervisor must accompany the group to the National Festival.

- All recognised schools with secondary students at Kura Kaupapa Māori schools, Te Kura, Teen Schools, Homeschoolers and Community Drama Groups in the same age and schooling range, are encouraged to enter SGCNZ's Competitions and Festivals.

The benefits to all are constantly evidenced locally and globally!

Mailout

This hard copy version of the Festival Criteria and Competition Entry Forms is being mailed to all Schools via their Principals, Homeschool Clusters and Community Drama Groups with secondary students – 700 nationwide.

Cost of Participating

To facilitate maximum participation, we are maintaining our policy of not charging individual participants.

Only one SGCNZ School/Homeschool Cluster/Community Friends Membership Fee is required, which will cover as many entries as you wish of scenes in the Festival and entries in the Competitions.

Multiple entries are encouraged, as 'numbers count'! Sponsors, donors and SGCNZ want as many actors, musicians, dancers, as well as directors, crew and volunteers involved as possible, and with no cost impediment.

However, the newest Board Policy has limited the number of scenes from one school/Groups to 12. If there is a 'play-off' in a school to select these, which we do encourage, we are calling them Prologue Festivals, with the numbers being included in the total of participants involved.

Scene groups should comprise different combinations of actors in order to have as many different students as possible involved. Competition entrants may be SGCNZ Individual Student Friends or enter under the umbrella of their school's or Homeschool Cluster's or Group's membership.

There is a Friends Membership Form attached and on our website sgcnz.org.nz/JoinUs.

By being an SGCNZ Friend, you also receive our quarterly magazine with resource material, other benefits, information and opportunities, including 10% Discount on the Globe on-line shop with its huge range of excellent books and other resource material.

If already a Friend, your school/cluster/group was issued a receipt with your Membership number at the time your Sub was last paid. It will have your expiry date – 31 December of the specified year. You will need to be paid up until 31 December 2024 in order to participate in the 2024 Festivals and Competitions.

The cost per annum per school has just increased for the first time in 5 years to \$220 and per Homeschool Cluster \$115. Student Friends Membership is \$45.

You will appreciate that not only has there been annual inflation, but, with the employing of a mature full-time staff member for me to mentor towards sustainability of the organisation, extra funding is more vital than ever.

You must provide proof of your current membership to your Reg Rep in order to participate in your Regional Festival. Contact the SGCNZ Office if you wish to check your status.

Key and other Sponsors

We are extremely grateful to the sponsors secured to date. We are awaiting the results of other application results.

Obtaining more is still essential – any assistance with leads of sponsors/donors/funders are welcome!

The University of Otago is our warmly appreciated most significant partner, providing not only a greatly valued cash sponsorship towards some expenses, but also design of much of our print material and some printing costs.

We are proud to promote the University of Otago as the one of choice to extend the curious and enquiring minds which flourish through our Festivals and are exactly who the University wants to engage with and foster.

We are also very grateful to our other sponsors – the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Youth Development, the Raye Blumenthal Freedman Trust, Wellington City Council, Venues Wellington, Trinity College London, the Sheilah Maureen Winn Trust, the Otago Community Trust and others being finalised ...

If you are in a position to donate or hold a fundraising event for SGCNZ, we would be delighted, and would acknowledge it on various social media, in print material (including featuring it in our magazine, *Accent on Shakespeare*), from the stage and in interviews. The amount SGCNZ has to raise to pay all costs of the Regional and National Festivals is now just over \$300,000 - it is an on-going challenge to achieve each year.

Maximum Involvement & MYD

Funders need proof of the number of participants, their ages, gender and ethnicities, and an indication of audience demographics! This includes when scenes are performed to school assemblies or has internal 'play offs' or Prologue Festivals.

The Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) Survey link needs to be individually completed by 3500 students between the ages of 12 and 24, involved in any capacity, including the Competitions.

Please help us retain this vital funding by completing the 2-minute Participant Feedback Survey - Link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShakespeareGCNZ_PF

SGCNZ National UOSWSF & NSSP Direct Entry Forms

If a group from your School or Cluster is selected for SGCNZ's National UOSWSF, or a student chosen for Direct Entry to SGCNZ's National Shakespeare Schools Production (D/E NSSP), your Reg Rep will have the National Festival and SGCNZ D/E NSSP **Entry Forms**. They will also be available via a Sharepoint Link. Do ask for this if not given it at the final selection announcement and presentation section of your Regional Festival.

You need to complete and furnish it to SGCNZ immediately once selected, and no later than 12 April.

We need to have these by the end of Term 1 at the latest, as processing of them starts then! It is only just under 7 weeks till the National Festival! Therefore, being able to communicate directly with the Contact Person of the group, as detailed on the form, from the beginning of the Term 1 holidays - or earlier, depending on the timing of your Festival, is essential. **Do send Page A immediately** – it must **not** be held up until Travel and Accommodation are booked – Page B – to be sent by the due date.

National Festival Information Pack

As soon as your Entry Forms have been received, the designated Contact Person is sent the link to the 30-page **National Festival Information Pack**. With this, there are many forms containing choices to be made for the different activities and aspects of the National Festival. We are happy to post these out if preferred.

Once you have returned these, we have about 1000 pages and much information to process in the brief time prior to the Festival. Through Vega, we are planning to make more of this on-line, but it might not all come fruition in time for the 2024 National Festival. We are doing our best!

Note the days, times and venues of the National Festival – all aspects and sessions of the Festival must be attended from Thursday 30 May afternoon session until at least 9.30pm on Sunday 2 June, though ideally, till the very end on King's Birthday Monday 3 June at noon, in order to gain maximum benefit from all that is on offer to you and your students.

Non-Performer Festival Information Pack

If your school/cluster's group is not selected to perform, it is possible for students to pay to attend the National Festival, including doing the Workshops, hearing the talks and watching the performances. Contact the SGCNZ Office if this is the case, and a Non-Performer Information Pack will be sent to you or the designated person.

Contacting SGCNZ

My new Arts Event and Administration Manager, Janet Davies, will be receiving the e-mails to sgcnz@sgcnz.org.nz in the first instance. Please copy me in if require very specific responses, as Janet is new and will not know all the answers yet.

Any policy queries or permissions should be made to me, Dawn Sanders - please use dawn@sgcnz.org.nz or phone on 027 283 6016 – in the evenings fine as well as I appreciate you don't have much free time during the day.



Whangarei Boys' High School ~ *The Tempest*

We are looking forward to your involvement ever so much, in whatever capacity, and enjoying seeing all the highly innovative, creative and stimulating, fresh takes on Shakespeare – or traditional ones are equally acceptable as well!

Warm wishes for a very happy and healthy 2024



Dawn Sanders
SGCNZ CEO, Trustee & Member Shakespeare Globe Council, London

Encl: Letter

SGCNZ UOSWSF Criteria Information & Board Policies
Sample on-line Registration page & On-line Registration 'How to' Instruction pages
Regional Festival dates and contacts
Regional Assessment for Participants – on Sharepoint (to save printing)

Competition Criteria and Entry Forms

- SGCNZ/Dawn Sanders Shakespeare Costume Design Competition
- SGCNZ/Morrison Music Trust Shakespeare Music Composition Competition
- SGCNZ/Adam Foundation Static Image Competition
- SGCNZ/Adam Foundation Poster Design Competition
- SGCNZ/Video Title Card Competition
- SGCNZ/ Ida Gaskin Shakespeare Essay Competition ~ With English at Otago

SGCNZ Friends Membership Form