



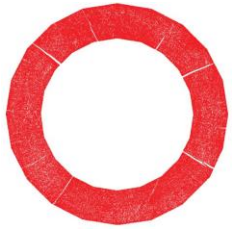
SGCNZ Regional Shakespeare Festival 2025



Regional Information Pack

In association with:





SGCNZ
Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand

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1 January 2025

SGCNZ UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO SHEILAH WINN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVALS 2025 & 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 34th year of Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand
Regional and National Shakespeare Festivals (SGCNZ R&NSF)!

If you've already noticed the name change, it is because, as you will no doubt be aware, the University of Otago has sadly had to withdraw its funding. As the Sheilah Winn Trust grant has become so small, that name is being dropped as well. The Competition for a new one is spawning some intriguing options.

Please would you pass on the **Allied Competition Entry Forms** to the Fabrics/Music/Art/English or whichever other relevant teachers or personnel are applicable. These Competitions can be done in the classroom or as individuals. There are great prizes and add-on 'rewards' for winners of these too!



Avondale College: Julius Caesar

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 will be able to talk to or mentor you – see the Schedule of Festivals attached, updated as and when advised on the website and on Sharepoint. Our 148,500 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.

Registration Website

A reminder that our Registration 'platform' was moved from the University of Otago website to SGCNZ's – as of last year. The address is: regionals.sgcnz.org.nz **Do note that information will not save unless there is something written in every field with an asterisk.** This can be modified as many times as required once accurate details are known. We do require all the information in the respective fields for funders.

Why Get Involved?

For the many schools, homeschoolers, and community drama groups already participating, the benefits are well-known and deeply valued. Newcomers are always welcome to join! The array of skills gained through involvement is vast—communication, creativity, close reading, collaboration, cooperation, interaction, imagination, inclusivity, leadership, literary and literacy skills, self-confidence, presentation, and so much more. These are all highly transferable skills that will serve participants in countless ways.

Doing Shakespeare Differently

Shakespeare's works are universal, and the ways to present them are limitless—there's no right or wrong approach. Rest assured, Shakespeare would not mind!

Presentation Rules

There are very few rules governing the presentation of 5-minute student-directed and 15-minute student- or adult-directed scenes from any of Shakespeare's plays. Take the time to review the guidelines and understand what the assessors will be looking for. Above all, the focus is on fostering enjoyment and creativity while exploring and presenting Shakespeare in any context.

Using Sharepoint

To save trees, reduce postage costs, ensure secure and timely delivery of information, and make it easier for you to store and share materials, we have transitioned to SharePoint as our main communication platform. Simply click on this year's SharePoint link, where information will be regularly updated as needed. SharePoint Link: [34SGCNZReqFestivals 2025](http://34SGCNZReqFestivals2025)

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 |

Globe Associate Stella Kanu | **Youth Associate** Darius Martin-Baker | **Youth Observer** Eli Hancock | Jacob Waugh | Leander Mason

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

Sir Sam Neill KNZM, OBE | Robyn Malcolm MNZM

Arts Administrator Hal Martin | Jan Bergquist | **Accent on Shakespeare Editor** Leigh Bredenkamp

Where & Who? - Regions & Regional Representatives

You may choose which of the 24 regions to enter—but you may enter in only **one** region. A list of regions, draft dates, venues, and contact details for SGCNZ Regional Representatives (Reg Reps) is included. Your Reg Rep may have already reached out to you regarding your Regional Festival. A complete list of Regional Representatives is available on the SGCNZ website - sgcnz.org.nz, where you will also find updates, as some Reg Reps have changed since last year.

The only one missing is for Auckland Central – urgently needed!!!

If you know someone who would be a great fit, please let us know as soon as possible!

Thanks to Don, our online registration platform continues to be refined, ensuring a smoother experience for everyone. Registrations for the 2025 SGCNZ Regional Shakespeare Festivals are now open.

Scene Selections

You are welcome to select scenes from any play in Shakespeare's canon. A list of suggested scenes is available on the SGCNZ website, offering both fresh, lesser-performed options and some more well-known choices.

Thinking creatively about how to stage them is encouraged. The only fixed parameters are:

- Use only Shakespeare's words, from a single play (or three Sonnets, or a poem by 2 or more actors)
- Editing and translations are allowed. (Translations must be submitted to Reg Rep 2 weeks in advance)
- Stay within the timing limits 4-5 Minute Student Only Directed; 10-15 Minutes Adult-or Student-Directed

How to Register

Registration is simple! The Criteria and Board Policies are enclosed and also available on our Registration homepage. Updated Regional Festival details are on the website. Once ready, follow these steps to register:

1. Visit <https://regionals.sgnz.org.nz>.
2. On the **Main Menu**, click on "**Introduction, Board Policies and Criteria**" and scroll down to the **Criteria** section.
~ **Read the specific criteria and board policies carefully**
3. Return to the **Main Menu** and click "**Enter Festival**" under the SGCNZ Regional Festival section.
4. Agree to the Board Policies by ticking the '*I agree*' box at the bottom of the page, which will lead you to the registration form.
5. Follow the instructions, using the drop-down boxes as needed.
6. **Save your Password and Registration ID Number** securely—take a photo and store it safely.
~ **If you forget your password, you will need to start over. We can assist with your Access Number but not the password.**
7. Be sure you write something in every field with an asterisk, otherwise information entered will not save. Go back in via Modify, your Registration Access ID number and Password, to update as more details are known.

Detailed instructions with screenshots are included in this document. If you encounter any issues with the online registration, feel free to reach out for support.

Important Notes:

- SGCNZ now manages all Festival registrations
- The Festival schedule will be regularly updated online—check back for details.

Your Reg Rep will have access to your online registration and will follow up with further local details. While hard-copy applications are still accepted, online registration is strongly preferred, as it ensures compliance with funders and simplifies programme and list creation.

A Word About Regional Representatives

Please keep in mind that your Reg Rep is a dedicated volunteer. They may be an already overburdened teacher, a busy professional, or a retiree. Be sure to meet their deadlines and respect their time.

While Reg Reps work from the Action Plan provided by SGCNZ, there is some flexibility to accommodate local needs, such as adjusting dates (as long as your Regional Festival is held by 11 April), venues, the number of Assessors (1–3), workshops, and other arrangements.



Waipapa Youth Theatre: The Taming of the Shrew

SGCNZ National Shakespeare Festival 2025

The National Festival will officially open at Te Whaea home of Toi Whakaari: NZ Drama School, at **4 pm on Thursday, 29 May**. The event begins with a **Whakatauki**, attended by special VIPs and alumni, followed by a social gathering.

The following day, **Friday, 30 May**, activities begin at **Wellington East Girls' College**:

- **8:45 am**: Registration and the first Special Session.
- **9:15 am**: A **Mihi Whakatau**
- **9:30–11:00 am**: The first workshop session.
- **11:15 am–12:45 pm**: The second workshop session.

From **1 pm**, all groups are required to attend their **Placing Calls** as scheduled, which includes a **Health & Safety briefing**, at the **St James Theatre**. The final groups will have their **Placing Calls** and **H&S Briefing** as scheduled on **Saturday morning, 31 May** from 7am.

At **9:30 am on Saturday**, the **Scenes Performance Sessions** of the Festival begin with an **Official Welcome**, delivered by a central or local Government MP or Councillor (to be confirmed).

On Sunday 1 June the **Scene Performances Sessions** continue and conclude with an Inspiring Alumni and other presenters Showcase.

In the evening, the **SGCNZ Young Shakespeare Company** performs, followed by the presentations of our allied **Competitions Prize Giving** and **Scene Award Ceremony**.

The **Scene Assessors'** and **NSSP Selectors' Feedback Session** and the special **Guest Talk** on Monday 2 June, venue to be confirmed. Once we know, this information will be updated on the National Schedule on our website.

Participation Costs

All the above is free of charge for the selected groups. Non-performing groups and individuals may pay to attend the **Workshops** and **Performances**. Details and specific forms will be available on the website and via the **National Festival 2025 SharePoint link**.

Allied Competitions

The Criteria and Entry Forms for the **Competitions** are enclosed and online:

1. **SGCNZ/Dawn Sanders Shakespeare Costume Design Competition** (thanks to Nicole Barker and Tessa Ratcliffe)
2. **SGCNZ/Morrison Music Trust Shakespeare Music Composition Competition** (thanks to Julie Nevett)
3. **SGCNZ/Adam Foundation Shakespeare Static Image Competition**
4. **SGCNZ/Adam Foundation Shakespeare Poster Competition**
5. **SGCNZ/Adam Foundation Video Title Card Competition** (all thanks to Verna Adam).
6. **SGCNZ/Ida Gaskin Shakespeare Essay ~ English at Otago Competition** (thanks to the University of Otago, Michelle Linterman, and NZSA).

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.

Key Points for Entering the Competitions:

- Competitions can be integrated into classroom projects or undertaken by motivated students for independent work.
- Homeschoolers and Community Youth Drama Group members of Year 7-13 ages may enter as well.
- Winners receive monetary prizes and exciting further opportunities, as outlined in the Criteria.

Eligibility to Participate in the Festivals:

- Open to **Year 7–13 students**, aged **11–19 years**, (who are still studying at secondary school level)
- Groups including Year 7–8 students may have no more than **20%** of them in the cast to qualify for the National Festival (though there are no restrictions at Regional Festivals).
- An additional Supervisor must accompany any group with Year 7–8 participants.

Participants may be from:

- Secondary & Intermediate schools
- Kura Kaupapa Māori schools
- Te Kura, Teen Schools, Homeschoolers, and Community Youth Drama Groups in the same age range.

The Festival's benefits are widely recognised on many levels, both locally and globally.

Mailout

This hard copy version of the **Festival Criteria and Competition Entry Forms** is being mailed to all schools, homeschool clusters, and community drama groups nationwide—reaching approximately **780 recipients**.

Cost of Participating

To maximise inclusivity, we continue our policy of not charging individual participants to take part in the Festival. Instead, only one SGCNZ School/Homeschool Cluster/Community Friends Membership Fee is required. This membership covers up to 12 entries per school or group in the Festival and is unlimited in our allied 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 limits 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.

Membership details are outlined on the Friends Membership Form, available on the SGCNZ website (sgcnz.org.nz/Membership) and SharePoint. Membership benefits include four issues per annum of our magazine, *Accent on Shakespeare*, which features resource material and information on upcoming opportunities, plus a 10% discount on the excellent range of books and resources from the award-winning Globe's online and physical shop.

To participate in the 2025 Festivals and Competitions, schools and groups must be financial SGCNZ Friends with a current membership from 1 January to 31 December 2025. The cost to Schools is \$220 per annum and Homeschool Clusters/Community Groups \$115 per annum. Individual Student Friends Memberships are \$45 annually. For proof of membership, see your Membership number on our Membership Receipt or contact Dawn Sanders if you need assistance confirming your status.

Key and Other Sponsors

SGCNZ is deeply appreciative of the support from its sponsors, including the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth Development, Wellington City Council, Raye Blumenthal Freedman Trust, Venues Wellington, Trinity College London, the Sheilah Maureen Winn Trust, the Otago Community Trust, and other generous contributors. Applications to additional Trusts and organisations are intensely ongoing, in order to secure the necessary level.



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 \$314,000 - it is a continuous challenge to achieve each year.

Maximum Involvement & MYD Surveys

Funders require detailed data on participation, including the number of students involved, their demographics, and audience reach. This includes Prologue Festivals and internal school assemblies showcasing scenes. Students aged 12-24 involved in any capacity—whether as actors, crew, or competition entrants—must complete the Ministry of Youth Development Survey. This quick, two-minute Participant Feedback Survey is essential to secure ongoing funding. 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 Festival Entry Process

If your school or cluster's group is selected to attend the National Festival, your Regional Representative will have been sent National Entry Form Pack for 5 Minute or 15 Minute Scene, with an information letter and Forms A & B. Complete and submit National Festival Entry Form A immediately – **absolutely no later than 12 April 2025** to ensure timely processing. We have just under 7 weeks to prepare everything for the National Festival.

Send Form B, with Travel and Accommodation details as soon as possible afterwards. If a student is chosen for Direct Entry to the National Shakespeare Schools Production (D/E NSSP), the necessary form with this cover title and letter, must be handed to the student at the end of your Award Ceremony and should also be completed and returned as quickly as possible. These will also be available through a Sharepoint link. Do ask for them if not given out at the final selection announcement and presentation section of your Regional Festival.

After submission, the designated contact person will receive the comprehensive 30-page National Festival Information Pack. This document includes detailed instructions for workshops, activities, and performances. With tight timelines leading to the Festival, timely submission of all forms is critical. There is much information containing choices to be made for the different activities and aspects of the National Festival. Once you have returned these, we have about 1000 pages and much information to process in the brief time prior to the Festival. We are happy to post these out if preferred.

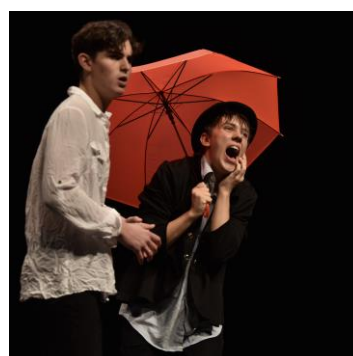
Note the days, times and venues of the National Festival – all aspects and sessions of the Festival must be attended from Friday morning 30 May 9.00am until at least 9.30pm on Sunday 1 June, though ideally, on the Thursday afternoon 4.00pm 29 May for the Welcome until the very end on King's Birthday Monday 2 June at noon, in order for you and your students to gain the full benefit of this vibrant and immersive event.

Non-Performer Attendance

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

For all correspondence, queries, or further information, please contact Dawn Sanders directly via email at dawn@sgcnz.org.nz or phone 027 283 6016 (evening calls are welcome). Dawn will provide guidance on policy matters, permissions, and any specific concerns.



Rangitoto College: King Lear

Looking Ahead

SGCNZ eagerly anticipates your fresh reinterpretation of Shakespeare's works along with traditional ones in our 2025 Festivals and Competitions. We are looking forward to your involvement ever so much, in whatever capacity. The Festival thrives on the innovative, thoughtful, and dynamic spirit you and your students bring, and we look forward to an exciting year ahead. Warmest wishes for a happy, healthy, and creative 2025!

Dawn Sanders

SGCNZ CEO, Trustee & Member Shakespeare Globe Council, London

Encl: Letter to Principal/HODs/TICs/Arts Coordinators

SGCNZ S&NF Criteria Information & Guidelines

SGCNZ Regional Festival dates and contacts

SGCNZ Friends Membership Form

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

On Sharepoint: (to save on additional printing & postage) [34SGCNZRegFestivals 2025](#)

- On-line Registration 'How to' Instruction pages & Sample on-line Registration page
- Board Policies
- Regional Assessment for Participants