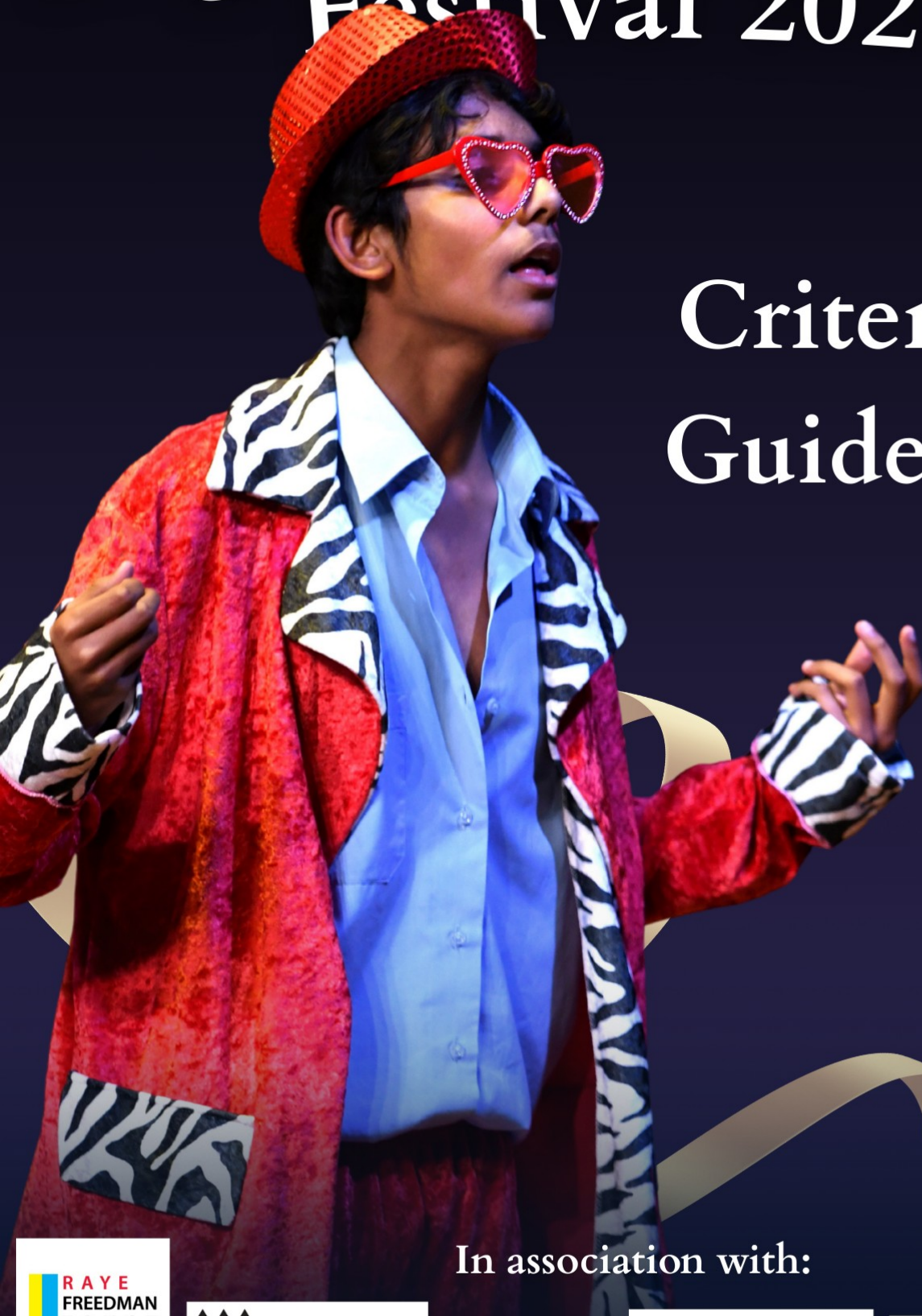




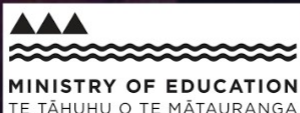
SGCNZ
Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand

SGCNZ VUW Regional Shakespeare Festival 2026

Criteria & Guidelines



In association with:





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.

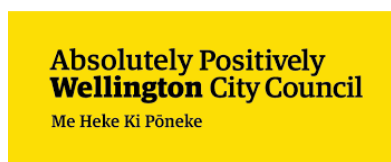
We reserve the right to withhold awards if there is no suitable recipient.

National Organiser Dawn Sanders ONZM, QSM

– SGCNZ Founder/Chief Executive & Member Shakespeare Globe Council, London,

SGCNZ, P O Box 17 215, Wellington 6147

Tel: 04 384 1300 (w) /04 476 8369 (h) Mob: 027 283 6016 Email: dawn@sgcnz.org.nz Website: sgcnz.org.nz



Sheilah Winn Trust
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**in association with Ministry of Education, Wellington City Council, Raye Freedman Trust,
Sheilah Maureen Winn Trust, Trinity College London, KPMG**

If you are reading this, we hope you are going to participate in one of our Regional and maybe the National SGCNZ Victoria University of Wellington Shakespeare Festival. (SGCNZ VUW R or NSF) That's great! Here is the Sharepoint link for a copy of all the information:

To give you an idea of what the Assessors are looking for, we are sharing the information from their Guidelines, so that you are literally on the same page! There is a considerable sense of responsibility felt on their part to make fair and consistent judgements.

The chance to come to Wellington and perform on the prestigious St James Theatre stage, do Workshops with leading practitioners, visit Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington and other tertiary institutes, other attractions, tours and performances, enhances this. Then there is knowing of the potential selection of being one of the 46 young students and student-directors to attend the wonderful experience of SGCNZ National Shakespeare Schools production. The added bonus from NSSP is the possibility of being one of 24 young people, ultimately chosen from the initial 4000+ in the Regional Festivals, to be a member of SGCNZ Young Shakespeare Company 2027. For many, after it has been 'in their sights' throughout their time at secondary school (or equivalent level Homeschool or Community Youth Drama Group), this opportunity to be trained, rehearsed and perform at the Globe is held as the pinnacle.

SELECTION

Select: One 5 Minute Student-Directed Scene for the SGCNZ VUW National Shakespeare Festival
One 15 Minute Student- or Adult-Directed Scene for the SGCNZ VUW National Shakespeare Festival
1 Student for Direct Entry to SGCNZ National Shakespeare Schools Production (NSSP) who is NOT
in a group chosen to attend the National SF and is 15 years or older on 1 March 2026

If there is no student deemed to be suitable for selection of Direct Entry to NSSP, Assessors do not have to choose anyone. This means that, in addition to the 22 chosen from the National UOSWSF, there will be another space for a student to be selected from that.

The groups chosen for SGCNZ's National Shakespeare Festival must participate in all the various aspects, including Workshops, tours, talks, perform their scenes and watch everyone else's in Wellington over King's Birthday weekend from 28 May – 1 June 2026

- **SGCNZ National SF Attendance:** Selected groups **must** be willing and available to attend the **whole** National Festival – if they are not, another group must be selected. Only the initial Welcome on the Thursday afternoon 28 May and the Scene Assessors' and NSSP Selectors' Feedback Session on Monday 1 June are optional for the students as, for some, travel home has to start early.
It is necessary for the Assessors to choose a back-up in each category, (5 and 15 minute scenes), should the selected group not be able to attend, and a reserve choice for SGCNZ NSSP Direct Entry be advised to the Regional Representative, should the selected person have to withdraw.

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

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

Patrons Vice-Royal Patron Her Excellency The Right Honourable Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand
Arts Event & Administration Manager Janet Davies | **Financial Advisor** Jan Berquist | **Accent on Shakespeare Editor** Leigh Bredenhamo

If anyone in the Group, who happens to be cast in a local production over that weekend, do let the Understudy have the chance to perform!

- Groups not selected, who pay to attend the National Festival, naturally get extremely upset when they see people chosen to attend it, come and go as they please. The whole weekend is designed to be a fulsome, enriching package.
- Please read the attached SGCNZ Board's Policy paper to see the list of rules which have been developed and tweaked to address various aspects and issues over the years. This includes exactly how many groups may be selected, depending on numbers of schools/Homeschool/Community Drama groups and participants in the Regional Festival, and the strict eligibility of the NSSP applicants.
- **Larger Regional Festivals:**
Greater representation at the National Festival is permitted from very large regions.
- **Policy:** If there are either **300 or more individuals** participating, or more than **15 different Schools/ Homeschool Clusters/Community Drama groups**, or **50 or more scenes** in a Regional Festival the Assessors are permitted to select 3 groups to attend the National Festival. *These may not all be from the same school.*
The additional scene may be either a 5-minute or a 15-minute scene.
Two groups may be selected from the same category, (ie 5- minute or 15-minute scenes), only if the numbers, as stated above, comply with the Board Policies.
- **Small Regional Festivals:**
Conversely, a limit is placed on very small Regional Festivals.
- **Policy:** In regions in which **only 2 schools/Homeschool groups** are participating with **less than a total of 15 scenes**, only one group may be selected to perform at the National Festival. This may be either a 5-minute or a 15-minute scene.

The Board Policies are on Sharepoint [35SGCNZVUWRegFestivals](https://www.sgcnz.org.nz/programmes/sgcnz) Remember to continue holding down the Ctrl key, even when the little hand appears on the link, and you click on that to open the Sharepoint folder. It is also on our website: <https://www.sgcnz.org.nz/programmes/sgcnz>, which you have to accept as having read, before submitting your Entry information and so you should have read and become familiar with these rulings.

PERFORMANCE SELECTION CRITERIA

Adherence to the following Criteria is essential:

- All scenes - including if Shakespeare's poems or sonnets - must be performed by **two or more speaking actors**
- **Time – from: curtain opening to closing or, if curtains are open or there are none, walking onto and off the stage, or a definitive beginning and ending.** This includes music/dance introduction/finale if applicable.
Duration must be between:
 - 4 minutes minimum - 5 minutes maximum – **5 Minute Student-Directed Scenes**
 - 10 minutes minimum - 15 minutes maximum – **15 Student- or Adult-Directed Scenes**

ANY SCENES OVER THE MAXIMUM OR UNDER THE MINIMUM LENGTHS MUST NOT BE SELECTED BY REGIONAL ASSESSORS TO PARTICIPATE AT THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL

(This is both for fairness sake and because of overall time constraints)

Any group which runs over or under time at their Regional Festival or at the National Festival is ineligible for any awards. ie These groups will not receive Scene Awards, and Student Directors and Cast of them may not receive specific awards for individuals either, but may be selected for SGCNZ NSSP, if eligible, by being 15 or over on 1 March 2026.

- **Timekeeper:** The Timekeeper will record the lengths of each of the scenes throughout the Festival so that the Assessors know which groups are in or out of contention.

- A group does not have to be selected from both categories if there is not one up to a suitable standard – however, this is rare. Rather than being exceptional, a highly innovative or well-conceived performance in a different language could be chosen.

Two groups may be selected from the same category, only if the numbers, as stated above, comply with the Board Policies.

- **15-minute Scenes** may be adult- or student-directed (including by non-teachers)
- **5-minute Scenes** must be directed **only** by students
- **One Play or Poem:**

As per the criteria in the Guidelines, content for each performance must be from **ONE play or *poem or up to 5 Sonnets only**. This includes words from the text put to music.

- Scenes enacted from ***one poem or up to five sonnets** are allowed, if performed as a scene with speaking parts by more than one person on stage at the same time.
- **Monologues** may only be performed within a scene and with other speaking characters in the rest of the scene.
- **Translations of Shakespeare's text into other languages**

This is strongly encouraged. However, the Regional Representative must be advised in advance and the translated script sent in at least 2 weeks in advance to be checked for accuracy by a native speaker or other appropriate person.

School Year & Age Limits:

In response to many enquiries, we have officially opened up the Festivals to students from Year 7 - 13, ages 11 - under 20 years old and still in secondary schooling. For eligibility to be selected for the National Festival, groups including Year 7s and 8s may have no more than 20% Year 7s and 8s in the cast.

Variety of Schools:

- We strongly encourage involvement of Kura Kaupapa Māori Schools as well as of Pacific Island and other ethnicities.
- Homeschoolers, from formal or informal clusters of them, are able to enter groups. Name the group or cluster and register it as an SGCNZ Group Friend. Only one Membership is required if entering several scenes.
- Community Groups, with the same age and Year criteria as above, may participate as a group in their own right.
- Some schools may choose to collaborate and present joint performances (up to 4 different schools).

Although it is acknowledged that some schools are very strong, our funders and audiences would like to see as wide a representation of schools/homeschool clusters/community groups as possible in the Regional and National Festivals. Whilst there is no actual Policy regarding this in the Regional selections, the Board is keen for Assessors to try to select groups from different schools. We do not want to put off other schools from participating, which happens if the same ones get through in both categories every year. If there are definitely obvious choices from the same school, they are still eligible to be chosen.

Note that there is a maximum of 12 entries per school in the Regional Festival now. Schools with larger numbers wanting to enter may have 'Prologue Festivals' in-house, from which they can choose up to 12 scenes for their Regional Festival.

Various aspects are therefore considered when selecting, which can include 'raw talent' and 'bravery' or with different ethnic inclusions. Avoid creating gimmicky or 'over the top' presentations.

SGCNZ NSSP DIRECT ENTRY

This category is to enable a student who may be the best actor or excels in their Regional Festival but is **NOT** in a group selected to perform at the National Festival, to have Direct Entry to SGCNZ's National Shakespeare Schools Production (NSSP). NSSP is a residential intensive 9-day course of workshops, rehearsals and culminating performances, which is being held this year from 26 September – 4 October 2026 at St Pat's College, Silverstream in Hutt Valley, Wellington.

Eligibility for NSSP Direct Entry:

- **Students must be 15 years or more on 1 March 2026**
- **The student must NOT be in a scene being performed at the National Festival**

Re Age: The course is very rigorous and demanding. Consideration is also given regarding the fact that, when younger ones were taken, it took the places from students with only one or two more years of schooling left, who could benefit more. If a younger student is excellent, they will have another opportunity to be chosen to attend – whereas older students will not.

The Assessor/s will be given the list of NSSP eligible applicants, as entered on the SGCNZ RSF Registration platform – noting that their date of birth must be prior to 2 March 2011.

It should also be noted that students may not attend the SGCNZ YSC course at Shakespeare's Globe if under the age of 16 – as per The Globe's regulations.

- If there is no outstanding student who is **not** already in a group going to the National Festival, an NSSP Direct Entry selection does not have to be made – instead it will be announced publicly that it gives more chance to the ones at the National Festival to be chosen, as it will make an extra place available for one of them.
- Students may be selected to attend SGCNZ NSSP for a second (or occasionally third!) time.
- However, students who have been members of SGCNZ Young Shakespeare Company (YSC) previously, and are still in secondary schooling, may not be selected for SGCNZ NSSP again. (They may be, and often are, in scenes or direct them, which they are welcome to do, and share their experience and newfound skills!)

ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER

The Assessors will evaluate:

- **Understanding and delivery of the text - ONLY Shakespeare's words are to be used, from one play, one poem or up to 5 Sonnets**
 - Understanding of Shakespeare's text and of what is being conveyed
 - Knowledge of the whole play and faithfulness to the intent of it
 - Intelligent and empathic editing of the text (from one play only, poem or up to 5 Sonnets) to create a cohesive and appealing performance
 - Clear diction, retaining natural voices (no RP), unless the role or presentation of the play dictates an accent
 - Audibility and clarity - use of the voice with dynamic effect, remembering to practise **projecting well** so that you can be heard in a theatre or hall, with appreciation that shouting seldom creates the most powerful effect
 - Well considered portrayal of the characters and thoughtfully developed interaction with other cast members
 - Inclusion of the audience – breaking down of the '4th wall' ie more 'Globeseque' and 'Elizabethan' as well
- **Staging**
 - any context, ethnicity, period, place or style may be used, while retaining integrity and empathy with the play/poem
 - other arts forms may be included:
 - * costuming should reflect the period in which the scene is set; inclusion of contemporary or cultural aspects is welcomed
 - * Elizabethan attire can be worn, though may contain updated nuances
 - * live music, rather than recorded, is ideal
 - * putting Shakespeare's words from the play being performed, to music or song, is permitted
 - * use of original and royalty-free music is preferred
 - * if APRA royalty fee applies, it is the responsibility of the group to gain permission and pay to use the music if necessary – proof must be supplied to the Regional Representative
 - * dance elements may be incorporated in any style or culture, where and as appropriate
 - preference will **not** be given to thematic, gimmicky or 'over-the top' productions

- **Interpretation and presentation of characters and their interaction within the play**

- consideration of how characters relate to the context, period or place, and unity binding these elements
- sincerity of interaction and connection between the actors

- **Connection with the audience**

- embracing and inclusion of the audience, whether it can be seen or not
- performers may be placed in or move through the audience - NB safety is paramount – adherence to Health and Safety briefing specifications is essential – lights should be brought up to some extent if actors are moving in the auditorium
- the Stage Manager or Deputy SM must be advised of this during your Placing Call

- **Vitality and integrity of performance**

- the vitality, freshness, dynamics and physicality of the performers
- embodiment of and engagement with the characters

- **Sincerity of presentation**

- this includes how truthfully the scene/s is/are performed and whether the style could be sustained in a production of the whole play

- **Design and use of the space**

- as there is only a 2-minute set up and strike time, any physical set must be minimal
- design of the production is about use of the space and maximising it to create effective delivery of the text
- effective groupings and varying physical levels are taken into account
- the Stage Manager must be advised of any objects being thrown on stage or into the wings
- there are strict guidelines re no naked flames, liquids – water, fake blood use, paint... (water-soluble body paint must be cleaned off the stage immediately after the performance if used)
- props must be constructed and used safely, and vetted if necessary by the Stage Manager

- **Overall impression** – the quality and impact of the performance, and whether it will linger in the audience's memory

- ***Selection Form***

To ensure no errors are made in the selection and communication as to which groups have been selected for the National Festival, including the specific scene they performed, and the SGCNZ National Shakespeare Schools Production Direct Entry student who has been selected, a form will be completed by the Assessors and given to your Regional Representative when the announcements have been made at the Award and Certificate Presentation Ceremony at the conclusion of your Festival.

The Assessors will also advise the Regional Representative (RR) of the runner-up groups and Direct Entry individual, should any withdraw.

- ***Awards & Presentations***

If applicable, Regional Representatives may have secured some local awards to be assessed as well.

The Regional Representative will arrange for an Assessor/s, and /or a local dignitary, to present the Participation Certificates to a representative of each School/Homeschool Cluster/Community Drama Group and all the Student Directors, and Award Certificates to recipients of these (if there are any), at the end of your Regional Festival.

While previous SGCNZ YSC members may not be selected for NSSP again, they may receive awards and be in or have directed scenes selected for the National Festival.

At the National Festival, there are no 'winners' - various areas of excellence and expertise are acknowledged through a variety of awards.

Feed-back

- Assessors will share (if there are more than one) writing the reports, so there is one on each performance. These will be sent to you by your Regional Representative within a month following the conclusion of the Regional Festival. This means those selected for the National Festival will receive them prior to King's Birthday, in time for the group to take note of any advice given. Constructive criticism, as well as positive endorsement, will be provided.

Assessors **may** choose to discuss the performances with the students and/or teachers if they wish. Permission for contact with the Assessors will be advised, if they agree, through each Regional Representative or the CEO, as is applicable.

The Assessor/s' ultimate recommendations and decisions are binding.

SGCNZ's Vision and Objectives

VISION:

To transform lives by mentoring potential through experiencing Shakespeare

OBJECTIVES:

Hauora – to build resilience and wellbeing

Atawhai – to cultivate empathetic communication

Mana – to enhance confidence with gravitas

Whanau – to connect people, regionally, nationally, and globally

Tautoko – to include and unite people from diverse backgrounds

Pūkenga – to develop life skills

Manaaki – to provide opportunities for personal and professional development

Mahi hou – to inspire creativity and innovation

FAQs

Please note there is an FAQ section on our website – sgcnz.org.nz/FAQs. Do read all of this in advance to ensure you have all the same information that the Assessors do!

FACTS re the FESTIVALS

Please absorb the following notes for your information when speaking to the media, individuals or from the stage (errors and misconceptions are frequently made in relation to these):

- The Festivals were initiated 35 years ago by, and have always been a corner-stone activity of, Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand
- The first Regional Festivals were called the SGCNZ Secondary School Shakespeare Festivals
- The late Sheilah Winn, through one of her Trusts, was a sponsor of the first National SGCNZ Festival. In her honour, we named it, at that time in 1992, the SGCNZ Sheilah Winn Festival of Shakespeare in Schools – but never '*the Sheilah Winn*' – rather the 'SGCNZ Shakespeare Festival'

Whilst we have been given some funding from this source ever since, the amount does fluctuate and in 2025 was only \$5000 out of the \$300,000 needed to run the Festivals so makes up a very small percentage of the funding we require each year
- At the Sheilah Winn Trust's request, its grant is used towards assisting with some of the Regional Festival funding which SGCNZ offers as 'seeding money' to each of the 24 Regional Representatives, who 'micro-manage' their Regional Festival to the blueprint sent out to them by the CEO, who does the macro-management
- The University of Otago 18 years ago generously came on board as a considerably more significant funder, and requested the shared naming rights – hence 'SGCNZ University of Otago Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival'. Sadly that ended at the end of 2024 owing to their own financial pressures
- Happily, an approach and ensuing discussions with Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington (THW-VUW or VUW) resulted in them supporting and taking over the naming rights at the end of February 2025. As a result, the name of the Festivals have been changed to: SGCNZ Victoria University of Wellington Regional & National Shakespeare Festivals - SGCNZ VUW RSF or SGCNZ NSF or SGCNZ R&NSF
- A large number of other funders are urgently being sought by SGCNZ in order to continue to facilitate the Festivals

- The grant made by the Ministry of Education ends this year. We seek support of participants, teachers/directors, general public...to the Minister and Ministry to make another grant to SGCNZ to support our approaches.
- The Ministry of Youth Development has sadly not been continued.
- An application is being made to Creative New Zealand early next year.
- It would be helpful if you can advocate to any of the above and emphasise the fact that we **always need financial support** – sponsors, donors, 1000 Club members (\$1000 once or annually), donors by regular Automatic Payments, Payroll Givers,...
- Note that all the administration is done by SGCNZ – which has only 2 modestly paid staff - the CEO and a new Administrative Assistant - plus, thankfully, the 24 wonderful Regional Representatives, volunteers, interns, and those willing to drop their prices to be Assessors regionally to help encourage and mentor the enthusiastic and talented youth of NZ!!
- SGCNZ brands itself as mentoring potential though experiencing Shakespeare and enhancing life skills, transferable into any occupation
- What we provide does increase literacy and appreciation of literature, create leaders, collaboration and team players, encourage creativity, innovation and self-confidence, so replacing anxiety and depression with feelings of self-worth, as people who can contribute to society and the workforce in vibrant, entrepreneurial and imaginative ways
- We have an express objective to provide opportunities to students from low socio-economic sectors. We do not charge students to participate, eliminating barriers to them and to ensure inclusivity of all gender, ethnicities, migrants, refugees and all sectors
- Many Alumni do become stage and screen arts practitioners of various genre including roles 'behind the scenes', while others enter indirectly-related professions, and are excelling in a wide variety of positions – including Hon Chris Bishop MP (Leader of the House) and former Prime Minister Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, lawyers, teachers, doctors, journalists, presenters, and many other occupations, benefitting from the communication, self-presentation and so many qualities
- Then there are those who contribute to the workforce in myriad other different ways, benefitting from the transferable skills learnt through SGCNZ and its programmes, events and activities.

Wishing you an inspiring and enjoyable time!

Dawn Sanders ONZM, QSM

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17.12.25



"Thy Friendship Makes Us Fresh"
- Henry V

2026

SGCNZ FRIENDSMEMBERSHIP

Tax Invoice/Statement

I want to Renew

I am a new Friend

I don't want to be a Friend anymore

Contact info

Contact Name:

School/Organisation/Group:

(if applicable)(PO Box or Private Bag only for schools)

Address:

City:

Country:

Landline:

E-Mail:

Postcode:

Mobile:

Membership type

all prices include GST - Note the slight increase towards inflation of cost.

Individual Friend \$75

SGCNZ Alumni \$65

Concession/Student \$50

Joint Membership \$95

Corporate Friend \$605

Overseas additional p&p \$30

Not-for-profit groups/ Primary Schools/ Community & Theatre Groups \$120

Schools, tertiary institutes & professional organisations \$225

Discretionary discounts may be requested from CEO if absolutely necessary

Donation

I want to make a donation of

(SGCNZ has been granted Charities Commission Registration CC 23945 - donations over \$5 are tax deductible; eligible for 1/3 tax rebate)

I wish to donate per annum /month /fortnight /week by Automatic Payment (AP)

I wish to be a member of SGCNZ's The 1000 Club - \$1000 pledged pa for 1 or more years - Invoice

I wish to donate through Payroll Giving per week from

I wish to receive information on making a bequest - living or willed

Payment

Total paid or Invoice (Membership fee + Donation + International Friends P+P)

I would like to pay by:

Internet banking (Account no: 11-7234-0200971-11) Payment Date:

please code as "First Name_Last Name_SGCNZ SUB

Invoice

Extras

I wish to receive "Accent on Shakespeare" Magazine as the: Digital Version via E-Mail

Physical Version via Post

I wish to receive the Globe Online Shop 10% Discount Code

I wish to receive a receipt

I wish to be contacted about volunteering for SGCNZ

SGCNZ is GST registered # 93-766-806 - CC 23945 Membership renewal 1 January annually - We apologise if this invoice crosses with your payment. Friends of SGCNZ have local & some reciprocal benefits at Shakespeare's Globe visit: sgcnz.org.nz

In accordance with the Privacy Act 2020, I agree to my details being collated and included on the SGCNZ database for its purposes only

Date

Signed