



# Our Community Impact 2023

## The numbers say it all – our impact in 2023:

**36,420** children and their teachers, parents, grandparents and caregivers attended our three professional productions over **192** performances in **4 venues** across Tāmaki Makaurau.

<b>976</b> Young people enrolled in our Youth Theatre programmes including our free entry programme at the Due Drop Events Centre, Manukau	<b>7,398</b> Children enjoyed a life-enriching experience at our productions, thanks to <a href="#">Gift a Seat®</a> .	<b>144</b> Autistic and neuro-divergent children and teenagers enrolled in our <i>Extraordinarily Creative</i> drama classes.
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<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Mary Amoores <i>Gift a Seat™</i> Youth Theatre scholarships were provided for children and teenagers to attend <i>Extraordinarily Creative</i>.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Students took part in a collaborative project with Ko Taku Reo Deaf Education and Creatives in Schools to empower Deaf students to perform.</p>	<p><b>45</b></p> <p>Different accessible performances were offered to cater for impaired, disabled and neuro-diverse audiences.</p>	<p><b>475</b></p> <p>Children and adults accessed NZ Sign Language interpreted, Audio Described and Sensory Relaxed Performances.</p>
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\* 2023 impact from January to December 2023.

## 2023 – THE YEAR TO DATE

### Ensuring Inclusivity and Embracing Diversity: Our Unwavering Commitment

Last year was an exhilarating journey filled with remarkable achievements.

#### Four spectacular productions

In 2023 we brought to Tāmaki Makaurau four spectacular productions to excite and delight the young and the young at heart.

We started the year with *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch* by Ronda and David Armitage, achieving over 70% in ticket sales over the three venues in Takapuna, Manukau and Māngere.

This was followed by *The Magic Faraway Tree* by Enid Blyton, which proved to be a sellout show.

In the latter half of our year, we brought joy and excitement to the audiences with Roald Dahl's *The Twits* and *The Santa Claus Show '23*, which were also sellout successes.

Our [Gift a Seat® programme](#) enabled students from BLENZ (Blind and Low Vision Education Network NZ), Ko Taku Reo Deaf Education and Wilson School to attend our accessible performances. In addition, Make-A-Wish families, and schools that require support from across Tāmaki Makaurau also attended our shows.

## **Youth Theatre Back Onstage**

Our Youth Theatre programme continues to flourish, including weekly drama classes, holiday programmes, bespoke workshops and other community events. Here is a snapshot of what we have been up to:

### **FREE theatre workshop in South Auckland**

Our mission is to continue to make youth theatre workshops accessible and equitable for all. Following our successful *Hit the Stage!* free entry programme held at the Māngere Arts Centre in July 2022, we ran this program again at Due Drop Events Centre in Manukau in January 2023. Both workshops were funded by SkyCity Auckland Community Trust.

### **Getting very creative in schools**

Thanks to *Creatives in Schools*, we collaborated with Ko Taku Reo Deaf Education for the second year in a row to create a performance where students were inspired entirely by deaf culture. Funded by *Creatives in Schools*, the show enabled students to take charge of their own creativity, build confidence, develop leadership skills, celebrate their own culture, and learn to express themselves. Our performance in late June 2023 was well received by the whole audience.

Check out our media coverage: <https://timbray.org.nz/in-the-news-theatre-brings-together-deaf-and-hearing-students/>

### **Working with secondary and tertiary students**

In May 2023, Tim Bray Theatre Company collaborated with James Cook High School in Manurewa on *Hit the Stage!*, a 5-day workshop, where students worked with our Pasifika tutors towards achieving their NCEA assessment standard and perform a substantial acting role in a significant production.

Once students returned to school, they completed two written tasks that unpacked their experience of creating the performance, as well as a statement of intention. Students gained 5

credits once both components of the assessment were completed. This is the first time our theatre company has worked with Kiwi students to achieve credits towards NCEA.

We also joined forces with some very talented third-year acting students from Unitec for *The Magic Faraway Tree*. Six Unitec students were part of this dynamic cast, and their involvement in this show contributed towards completing their Bachelor of Performing Screen Arts degree.

## **Inspiring through inclusivity**

Across everything we do, we're committed to providing equitable access to disabled audiences and welcome disabled performers as part of our company of actors. We've also worked on optimising our website and social media platforms to work with screen readers and other accessibility tools.

## **MAKING AN EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT**

Our *Extraordinarily Creative (EC)* drama classes for children and teens with autism or other neuro-diversities continue to be in high demand at both our Te Oro and Meadowood venues. These classes use drama to help students navigate social, academic and personal challenges, so they can thrive in a world that does not often understand them.

In 2023 we were excited to announce that Tim Bray Theatre Company started *Extraordinarily Creative (EC)* classes for students in Whare Manaaki at Tamaki College. Our theatre can provide guidance and professional development for Tamaki College teachers working with neurodivergent students.