



WELCOME GUIDE TO EAST COAST THEATRE

**RELENTLESS PASSION.
EAST COAST SPIRIT.**

WELCOME - NAU MAI, HAERE MAI!

We're so glad you've joined us. Whether you're here to act, help backstage, or just be part of the creative energy, what matters most is your enthusiasm and willingness to give it a go. There's a place for everyone, and we can't wait to see what you bring to our theatre family!

*Ngā mihi nui
Dan Gillgren*



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1: WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

Community theatre is one of the most rewarding creative adventures you can experience. It's not about fame or perfection - it's about people coming together to make something special.

At East Coast Theatre, we believe that theatre:

- Builds confidence and creativity
- Fosters friendship, trust, and teamwork
- Brings joy to our community and to our wonderful audiences
- Creates lasting memories - both onstage and off

Every production is a mix of hard work, laughter, nerves, and magic. It's about learning, experimenting, and celebrating the unique contribution each person brings. Whether you're stepping on stage for the first time, helping behind the scenes, or returning with years of experience, your presence matters.

This is what makes community theatre so powerful - it's a shared journey, and every show belongs to all of us. We can't wait to welcome you and see the magic we'll create together.



2: FINDING YOUR PLACE

There's room for everyone at East Coast Theatre - even if you've never set foot on a stage before!

Onstage Roles:

- Acting: Bring a character to life through voice, movement, and imagination.
- Ensemble: The heart of any show - often the most fun and rewarding roles.

Backstage Roles:

- Lighting and Sound: Shape the mood and atmosphere of each scene.
- Costumes and Makeup: Help transform actors into their characters.
- Set Design and Construction: Build the world the audience sees.
- Props: Keep every item in the right place at the right time.

Front of House:

- Greeting the audience, selling tickets, running raffles, and helping guests feel welcome.

Whatever your skills, interests, or confidence level, there's a way for you to be part of the story.



3: AUDITIONS & GETTING INVOLVED

Auditions can sound intimidating, but they're really just opportunities for us to get to know you.

What to Expect:

You might be asked to read a short scene with a few different people, or try a bit of movement. You don't need to be perfect - we're looking for enthusiasm, potential, and teamwork.

Tips for a Great Audition:

- Arrive a little early and introduce yourself.
- Relax - we want you to do well!
- Listen to direction and be willing to try new things.
- Bring energy, imagination, and a sense of fun.

Beyond Auditions:

Even if you don't land a role this time, there's always plenty to do. Volunteering behind the scenes, helping with front of house, or assisting with sets keeps you connected and builds experience for next time.



4: REHEARSALS & ETIQUETTE

Rehearsals are where the real magic happens. This is where ideas, energy, and teamwork blend into something amazing.

What Happens in Rehearsals:

- You'll read scripts, block scenes (work out where to stand and move), and refine the delivery of your lines.
- You'll get to know your fellow cast and crew - friendships often start here!
- Expect plenty of laughter, problem-solving, and creativity.

Rehearsal Etiquette:

- Be on time! Otherwise, you'll hold others up.
- Respect your fellow cast and the director.
- Leave negativity at the door - kindness and patience go a long way.
- Learn your lines and cues as early as possible.
- Remember: everyone's learning. Mistakes are part of the process.

The best rehearsals are filled with encouragement, laughter, and teamwork — and that's exactly what we strive for at East Coast Theatre.



5: SHOWTIME!

Performances are both exciting and a little chaotic - and that's part of the fun! The days leading up to the performance can get a little busy!

What to Expect:

- Longer or more rehearsals, high energy, and last-minute fixes.
- Adrenaline and nerves, particularly on opening night (both totally normal!).
- A deep sense of pride when the curtain rises and the audience responds.

Tips for a Smooth Run:

- Stay organised - label costumes and props. Be responsible for your own items.
- Support each other, no matter what.
- Follow any directions given to you by the Stage Manager.
- Stay calm and adaptable - theatre is live, after all! If things go wrong, be prepared to make something up to get things back on track.

When the lights come up and the applause fills the room, you'll understand why we do this. It's a feeling like no other.



6: GROWING WITH US

Once the curtain falls, your journey doesn't end. Each production opens new doors - friendships, confidence, creativity, and new skills.

We encourage you to:

- Explore new roles - onstage, backstage, or in production.
- Join workshops to learn, experiment, and hone your craft.
- Step into directing or assistant directing a show.
- Pitch your own play or creative project.
- Stay involved between shows through meetings, community events, and collaborative projects.

The more you give to theatre, the more it gives back - not just in applause, but in the growth, joy, and connections you'll carry with you beyond the stage. At East Coast Theatre, every step you take is part of your journey, and every contribution matters.

We can't wait to see how you'll grow with us!



7: STAY CONNECTED

Website: <https://www.eastcoasttheatre.com>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/eastcoasttheatre>

Email: eastcoasttheatregroup@gmail.com

You can also join our mailing list from our website!

We'd love you to be part of East Coast Theatre's continuing story. Theatre is more than just shows - it's a community, a network of people who share a passion for creativity, collaboration, and storytelling.

Whether you're joining us for a single show or for a lifetime, there are countless ways to stay connected:

- Attend rehearsals, workshops, and social events.
- Share ideas, feedback, and your own creative projects.
- Celebrate milestones, openings, and successes with fellow members.
- Keep the conversation going between shows through meetings, online groups, and community activities.

We're excited to see what we'll create together.



8: FINAL BOW

Theatre isn't built by stars - it's built by communities. It thrives because people show up, give their time, and believe in the magic and joy of storytelling. Every line learned, every scene rehearsed, every set built and costume sewn - it all comes together because of the passion, dedication, and creativity of people like you.

So step into the lights, lend a hand, and become part of something truly special. Whether you're onstage, behind the scenes, or helping in ways that only a theatre family can, your contribution matters. The stage is waiting, and the audience is ready to share in the magic you help create.

