

Show: East Coast Theatre Short Play Festival

Duration: 1hour 55 mins including breaks

About the show: A collection of 8 original short plays, carefully selected from over 300 submissions from across the globe.

About East Coast Theatre: Our vision is to grow a vibrant community theatre in Ōpōtiki that inspires pride, participation, and imagination. To share skills, ideas, and opportunities with local schools, artists, and community groups. To create work that reflects our people, our stories, and our spirit - honest, heartfelt, and uniquely ours.

Timeline:

Auditions - 14th June

Rehearsals - 21st June to 20th August

Live Shows - 22nd August - 2pm & 7pm

Play Title: Hubble Bubble

Approx run time: 13 mins

Characters: 3F

Phoebe - An off-duty witch. Assertive and impatient.

Seline - An off-duty witch. Submissive and kindly.

Harper - A young woman with a phobia – and an interesting vocabulary.

Synopsis:

Phoebe and Seline need to recruit a third witch for 'that' play. The only applicant is Harper, a Gen Z-er and the audition doesn't augur well. Is she even speaking the same language?

Play Title: Laundry Day

Approx run time: 13 mins

Characters: 2M

Sam - Male - 20s - The Ocelot, a street-level superhero

Chase - Male - Late 20s to 30s - Astroman, a cosmic-level superhero. Handsome.

Synopsis:

After a devastating defeat, street-level superhero Sam decides to quit being The Ocelot — until his ordinary roommate reveals he is secretly the legendary Astroman. As the two heroes confront failure, fear, and loneliness, they discover the importance of having someone who knows the person behind the mask.

Play Title: The Worst Table

Approx run time: 9 mins

Characters: 1F / 1M / 1A

Luna - Female - 21+

Chase - Male - 21+

Server - Male/Female - 18+

Synopsis:

Strangers, Chase and Luna, fight over sitting at a small table with a sign stating “Worst Table in the House. Sit here and get 10% off your meal.” They agree to share the table, but not without getting on each other's nerves and confusing the Server. They eventually find a common bond and enjoy their meal and drinks together.

Play Title: A New One

Approx run time: 10 mins

Characters: 4A

Number 37 - Age 30-60, committee chair,
committee chair, hyper-focused on the agenda

Number 12 - Age 60+, dirty old man or woman

Number 44 - Age 30-60, enthusiastic, loves the
committee's mission

Intern - Age 20-30, curious, almost pesky

Synopsis:

In this comic ten-minute play, a committee charged with approving expressions for public circulation deliberates over "I ripped him a new one." The play shows the ridiculousness of the phrase and also provides a fantastical answer to the perennial question, "Where do figurative expressions come from?"

Play Title: License To Haunt

Approx run time: 9 mins

Characters: 1F / 1A

Laura - Female, 30's to 40's. A deceased person in the afterlife.

Clerk - Any gender, any age. A clerk in the Department of Haunt Services.

Synopsis:

Recently deceased, Laura is looking forward to visiting her family as an apparition. To do that, she must obtain a haunting permit from the Department of Haunt Services. Unfortunately, she finds that bureaucracy follows us into the afterlife.

Play Title: Conspiracy Of Love

Approx run time: 8 mins

Characters: 1F / 1M

Mathias - Male, 30's to 50's, A man obsessed

Jan - Female, 30's to 50's, His blind date
seemingly normal

Synopsis:

A disastrous blind date spirals into absurd chaos when conspiracy-obsessed Mathias can't stop talking about 9/11 theories, despite Jan's desperate attempts to steer the evening toward normal conversation. But as the night unfolds, an unexpected twist reveals they may have more in common than either of them imagined.

Play Title: Happy Anniversary

Approx run time: 8 mins

Characters: 1F / 1M

Colin - Male, Late 60's.

Dorothy - Female, Late 60's.

Synopsis:

On the fiftieth anniversary of their first kiss, an elderly husband brings his wife back to the park bench where their love story began. As dementia clouds her memories, he gently guides her through fragments of their shared past in a tender and heartbreaking celebration of enduring love.

Play Title: Now Boarding

Approx run time: 8 mins

Characters: 1F / 2M / 1A

Lainey - Female, mid-30's.

Ryan - Male, mid-30's.

Raymond - Male - mid-50's.

Passenger - Any gender - mid-20's

Synopsis:

While waiting at an airport gate, a chance conversation between a nervous traveler and a recently separated man takes an unexpected turn as she desperately tries to avoid her mysterious "boss." But when her true identity is finally revealed, he realizes he may have just let a movie star walk out of his life.

Why get involved:

- Be part of something exciting and creative in the local community
- Experience the thrill of live theatre in a fast-paced festival environment
- Work with passionate and supportive theatre people
- Gain valuable stage experience in a shorter, less intimidating format
- Perfect opportunity for first-time actors and backstage crew
- Build confidence in performance and public speaking
- Develop new theatre skills in acting, lighting, sound, stage management, and production
- Meet new people and make lasting friendships
- Short plays mean shorter rehearsal commitments than full-length productions
- Great way to return to theatre after time away
- Enjoy the buzz and energy of festival audiences
- Be part of East Coast Theatre's "Relentless Passion, East Coast Spirit" culture
- Challenge yourself creatively in a fun and encouraging environment
- You don't need experience - just enthusiasm and a willingness to give it a go
- It's fun, rewarding, and incredibly fulfilling