



TITIRANGI
THEATRE



SEED

by Elisabeth Easter
Directed by Fiona Mogridge

17-28
March 2026

Director's Notes

In the words of the author Elisabeth Easter, 'how far would you go to get a life?' A woman's desire to have a child is raw and real. For many women, their biological clock and social pressures drive them towards motherhood, but others prefer not to have children at all. Some find it a simple path to procreation, for others it is a desperate, painful journey. This play centres around four women, each navigating their own journey to 'get a life.' It is rich with honesty, truthfulness, and some serious fun. I am very grateful to the Titirangi Theatre Committee for supporting this New Zealand play and me as a first-time director. Thanks to Paul Barrett who has been my directing mentor during this production. To Margaret-Mary Hollins, Elizabeth Watkinson and Jemima Johnson for encouragement and guidance. To the very talented production and design team Kerynn, Jade, Simona, James, Romain, Lynn, Ann, Anna, Lowri, Sarah, Malcolm and Graeme - thank you all for your creativity, time, and effort to get this production mounted. To the partners, families and supporters of the actors and the crew, thanks for accommodating Seed within your lives. Enormous gratitude from me to the cast whose energy, commitment, humour, and hard work have brought this play to life, it has been such a pleasure to work with each of you.

On a personal note: My late mother, Heather Mogridge, was very involved in Titirangi Theatre during the 80s and 90s, as were my father



Bryan, sister Rachel, brother Steven and myself. I am therefore thrilled to be able to return to this special place as a director. Thank you also to my family - Joe, Lucy and Rob - who have encouraged me throughout the production. Finally to the audience, without whom live theatre would not exist.

Fiona Mogridge

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Act 1

INTERVAL

Act 2

Director's Bio - Fiona Mogridge

A lifelong devotee of the arts, Fiona grew up in a theatrical family and has been acting since her teens. Her career has spanned stage and screen, with appearances in *Shortland Street*, *Duggan*, *Hercules: The Legendary Journeys*, and the feature film *The Christmas Oratorio*.

To support her craft, she trained at l'oeil du silence, a drama school in France and achieved her LTCL (Performance) and ATCL (Speech and Drama Teaching) from Trinity College under Alma Johnson.

Fiona bridges the gap between creativity and commerce. Holding a Master's in International Business from the University of Auckland, she has spent the last 15 years working in organisational development and is currently director of Creative Business Ltd, specialising in executive and organisational coaching, leadership development, and group facilitation. She remains deeply rooted in the community as an educator for youth drama programmes and as co-founder of the Active Arts Trust NZ, bringing poetry and performance into aged care homes.

Jessamy Neilsen - Virginia

Jess is a Titirangi local and teacher for AUT at the Refugee Resettlement Centre.

Her first play with Titirangi Theatre was *The Laramie Project* in 2023, as a variety of small roles. She then returned as Zoe in *The Illiterate Book Club* in 2024.

Jess is thrilled to be back for a third time to play Virginia in *Seed*. "I'm very excited about playing such a bold and humorous role and I'm looking forward to the challenge of it. It's also such a privilege to be cast in another original NZ piece with a small and talented cast! My hope is that I can deliver the role with care, sincerity and joy, understanding that issues may resonate with our audience."



Caitlin 'Cosh' Bossley- Shelley

This is Caitlin's first performance with Titirangi Theatre, she is thrilled at the opportunity to be part of such a talented cast and production team and is very much looking forward to the challenge of bringing *Seed* to life.

Caitlin has had a varied experience on stage and screen since she was a teenager, but this is her first dramatic role on stage for some time.

The chance to be part of such a fast-paced, provocative and heartfelt NZ play was too good to pass up, so the time has come to dust off those acting shoes and hit the boards!

Leonardo Gunter - The Man/Oxana

This is Leonardo's first production with Titirangi Theatre.

Leonardo is a graduate of Toi Whakaari the New Zealand drama school and has performed in *Women beware Women* and *Romeo and Juliet* while training. Recently Leonardo was featured in *All at Sea* which screened at the NZIFF shorts and *Smoke and Mirrors*.

He is a talented physical performer, credits also include stunt performance in *The Covert* and *Sweet Tooth*. Leonardo grew up in Titirangi and has enjoyed the chance to return home to collaborate and grow this play into the production you are seeing tonight.





Renuka Patel - Hillary

This is Renuka's first lead role at Titirangi Theatre. Renuka has always had a passion for acting and storytelling, both on stage and screen, and is delighted to bring this next adventure to life.

Renuka has been in various shows, including Otago University's Capping Show, and most recently participated in

John Goudge's Adults Acting Programme at Titirangi Theatre in 2025.

Renuka is thrilled to bring her experience to this latest role as Hillary. In *Seed*, she has enjoyed bringing forth the essence of her character's wit, vulnerability and relentless drive towards her goal.

Renuka is excited to bring to life an important topic that impacts many women. She is grateful to be part of such a talented ensemble and is looking forward to sharing this story with audiences.

Catherine Falstie-Jensen - Maggie

Catherine has been involved in theatre for over 35 years and has worked in a heap of different roles in theatres across Auckland, including as a producer, production manager, stage manager, and most frequently as an actor.

She was last seen on Titirangi's stage in *Romeo & Juliet* as the Prince.

Catherine directed last year's production of *The 53rd Victim* and will direct the upcoming production of *Burn Her*, both NZ plays. She is so pleased to see such fantastic contemporary New Zealand writing on the Titirangi stage, and thinks this play in particular will resonate widely with many.



Creative Team

Director	Fiona Mogridge
Production Managers	Kerynn Walsh, Jade Bull
Stage Manager	Simona La Mantia
Intimacy Coordinator	Lara Fischel-Chisholm
Dresser	Anna Nordhaus-Moore
Rehearsal Assistant	Lowri Pountain
Set Design	Sarah Cowie, Malcolm Dale
Set Building	Malcolm Dale, Simona La Mantia, Graeme Heap, Kerynn Walsh, Ross Brannigan, Karen Soulje, Richard McFadgen, Rachel Bock, Fiona Mogridge, Jessamy Neilsen, Caitlin Bossley
Lighting Design	Romain Perin
Sound Design	James Whineray-Kelly, Duncan Milne
Sound & Lighting Operators	James Whineray-Kelly, Romain Perin, Dale Leyland, Sasha Mathewman
Wardrobe	Lynn Cottingham
Props	Kerynn Walsh
Front of House Coordinator	Melandie Oberholzer
Marketing & Publicity	Rachel Bock, Anais Shand, Jade Bull, Rachel Watkinson
Poster Design	Lucia Badidová
Billboards	Ross Brannigan
Poster and Flyer Distribution	Edward Newborn
Photography & Programme	Mac Mclver
Bookings	Rachel Watkinson

Special thanks to:

Paul Barrett, Bryan Mogridge, Elizabeth Watkinson, Margaret Mary Hollins, Jemima Johnson, Edward Newborn, New Lynn Tennis Club.

Committee: Duncan Milne, Alsa Kemeys, Graeme Heap, Jade Bull, Karen Soulje, Kerynn Walsh, Melandie Oberholzer, Rachel Bock, Rachel Watkinson, Ross Brannigan.

Want to join Titirangi Theatre?

We are looking for Production Managers, Stage Managers and Backstage Crew for our plays. Our team will mentor you, so experience is not necessary, all we need from you is an eagerness to learn, an organised personality and a love of theatre. If this piques your interest, please email: contact@titirangitheatre.co.nz

Please switch off cell phones during the performance

The use of cameras, video equipment or tape recorders is not permitted in the auditorium.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Bookings:

bookings can be made online through our Website.

Accessibility:

We are committed to offering our patrons with accessibility needs the best experience possible. If you have accessibility requirements, please let us know when you make your booking by sending us an email at: bookings@titirangitheatre.co.nz

Theatre Hire:

The Theatre Auditorium is available for hire.

For further information email theatrehire@titirangitheatre.co.nz

Please note that this link goes to Lopdell House Development Trust, who manage the Theatre Hire.

For any further information:

Write to Titirangi Theatre Inc. P O Box 60 092, Titirangi.

email: contact@titirangitheatre.co.nz,

or visit our website: www.titirangitheatre.co.nz

FIRE REGULATIONS

Fire Exits are situated at the sides of the auditorium.

Please keep all stairways, gangways and corridors that afford entry and exit entirely free from obstruction.

The evacuation point is outside the Treasure House in the lower carpark behind Lopdell House.

Titirangi Theatre Inc.

Our 2026 programme

Our next play is

A Man for All Seasons by Robert Bolt

Directed by Paul Norell

On Stage: 2 - 13 June 2026. **Auditions:** Sunday 29 March 2026

For more information email Production Manager Kate Smeal:
ksmeal1980@gmail.com or visit www.titirangitheatre.co.nz

18 – 29 August 2026

Dinner with the Family

By Jean Anouilh

Directed by Edward Newborn

3 – 14 November 2026

Burn Her

By Sam Brooks

Directed by Catherine Falstie-Jensen

Become a member

Membership includes free tickets to all our performances.

Email: membership@titirangitheatre.co.nz for information

Learn more and apply online at titirangitheatre.co.nz

Costume Hire Service

The theatre has an extensive, exciting wardrobe for hire at very reasonable rates.

Wardrobe hours: Fridays 5-7 p.m. Saturdays 10 a.m. - Noon.

Situated at The Treasure House (Lopdell Hall), just behind Lopdell House

For further information contact Lynn, Ph 818 6645

Or email beverleylynn@icloud.com

Titirangi Theatre Inc. is a charitable not for profit society, dependent on community support.

Sponsorship can take many forms... money, goods and services: please think about how you could sponsor our popular and historic organisation!
