Full programme of events

same same but different.

4–9 February 2019

A celebration of
Aotearoa New Zealand's
LGBTQI writing talent

Welcome

This is our fourth ***samesame but different*** ***Writers Festival***. We're growing up and growing out. This year, we have events at both the Auckland Art Gallery and the Basement Theatre, as well as our home nest at AUT University. We encompass a queer film screening and the only LGBTQI writing contest in Aotearoa (with increased prize money, thanks to the generosity of the Wallace Arts Foundation). One of the pleasing aspects of the festival is the number of younger writers coming through, as seen in the 'Break-out new talent' session.

We are the only LGBTQI writers festival in Aotearoa and it feels great that we have three warmly received and successful festivals behind us and that we're keeping on keeping on growing. This is our kōrero, our five-day writing marae, our magic space wherein we become the centre of the world for a few days – so take advantage of it. We only survive through you buying tickets and persuading your friends to come along. We exist for you, but we can only continue if you gift us your strength and your aroha and your presence.

Peter Wells
Director

creativeNZ
Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa

AUT

The Wallace Foundation

Subiq
Discover • Read • Succeed

Basement Theatre

Auckland Pride

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Ngā Pātaka Kōrero o Tāmaki Makaurau

Rule Foundation

The ***samesame but different*** festival was founded in 2016 by Peter Wells, who remains its director. The 2019 committee is chaired by Andrew Rumbles, with committee members Joanne Drayton, Pam Ford, Michael Giacon, Jeremy Hansen, Sam Orchard, Julie Watson (event producer), Ian Watt and Peter Wells.

Thanks to Sidney Ting for our festival logo, to Vicki Hall for the programme design and to Roger Hiscock for accounting services. Finally, our special thanks to AUT Design & Creative Technologies Dean, Guy Littlefair, Public Liaison Co-ordinator, Harry Silver, Professor Welby Ings, and Tim Huston at Brand and Marketing Services.

same same but different.

pre-festival events

Monday 4 February, 5.30pm – 7pm

FREE EVENT: PRIDE Poetry Speakeasy

speak it
slam it recite it
read it perform it
sing it

samesame but different and **Auckland Libraries** present the fifth **PRIDE Poetry Speakeasy.**

Share your poetry or come and listen in a welcoming word nest. Speak your truth to an open-minded audience of fellow poetic scribes and daytime dreamers.

The **Leys Institute Library Courtyard**, 20 St Mary's Road, Three Lamps, Ponsonby.

Thursday 7 February, 7pm

Secret Lives

Secret Lives looks at the problems of biography in relation to New Zealand artists and writers with a possible LGBTQI identity. Three panellists choose a particular New Zealand artist or writer and talk about life at a time of subterfuge and prejudice: how to be real to yourself and speak your truth – yet survive financially. Esteemed Auckland Art Gallery curator **Ron Brownson**, maverick modernist and prize-winning author **Douglas Lloyd Jenkins** are joined by funny and deeply knowledgeable biographer **Joanne Drayton**, whose latest book, *Hudson & Halls: The Food of Love*, has been a huge success.

Chaired by an author renowned for not keeping secrets: **Peter Wells**.

This event is in the Auditorium at the **Auckland Art Gallery**, Lorne Street.

NOTE: Doors open at the Clock Tower (**not** the main entrance) at 6.30pm.

And post-festival

Thursday 14 February, 8pm

Come to a special screening of the feature film *Kawa* based on **Witi Ihimaera**'s novel, *Nights in the Gardens of Spain*, directed by **Katie Wolfe**. Both the illustrious author, Witi Ihimaera, and actor and director Katie Wolfe will introduce the film and field questions at its conclusion. Part of the ongoing *Queer Scenes* series looking at queer film, this screening will be held under the umbrella of the ***samesame but different*** festival.

This event is at the **Basement Theatre**, Lower Greys Avenue (by Civic Carpark).

This is a FREE event, but you need to pre-book on Eventbrite. Go to their Facebook page: https://m.facebook.com/queerscenes/

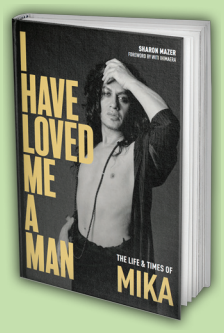
friday 8 february

same same but different.

2019 festival programme

Opening Night Gala

Friday 8 February
7.30pm – 9pm



'You're not leaving the house dressed like that!' We all remember and wince at hair styles we wore with pride, or a pair of shoes that kept us awake at nights. Yet style was how we messaged our difference, our protest, our personality. Various authors and LGBTQI personalities show and tell the styles that marked them out as outrageous, fabulous or dissident.

Featuring transgender legend **Georgina Beyer**, activist and parent **Sandi Hall**, superstar sensation **Mika**, wry comic artist and dead-serious activist **Sam Orchard**, budding genius **Ruby Porter**, excitingly explicit playwright **Victor Rodger** and flight-to-the-heavens poet **Chris Tse**.

Chaired by the man who made Auckland hum, **Jeremy Hansen**.

NOTE: This event is at the **Basement Theatre**, Lower Greys Avenue (by Civic Carpark). Bar open from 5pm.

same same but different.

Saturday 9 February

9.30am – 10.30am (at AUT)

Natasha Dennerstein

Natasha Dennerstein is a New Zealander who lives in Los Angeles and pleads 'Please don't call me a trans poet' – she's so much more than this. With a wide following in poetry and taut energetic reflective language, she speaks across the platform. Here she talks to the quietly direct, incisive thinker and speaker for Silver Rainbow, **Julie Watson**.

11am – 12 noon (at AUT)

Masculinities – What is it and what does it look like in prose?

Authors and a performer discuss masculinity in terms of their work. **Nicholas Sheppard**'s novel *Broken Play* explores the tensions of being a gay All Black: can a queer be masculine? Mika's sensational life crossing boundaries has been chronicled in *I have loved me a man*; **Brendaniel Weir**'s first novel *Tane's War* describes a gay wartime romance and its aftermath, while **Robert Tennent**, aged 19, has self-published *Come Back to Bed*, a book of photographs documenting his tentative rediscovery of sex after the trauma of rape. What is it to be male?

Chaired by queer poet and the most closely followed arts journalist in Aotearoa, **David Herkt**.

1pm – 2pm (at AUT)

Break-out new talent

At the moment there is a break-out of new young LGBTQI talent reflecting the surge of confidence in the LGBTQI world. In this panel we talk to some of our own: high-profile writer **Ruby Porter**, winner of the highly competitive Michael Gifkins prize; **Chris Tse**, award-winning poet and sought-after guest at international festivals; **Sam Orchard**, comic genius whose digital Out Loud Aotearoa project has championed those without a voice; **Katie O'Neill**, a successful and award-winning graphic novelist (her first book, *Princess Princess Ever After*, received a starred review from Kirkus, was featured on the 2017 ALA Rainbow Book List Top Ten and nominated for a Sakura Medal in 2018); and **Chelsey Ferudi**, an animator best known for the startlingly good *Rock and Riot*, a queer 1950s story about teenage rebels. These authors talk about who they admire as writers or graphic novelists, what makes them get up in the morning, what they dream about – and whether writing and words will survive in the new slippery, image-obsessed, digital environment.

Chaired by wide awake and woke author **Joanne Drayton**.

2.30pm – 3.30pm (at AUT)

Cracking it

More than ever, self-publishing is an option for all writers. This is a practical, how-to-do-it session in which seasoned authors talk the nuts and bolts of self-publishing. **Jared Gulian** successfully self-published his novel *The End of Billy Knight*, which became a gay best-seller. Interestingly he took back the rights to his nonfiction book *Moon over Martinborough* from titan Penguin Random House (where it was only just surviving) and self-published it so that it took off and reached No. 4 globally as the best rural humour memoir on Amazon. Author **Peter Wells**, after a lifetime with established publishers, decided to self-publish *Hello Darkness* and he talks about what he's learned. This is a panel about empowering LGBTQI authors so they can sidestep the overwhelmingly hetero-identified major publishing companies. How to do it. What not to do.

Chaired by **Douglas Lloyd Jenkins** who, after a lifetime as an award-winning nonfiction writer, has decided to step out into self-publishing with his first gay novel.

4pm – 5pm (at AUT)

Honoured Writer: Peter Wells

Each year we honour a writer who has contributed to the lives of the LGBTQI community in Aotearoa New Zealand. Following in the footsteps of Witi Ihimaera, Ngahuia Te Awekotuku and Renée, this year we honour our festival founder, **Peter Wells**.

Peter Wells' work shows a commitment to change in Aotearoa New Zealand society, from writing one of the earliest pieces of fiction a gay New Zealander has published under his own name (*Dangerous Desires*), to writing and co-directing television dramas like *A Death in the Family*, which was produced at the height of the HIV-Aids crisis. He directed the television drama *Jewel's Darl*, which broke new ground with its sympathetic transgender characters as early as 1986. In 1993 he co-wrote and co-directed the feature film *Desperate Remedies*, which screened at the Cannes Film Festival. In 1998, with Stephanie Johnson, he founded the celebrated Auckland Writers Festival. He founded our own ***samesame but different*** Festival in 2016 to advance the interests of LGBTQI writers. In 2018 he wrote *Dear Oliver*, a bracingly honest memoir.

This event will feature the launch of Peter's new book, *Hello Darkness*, which will be exclusively available to festival attendees in advance of its March release.

Chaired by literary man-about-town, **Jeremy Hansen**.

5.30pm – 6.30pm (at AUT)

Founder's Lecture: Georgina Beyer

Georgina Beyer is a person who literally needs no introduction, so it hardly seems necessary to add that she has been variously a prostitute, an entertainer, a mayor and the first trans MP in the world. For many years she has influenced our lives just by being there. She is also an inspiring speaker, so we have invited her to deliver our first annual Founder's Lecture, generously supported by the Rule Foundation. Fresh from speaking to both the Oxford and Cambridge University Unions, Georgina Beyer talks about five key decisions that – for better or for worse – have shaped her extraordinary life.

Introduced by *samesame but different* chairman **Andrew Rumbles.**

RULE FOUNDATION
rulefoundation.nz

Saturday Night Special

7.30pm – 9pm

Hudson and Halls: tragedy and triumph

On stage, in front of a camera, in life and in death, the inseparable Hudson and Halls rewrote our recipes for life and love. Long before homosexuality was decriminalised, they introduced New Zealand television audiences to high-camp cooking, yet they never said a public word about the great issues of the time: HIV and Homosexual Law Reform. Award-winning and best-selling author **Joanne Drayton** unpeels the enigma and looks at the enduring charm of these effervescent yet damaged gay men who caught the heart of middle New Zealand.

Chaired by the witty and charming **Jeremy Hansen**.

Sample the cooking too: Sweet Avocado Pies will be on offer.

NOTE: This event is at the **Basement Theatre**, Lower Greys Avenue (by Civic Carpark). Bar open from 5pm.

festival performers

Georgina Beyer was the first trans MP in the world. She has been a prostitute, an entertainer, a mayor and an MP. She told her story in the book *Change for the Better* with Cathy Casey in 1999. She became the subject of an award-winning documentary, *Georgie Girl* and in 2018 she was invited to speak at the Oxford University Union and at Cambridge University.

Ron Brownson is Senior Curator New Zealand and Pacific Art at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki. He has worked long-term as a professional curator, is an expert on New Zealand and Pacific art with a particular interest in photography and has authored many books.

Natasha Dennerstein studied creative writing at Whitireia Polytechnic and went on to take her Masters in Creative Writing from the International Institute of Modern Letters at Victoria University. She also has an MFA from San Francisco State University.

Joanne Drayton is an acclaimed New Zealand author whose book *The Search for Anne Perry* was numbered in the top 10 non-fiction books on the New York Times bestseller list in 2015. She has written biographies of Frances Hodgkins, Rhona Haszard, Edith Collier and Ngaio Marsh, while her latest book, *Hudson & Halls: The Food of Love* is enjoying huge acclaim.

Chelsey Furedi is a writer, artist and animator. She self-published the webcomic series *Rock and Riot*, a queer 1950s story about teenage rebels, and is now working on Project Nought, a queer sci-fi webcomic about a time-travel exchange program.

Jared Gulian's olive-farming memoir, *Moon over Martinborough*, became a New Zealand bestseller in 2013 and was serialised by Radio NZ. In 2018, Jared successfully self-published an international edition of the book. Jared also writes gay fiction under the pen-name Ty Jacob. His self-published gay novel *The End of Billy Knight* became a runaway bestseller.

Mika Haka is a rare commodity – a truly original New Zealand Māori artist and entertainer with three decades of eye-poppingly innovative work spanning stage, film, television, fashion and music. He has toured his critically acclaimed live shows around the world. He is also kaitiaki of the Mika Haka Foundation, a charity organisation committed to keeping young New Zealanders active and healthy through physical culture and the performing arts. He has told his life story to Sharon Mazer in *I have loved me a Man*, recently published by Auckland University Press.

Sandi Hall is a manuhiri writer mostly published in other countries, and is proud that four of her books, including her light-hearted Paekakariki lesbian novels, are offered by the NZ Library Service. The first of her seven novels was published by Britain's The Women's Press and translated into German and Danish. Sandi also writes plays, four of which have been staged.

Jeremy Hansen is an Auckland-based writer and journalist. He is the co-author of *Villa: From Heritage to Contemporary* (2009) and the editor of the book *Modern: New Zealand Homes from 1936 to 1977* (2013). He edited the architecture and design magazine *HOME* from 2005-16, which won Magazine of the Year at the Canon Media Awards in 2016, and the free Auckland weekly *Paperboy*.

David Herkt is a writer and award-winning television director. He has published memoirs, short stories, poetry and arts journalism, and his feature-length interviews and book reviews regularly appear in print.

Douglas Lloyd Jenkins is one of New Zealand's best-known commentators and writers on New Zealand's design history and has been described by *Wallpaper* magazine as 'one of the most influential design writers in the Southern Hemisphere'. His landmark book *At Home: A Century of New Zealand Design* was the Montana Book Awards Non-Fiction Winner in 2004, and he has since written several other books.

Katie O'Neill is a graphic novelist, who has created several works with the Portland-based publisher Oni Press that have resonated throughout the world. Her books are aimed at intermediate-level readers, with strong LGBT characters and themes of self-love, kindness and mindfulness. Her first two books, *Princess Princess Ever After* and *The Tea Dragon Society*, have both won several awards.

Sam Orchard's ongoing web comic *Rooster Tails* has been running for nine years and is the only comic of its kind in Aotearoa. Written from his life as a queer transgender man, the comic explores themes of mental health, fat embodiment, nerd culture and trans identity. Sam is also the author of *Family Portraits*, a series of short comic stories of intersectional identities within Aotearoa's rainbow communities.

Ruby Porter is a prose writer, poet and artist. She tutors creative writing at the University of Auckland, and also in high schools. She has been widely published in journals, and in 2018 she was the inaugural winner of the Michael Gifkins Prize with her debut novel, *Attraction*, which will be published in 2019 by Text Publishing.

Victor Rodger is a critically acclaimed playwright of Samoan and Scottish descent. His work often deals with issues of sexuality, race and identity, and has been praised for its candour and freshness. Since his first award-winning play, *Sons*, was produced in 1995, he has written eight plays, including *Black Faggot*, *My Name is Gary Newman* and *Club Paradiso*. A collection of his work was published by Victoria University Press in 2017.

Andrew Rumbles has worked in the sales departments of major publishing houses and has also managed his own bookshops. In conjunction with his Ponsonby Dymocks store Andrew wrote book reviews for *express*, and when he isn't reading a book can be found working in real estate.

Nicholas Sheppard grew up in the rural South Island, then moved to Auckland. He has worked as a freelance journalist for local newspapers and magazines, and has written for prominent American news and cultural websites, such as The Federalist, Huffington Post, Politico and The Daily Beast. He has taught at a private music school, and currently teaches English. *Broken Play* is his debut novel.

Robert Tennent came to New Zealand when he was thirteen and attended boarding school. A year before graduating, he was raped by someone known to him. After this incident he chose to be celibate for a period of time, but when he was ready to have sex again, he took a photo of his first partner and continued to do this with other men he hooked up with. He has now published these images with poems in a book called *Come Back To Bed*.

Chris Tse's poetry has drawn acclaim for its 'emotive power' and being 'utterly exposing, playful, inventive and daring'. He is the author of two poetry collections published by Auckland University Press: *How to be Dead in a Year of Snakes* (winner of the Jessie Mackay Award for Best First Book of Poetry and a finalist at the 2016 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards) and *HE'S SO MASC* (2018).

Julie Watson is an educator, facilitator and advocate. After two decades of working with the Human Rights Commission, she is now programme lead for Silver Rainbow, a facilitator with Rainbow Tick and does education and consultancy around relationship and LGBTQI issues. Julie is part of the Rainbow Panel Advisory group to Auckland City Council.

Brendaniel Weir has written educational television, worked in the film industry and is a lecturer in English language. In 2013, he graduated with a Masters of Creative Writing, also winning the post-graduate writing prize. Brendaniel's first novel, *Tane's War* (Cloud Ink Press, 2018) explores the intersection of three lives in the 1950s.

Peter Wells is an award-winning author and film-maker. Most recently he produced a memoir of his family, *Dear Oliver*, as well as a series of Facebook posts chronicling his experience of living with cancer, later reprinted in The Spinoff under the title 'Hello Darkness'. *Hello Darkness* is also the title of his forthcoming book which includes this material and more. He co-created the Auckland Writers Festival in 1999 and the *samesame but different* LGBTQI Writers Festival in 2015.

Further details about the festival contributors and presenters can be found at:
www.samesamebutdifferent.co.nz

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2019 Wallace Foundation Short Fiction Contest

You have only a few weeks to submit your entry (or entries) for this year's **Wallace Foundation Short Fiction Contest**. The prize money has been increased this year: a first prize of $1000 for the winning story, $500 for the runner-up and $500 for the best entry by a promising young writer aged under 25.

Stories must be original, unpublished works of fiction and may be on any theme. The word limit is 2000 words. Entries must be submitted by 31 March 2019. The judges this year are experienced writers Peter Wells and Paula Boock, with the winners to be announced in May.

For further information on how to submit your entry, plus a full list of rules and conditions, please go to: **www.samesamebutdifferent.co.nz**.

THE WALLACE FOUNDATION

The Sisters Gay present

Move over, Brothers Grimm. Grey Lynn Library's '**Sisters Gay**' present **After-Hours Storytime for Grown-Ups and Other Family** — with a twist in the tales and a wrench in the rhymes.

Fairy tales will never be the same!

All welcome.

Tuesday 5 February, 6.30 – 7.30pm

Grey Lynn Library,
474 Great North Rd.

Entry free, donations accepted.

Book launch

Little Island Press warmly invite you to the launch of *Samoan Queer Lives* by **Dan Taulapapa McMullin** and **Yuki Kihara**.

The book features 14 autobiographical stories from fa'afafine and LGBTQI Samoans based in Sāmoa, Amerika Sāmoa, Australia, Aotearoa NZ, Hawai'i and USA.

Tuesday 5 February, 5pm – 6pm

Ellen Melville Centre
Betty Wark Room
Freyberg Place, Central Auckland

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You can book for individual sessions, or purchase a **Festival Pass** at a discount. There will also be door sales.

SESSION PRICES

Price per session (incl. morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea) (**Note:** Opening Night Gala and Saturday Night Special are priced separately – see below)	$17.50
Early Bird* discount per session	$15.00
Concession for students and unemployed	$12.00
Secret Lives session (7 February)	Prices as above

SPECIAL EVENTS

Opening Night Gala	$25.00
Early Bird* discount for Opening Night Gala	$20.00
Concession for students and unemployed	$18.00
Saturday Night Special	$25.00
Early Bird* discount for Saturday Night Special	$20.00
Concession for students and unemployed	$18.00

FESTIVAL PASS

Festival Pass to all events (except Secret Lives session, 7 Feb)	$110.00
Early Bird* discount for Festival Pass	$95.00
Concession for students and unemployed	$75.00

* For the **Early Bird discount**, book before **31 January 2019**.

Book through iTicket: **www.iticket.co.nz**
There will be door sales.

iTICKET

Become a SSBD Patron

Our Patrons are the vital supporters of New Zealand's LGBTQI writers festival – a celebratory weekend of writers, ideas and thinking. With your support we can continue to grow the Festival and bring our Aotearoa writers and exceptional international visitors to share their writing and life experiences.

We are fabulously grateful to you as a Patron. Our inaugural 2019 Patronage level of $250 offers acknowledgement at the Festival opening (optional), a full festival pass and invitations to future events and authors.

To become a **SSBD** Patron, email:
samesamebutdifferentnz@gmail.com.

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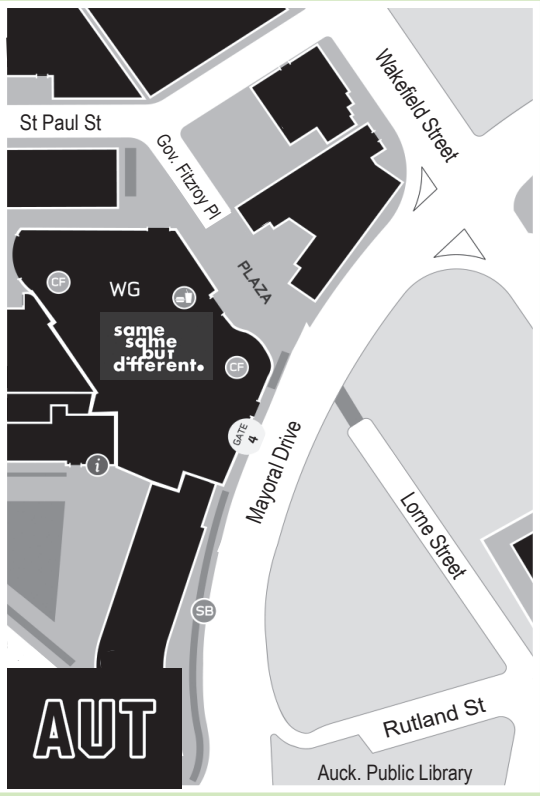
tickets



Directions

Most events are being held in central Auckland at the AUT University campus, Sir Paul Reeves (WG) Building, room WG126. The best access is via the main entrance to the WG building on Governor Fitzroy Place, which runs between Mayoral Drive and St Paul Street.

The Friday and Saturday evening events are being held at the Basement Theatre, Lower Greys Avenue (by Civic Carpark).

Transport

Buses run frequently on nearby Symonds Street, Wellesley Street and Queen Street.

Wilson Parking Unipark in St Paul Street is the closest parking building. There is another Wilson car park in Kitchener Street. The Civic car park, Aotea Square, is also within easy walking distance.

Refreshments

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided at the festival venue, but there are also numerous cafés in the vicinity for those who prefer to go out for lunch. These include:

- Esquires Café at the Auckland Public Library, Lorne Street.
- Gloria Jean's Café, corner of Lorne Street and Khartoum Place.
- Mojo Café, Auckland Art Gallery, Kitchener Street.

Bubiq
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The University Bookshop will be selling books at all sessions at AUT.

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