

same same but different.

A celebration of
Aotearoa New Zealand's
top LGBTQI writing talent

12–14 February 2016
@ AUT



Simpson Grierson



I was always a very timid boy. This was after I was bullied at Mt Albert Grammar. But I have to thank the bullies because I became a writer, which enabled me to say on paper what I couldn't say out loud. But when I'm at festivals and faced with an audience, I always have an involuntary reaction. For one moment the audience turns into the boys at MAGS and I close down. I learnt to get past this moment of primal fear and in fact I began to feel the enormous freedom of being able to say exactly what I wanted. I developed what is called 'a sharp tongue'. Written and spoken language became my weapon.

This small journey is the experience of many LGBTQI people. Language is our first line of defence. We changed the hurtful words so often used to describe us and claimed the upbeat 'gay' in the 1970s. From there we went on to use many other terms that we ourselves chose. Language is what defines us as humans. Choice is what makes us who we are.

One of the pleasures of putting this festival together has been celebrating the strong voices of the present with writers as distinguished as Witi Ihimaera, Victor Rodger and Joanne Drayton. But a surprise has been the discovery of new voices. These fresh new voices redefine the experience of what it is to be human and to see the world from a new LGBTQI perspective. My hope is that *samesame but different* will introduce a heightened awareness of the timbre and reach of our voice but also celebrate the richness inherent in difference.

All writers and readers festivals are a version of talking up a storm. Let me now step aside with a bow and the talking begin.

Peter Wells
Festival Director

Peter Wells would like to thank **Welby Ings**, an early LGBTQI writer and now a professor at AUT, for his assistance, and also **Anne O'Brien** who helped with the programme. A small group of people enthusiastically gave their time and energy to putting this festival together, including committee members **Julie Watson**, **Ian Watt** and **Brendan Weir**, together with **Lynn Roberts** and **Anton Blank**. Finally, a special thanks to all the writers and contributors to the festival, without whom ...

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festival programme

7pm – 8.30pm

Gala Event

The book that turned the light on

In a past of illegality and stigma, books asserted a powerful presence. For LGBTQI people they became an underground system of passing on information, ways of survival and even sexual technique. A range of authors and well-known LGBTQI personalities talk about a particular book – from highbrow to trash/porn – that turned the light on.

Featuring author **Joanne Drayton**; playwright **Victor Rodger**; screenwriter and author **Paula Boock**; modernist style guru **Douglas Lloyd Jenkins**; writer and broadcaster **Paul Diamond**; poet **Whaitiri Mikaere** aka **Diesel Dyke Poet**; **Susannah Walker**, editor of *Metro* magazine; **Michael Stevens** from *Rainbow Tick*; **Jeremy Hansen**, editor of *Home* magazine; and exciting new talent **Cole Meyers**.

Chaired by the inimitable **Edward Cowley**

Sponsored by **GABA**



opening night | friday 12 february

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9.30am – 10.30am

Larger than life stories

Alison Mau wrote the remarkable story of Liz Roberts, the first New Zealander to undergo full sex-change surgery. **Joanne Drayton** wrote a *New York Times* best-selling biography of Anne Perry, a celebrated international crime-writer but notoriously also one of the young women found guilty of murdering her girlfriend's mother in Christchurch in 1954. **Julie Glamuzina** tells the haunting story of 'Peter Williams', a woman arrested for marrying another woman in 1945. What do you tell? How do you tell it? And crucially, what gets left on the cutting-room floor?

Chaired by **Carole Beu**

11am – 12 noon

Witi Ihimaera in conversation with Paul Diamond

A year after the publication of the first volume of his autobiography, *Māori Boy*, Witi talks about the process of writing a memoir and recreating a self. As queer men and women, we often have to create a self in defiance of the heteronormative values which, in the past, presented us as stigmatised beings. Does memoir give you a chance to rewrite – and re-right – the past? Witi talks about the process of memory, confronting taboos, the force of tikanga Māori and how this might both inhibit and empower.

1pm – 2pm

Now & then

A mash-up of readings of new voices and established writers noted for their evocation of our challenging past.

The established authors are poet and memoirist **Aorewa McLeod**; author and screenwriter **Paula Boock**; the acclaimed dancer and writer **Douglas Wright**; poet **Heather McPherson**; and Katherine

Mansfield Award winner **Julie Helean**. The new voices are poet and prose writer **Ruby Porter**; MIT Creative Arts graduate **Matt Wort**; poet and prose writer **Madeline Reid**; poet **Semira Davis**; and National Poetry Slam co-founder **Michelle Durey**.

The winner of the 2016 Wallace Arts Trust Prize for Short Fiction, held under the auspices of Alternative Bindings, will be announced at this session.

*Chaired by **Brendan Were***

2.30 – 3.30pm

Paddling your own waka

In a world of the internet, global publishing companies no longer have the same power as gatekeepers. This session looks at the possibilities – and problems – of finding your own audience.

Chris Brickell has set up his own press, Genre Books; **Anton Blank** has successfully published hardback books; **Joanne Drayton** thinks digital; **Ian Watt**, former publisher at Reed, Harper Collins and Exisle, talks about the brave new world; and **Carole Beu** gives the nitty-gritty on being at the cliff-face as the owner of a successful independent bookshop.

*Chaired by **Paul Diamond***

4pm – 5pm

Teenage years

To set the scene, **Chrys Jones** and her friend **Aleisha Parkinson** from Glenfield College give a performance of 'I am sure', which gives a sense of the cliff-edge intensity of LGBTQI teenage years.

Historian **Chris Brickell**, best known for his award-winning book *Mates and Lovers*, talks about teenagers in New Zealand history, and explores social pressures on queer youth, but also the complexities of experience and identity. Then **Stevan Eldred-Grigg** reflects on his own personal history as a teenager in the 1960s and how the meaning of his queer life was filtered through novels, poetry, comics, radio, cinema and television, as well as the wider society and the family. Does a look back at our past help us understand the pressures and possibilities felt by today's young New Zealanders?

*Chaired by **Peter Wells***

saturday 13 february

5.30pm – 6.30pm

#TheFuture

Fresh LGBTQI talent is shaking up the theatre scene. **Victor Rodger**, author of *Black Faggot* and currently Robert Burns Fellow at Otago University, talks to a runaway crew of talent. **Aroha Awarau** is an award-winning playwright, screenwriter and journalist; **Sam Brooks** was named Auckland's Most Exciting Playwright by *Metro* magazine; **Nathan Joe** is a playwright whose play *Like Sex* is currently being developed for the 2016 Young and Hungry Festival of New Theatre; **Amanaki Prescott-Faletau** won Playmarket's Best Play for the Young as co-writer of *Inky Pinky Ponky*; and **Josephine Stewart Tewhiu** is an actor, columnist and author of three plays. Victor asks whether being LGBTQI, in these post-marriage equality days, is simply a worn-out trope, or does it lend a particular intensity of vision to their work?

Sponsored by **Simpson Grierson**



Simpson Grierson

7.30pm – 9pm

Gala Event

Dangerous desires

In the past, LGBTQI readers had to search for sexual information in often blatantly homophobic texts: yet so deep was the need that readers found a LGBTQI presence in the strangest and often the funniest places. Authors and notables share the pitfalls and pratfalls on their journey to self-knowledge.

Authors include new crime writer **Jen Shieff**; award-winner **Stevan Eldred-Grigg**, **Whaitiri Mikaere** aka **Diesel Dyke Poet**, who will perform; playwright, director and performer **Thomas Sainsbury**; **Peter Wells**, author of *Dangerous Desires*; and new voice **Nick J. Jones**. Also appearing will be **Emma Lyon**, founder of D-Vice; **Grant Robertson**, Labour MP and genial wit; **Verity George** of Garnet Station fame, and photographer **Rebecca Swan**.

Chaired by actor **Harry McNaughton**

10am – 11.30 am

Valentine Day's Brunch

To the sweet sounds of **Danny Kwok** and friends, you brunch and celebrate LGBTQI love poems from Catullus and Sappho through to the very latest writers. This is an opportunity to relax in the company of a Significant Other (or others), enjoy great food and a glass of champagne, before heading off to the Big Gay Out down the road.

Our splendid readers are noted performers **Todd Emerson** and **Bryony Skillington**.

Note different venue: Garnet Station, 85 Garnet Road, Westmere

You can book for individual sessions, or purchase a **Festival Pass** at a considerable discount.

Entry per **ordinary session** (all sessions except Fri & Sat evening): **\$15.00**

Early Bird discount (book before 31 Dec 2015): **\$13.50**

Concession for students and unemployed: **\$12.00**

Gala events (Fri & Sat evening) price per session: **\$20.00**

Early Bird discount (book before 31 Dec 2015): **\$18.50**

Concession for students and unemployed: **\$15.00**

Festival Pass (all events, except Sunday brunch): **\$100.00**

Concession for students and unemployed: **\$80.00**

Valentine's Day Brunch: **\$45.00**

- Book through iTicket: www.iticket.co.nz
- There will be door sales
- Tickets also available at Real Groovy
438 Queen Street, Auckland



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



Directions

The event is being held in central Auckland at the AUT University campus, Sir Paul Reeves 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.

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

There will be breaks between sessions for people to refuel at the numerous cafés in the vicinity. 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.
- Stopover Café, corner of St Paul Street and Symonds Street.

the **WOMEN'S**
BOOKSHOP

The Women's Bookshop will be selling books at the event.

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www.iticket.co.nz/go-to/same-same-but-different-lgbtqi-writers-festival