

AUCKLAND LIVE

Cabaret Festival



A WORLD WITHIN A WORLD

KIA ORA
KOUTOU

I am so excited to welcome you to the
2026 Auckland Live Cabaret Festival.

Last year was the first time I had ever been to the Festival and **my mind was blown.** I recall coming in from the winter chill into the **lush warmth of The Civic;** embraced by **uncontainable joy and connecting to a community** who refused to be boxed in. **I didn't want to leave!**

The festival takes over the mighty Civic with **music, comedy, theatre, circus, drag, burlesque,** and some acts that simply can't be defined. You will find artists and audiences mingling together; revelling in the extraordinary, **a place where anything is possible.**

Each show that has been curated as part of this festival is **a doorway into something surprising;** there is the spectacle alongside the intimate, the extravagant alongside vulnerability, laugh-out-loud moments alongside rallying calls to action.

This year's festival has been curated by three creative wāhine toa - **Helaina Keeley, Padma Akula and Vanessa Immink,** they have brought together international stars with the very best artists of Aotearoa crafting a cabaret festival that could only happen here in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, **produced and delivered by the incredible team at Auckland Live.**

Whether you're chasing late-night delights, a moment of musical discovery, or a cheeky performance that might make you blush, we invite you in. **You're about to discover your new favourite night out!**

Arohanui,

Daniel Clarke
Director, Auckland Live

AUCKLAND LIVE

**Cabaret
Festival**

2026

YOUR TICKET TO THE
EXTRAORDINARY

AOTEAROA PREMIERE

Where desire, danger and comedy ignite.

Cheeky Cabaret isn't just a show - it's a riotous, genre-bending night out that fuses circus, vaudeville, comedy and new burlesque into one deliciously unrestrained spectacle. Born from the creators of international smash hits *La Clique*, *La Soirée* and *Club Swizzle*, this cult cabaret phenomenon has spent over a decade selling out shows and shocking audiences with its tongue-in-cheek charm.

Each season brings a fresh lineup of troublemakers, divas, daredevils and cabaret icons - no two *Cheeky Cabaret* shows are ever alike. If you crave something far from vanilla, **this is one party you will not want to miss.**

CHEEKY CABARET

BURLESQUE

CIRCUS

COMEDY

VARIETY



WHEN
24 - 28 June
Wed - Sat 8pm
Sat & Sun 2pm
Sun 6pm

WHERE
On Stage
THE CIVIC

DURATION
75
minutes

TICKETS*
\$69-\$109

R18+

Contains nudity, coarse language, sexual references, adult content and themes, strobe lights, special effects and loud noises.

BOOK AT
aucklandlive.co.nz



High voltage cabaret for a brave new world.

DANGEROUS GOODS is an unapologetic, hot-flash-fuelled cabaret of provocative performances, jaw-dropping physical feats, and powerful acts of rebellion.

This world-class, all-femme lineup of circus, aerials, drag, burlesque and powerhouse vocals promises an unforgettable evening of high-octane entertainment that is fully loaded and flammable.

Hot flashes, high kicks and an urge to bury the empire, **DANGEROUS GOODS** is cabaret for a world on the brink, ready to blow minds and shift paradigms.

Come for the party. **Stay for the uprising.**

DANGEROUS GOODS

POLYTOXIC

"Polytoxic demand the kind of action and reaction that has the potential to change the world." Fest Mag, UK

BURLESQUE

CIRCUS

MUSIC



WHEN
1 - 5 July
Wed - Sat 8pm
Sat 2pm, Sun 6pm

WHERE
On Stage
THE CIVIC

DURATION
65
minutes

TICKETS*
\$35-\$109

R18+

Contains adult themes, sexual references, coarse language, complete nudity and sensitive content as well as the use of smoke, haze, strobe effects, and loud noises.

BOOK AT
aucklandlive.co.nz

Get ready for a serving of Do-Re-Mi with Hi-La-Ri-Tea.

A decade on from appearing in the very first Auckland Live Cabaret Festival, the incomparable **Le Gateau Chocolat** returns more delicious than ever.

Armed with his booming bass voice, razor-sharp wit and dazzling charisma, he transforms the great musical theatre canon into one spectacular, joy-filled night out. From *The Sound of Music* to *Frozen*, *Follies* to *Cats*, *Cabaret* and more, **Musicals Mayhem** is a high-octane collision of show tunes, high kicks, high drag, and high glamour.

Le Gateau Chocolat will tug at your heartstrings as he crams every musical you know and love into an evening of **warmth, wit and wicked theatrical delight**.

MUSICALS MAYHEM

LE GATEAU CHOCOLAT

"The biggest voice in town. Global domination awaits." Time Out UK

COMEDY

MUSIC

THEATRE



WHEN
Fri 3 & Sat 4 July 9.30pm
Sun 5 July 4pm

WHERE
Wintergarden
THE CIVIC

DURATION
60
minutes

TICKETS*
\$20-\$49

12+

Contains themes of
race and politics.

BOOK AT
aucklandlive.co.nz

Supported by the British Council New Zealand and the Pacific.



A night of icons, energy, and unapologetic fabulousness.

Directed by **Jennifer Te Atamira Ward-Lealand** and hosted by the fabulous **Luke Bird**, come and experience the opening of the Auckland Live Cabaret Festival - your perfect sneak peek into two electrifying weeks of cabaret.

Bringing together a **handpicked lineup** of festival artists for one unmissable event, this showcase offers a preview of what cabaret does best. Expect a taste of irresistible 60s pop bangers with **Simply Brill**, wet your taste buds for the award-winning silly and sexy, **Sugar**, experience some of Auckland's most iconic drag queens celebrating **Caluzzi Cabaret's 30th Birthday** bash, get a flash of **The Velvet Lounge**, and discover **Karaoke Heaven**.

Whether you're a cabaret devotee or just a little cabaret curious, this is your chance to taste the sass and spectacle that is Auckland Live Cabaret Festival, **trust us, you'll want more!**

ALL THAT GLITTERS

THE GALA NIGHT

COMEDY

MUSIC

THEATRE



WHEN
Wed 24 June
6.30pm

WHERE
Wintergarden
THE CIVIC

DURATION
60
minutes

TICKETS*
\$20-\$59

R18+

BOOK AT
aucklandlive.co.nz

WORLD PREMIERE



Thirty years of laughter, lashes and larger-than-life drag unleashed.

Karangahape Road's brightest stars are hitting the stage in a once-in-a-generation celebration. **Caluzzi Cabaret**, Australasia's longest-running drag cabaret, marks its 30th anniversary with a dazzling new showcase created exclusively for the Auckland Live Cabaret Festival.

Fronted by internationally loved queens, Caluzzi owners and TV personalities **Kita Mean** and **Anita Wigl'it** (*Drag Wars*, *House of Drag*, *RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under*), the show explodes with high-camp glamour, whip-smart comedy and jaw-dropping production numbers that capture the heart and legacy of NZ's iconic **Caluzzi Cabaret**.

Plus legendary cast member **Ling Ling** and her girls join the celebrations adorned in feathers, rhinestones and mischief.

This is Caluzzi - bigger, bolder and more fabulous than ever. **Happy Birthday Caluzzi – let us eat cake!**

CALUZZI CABARET'S 30TH BIRTHDAY

COMEDY

MUSIC



WHEN
Sat 27 June, 9.30pm
Sun 28 June, 4pm

WHERE
Wintergarden
THE CIVIC

DURATION
60
minutes

TICKETS*
\$20-\$49

R16+

Contains strong language and adult themes.

BOOK AT
aucklandlive.co.nz

AOTEAROA PREMIERE

NOMINEE

Outstanding
Cabaret Artiste
Green Room
Awards 2025



NOMINEE

Queer Performer Award
Binge Fringe Mag
Awards 2025



A chaotic and hilarious tale of a kept Sugar Baby.

Theatrical, outrageous, silly and sexy, the company behind *Daffodils* returns with an award-winning cabaret about **Sugar** - a radiantly beautiful gender-fluid twink who discovers there's money to be made from 'transactional relationships.' Perhaps after watching *Pretty Woman* one too many times... *What could go wrong?*

Tomáš Kantor veritably shimmers with charisma, revealing their talent as a storyteller with an irresistible pop soundtrack from **Kylie, Gaga, Lorde, Chappell Roan** and more.

A superstar-in-the-making shines in this electric cabaret about luxury, power, and being paid to have sex on a grand piano.

SUGAR

★★★★★

"Sugar is politically, aesthetically and theatrically astute - it might just be the hottest ticket in town." The Scotsman

COMEDY

MUSIC

THEATRE



WHEN

Thu 25 & Fri 26 June
9.30pm

WHERE

Wintergarden
THE CIVIC

DURATION

70
minutes

TICKETS*

\$20-\$49

R18+

Contains adult themes, strong language, haze, loud sound effects, and references to queer lived experience, sex work, substance use and discrimination.

BOOK AT

aucklandlive.co.nz



A celebration of the songs, the stories and the songwriters who shaped a generation.

Step inside the legendary Brill Building, the New York hit factory where a generation of teenage songwriters reinvented pop music and the sounds of the 60s. In **Simply Brill**, three of Australia's most acclaimed cabaret artists, **Amelia Ryan, Michaela Burger** and **Michael Griffiths** bring this golden era to life with irresistible charm, whip-smart storytelling and a catalogue of hits.

With exquisite harmonies, effortless musicianship and a live band driving the beat, **Simply Brill** pays joyous tribute to icons such as **Carole King, Burt Bacharach, Neil Sedaka**, and more.

Simply Brill is vibrant, funny and a deeply musical journey through the building where "hit after hit after hit" was born.

SIMPLY BRILL

THE TEENS WHO STOLE ROCK 'N' ROLL

★★★★★

"Tight, well executed and slick - an absolute sonic treat." Glam Adelaide

MUSIC

THEATRE

WHEN
Thu 25 & Fri 26 June
6.30pm

WHERE
Wintergarden
THE CIVIC

DURATION
70
minutes

TICKETS*
\$20-\$49

Presented by Auckland Live in association
with Taranaki Arts Festival.

BOOK AT
aucklandlive.co.nz



WORLD PREMIERE



One artist. Many worlds. No boxes.

Breakout Aotearoa artist **Nikau Grace** brings **Ko Au, Ko Koe** to the festival - a powerful live show celebrating women, identity and the courage to take up space.

Moving effortlessly between blues, classical and contemporary sounds, **Nikau Grace** blends genres, language and stories into a rich, emotionally charged experience. With a live band, lush harmonies and **te reo Māori** at its heart, Nikau's music speaks directly to connection and self-expression.

Joined by special guest artists, **Ko Au, Ko Koe** is an invitation to listen deeply, feel fiercely, and witness an artist truly coming into her own.

KO AU, KO KOE

NIKAU GRACE

MUSIC

THEATRE



WHEN
Sat 27 June
6.30pm

WHERE
Wintergarden
THE CIVIC

DURATION
60
minutes

TICKETS*
\$20-\$49

An Auckland Live Commission

BOOK AT
aucklandlive.co.nz

WORLD PREMIERE



A live jazz and burlesque spectacular – what's not to love?

The Velvet Lounge is a lush, joy-filled celebration of glamour and feathers, starring the devastatingly captivating **Michelle Kasey** and **Kiki Kisses**.

Step into a world where liberation, vulnerability, desire and playful confidence take centre stage. Featuring world-class burlesque, an electrifying live jazz quartet, and a sumptuous dance ensemble woven together into an unforgettable night.

It's an absolute reveal-ation: feather fans swirling, brass blazing, voices soaring, and rhythms pulsing deep in your... chest.

Arrive curious. Leave gloriously unravelled.

THE VELVET LOUNGE

BURLESQUE

MUSIC



WHEN
Wed 1 & Thu 2 July,
9.30pm

WHERE
Wintergarden
THE CIVIC

DURATION
60
minutes

TICKETS*
\$20-\$49

R18+

Contains nudity and strong language.

BOOK AT
aucklandlive.co.nz

WORLD PREMIERE

LAUREATE
Arts Foundation
Te Tumu Toi 2015

WINNER
NZ Country Music
Album of the
Year 2020

WINNER
NZ Country Music
Song of the Year
2023

A haunting, hypnotic journey through redemption, reckoning and song.

Renowned for his intimate, magnetic performances, **Delaney Davidson** brings his newest album *Baby Heavyweight* to the Auckland Live Cabaret Festival.

Davidson steps into bold new songwriting territory inspired by Gershwin's classic elegance, the lyricism of the Italian folk renaissance and the grit of 60s garage. He is joined by a handpicked ensemble of exceptional musicians; together they will bring the highs and lows of *Lucifer's Redemption* to life.

Stripping each song back to its emotional core, he explores trauma, loss, recovery and confronting the past to move forward. With an eye for musical texture and a gift for dynamic storytelling, Davidson uses his mini-orchestra to shape each piece into a living, breathing atmosphere.

Join us for a spellbinding night of artistry - **raw, tender and utterly transporative.**

DELANEY DAVIDSON

BABY HEAVYWEIGHT

MUSIC

THEATRE

WHEN
Fri 3 & Sat 4 July
6.30pm

WHERE
Wintergarden
THE CIVIC

DURATION
60
minutes

TICKETS*
\$20-\$49

BOOK AT
aucklandlive.co.nz



WORLD PREMIERE

An exuberant, vibrant dive into Mandopop, memory and the stories we carry.

Auckland Live Cabaret Festival's beloved tarot reader, Kiwi-born Singaporean 姐姐 **Amanda Grace Leo**, steps out from the shadows and trades her tarot cards for a microphone in **Karaoke Heaven**.

Inspired by the songs she grew up singing and the memories attached to them, her karaoke style cabaret blends **2000s Mandopop**, **lost childhood nostalgia**, and the journey of learning to love yourself when you've spent a lifetime between two worlds.

With joy, big vocals, and heartfelt storytelling, **Karaoke Heaven** asks: **what makes us feel whole and complete?**

KARAOKE HEAVEN

"Leo in particular was a standout with her stunning vocals." NZ Herald (Scenes from a Yellow Peril)

MUSIC

THEATRE

WHEN

Thu 2 July, 6.30pm
Sat 4 July, 3.30pm

WHERE

Wintergarden
THE CIVIC

DURATION

60
minutes

TICKETS*

\$20-\$35

An Auckland Live Commission

BOOK AT

aucklandlive.co.nz



Scratch Night returns with a fresh batch of creatives with new ideas ready to take a bold leap into the spotlight!

Songs are still being written, acts are taking shape, and ideas are just daring enough to test in front of a crowd.

Scratch Night is a celebration of music, burlesque, musical theatre, comedy, and everything that thrives in the in-between spaces. Each artist has a maximum of 15 minutes to share a work in progress, keeping the night fast-paced and full of surprises.

Curated by **Jessie Cassin** and **Padma Akula** and hosted by Jessie herself, this one-night-only cabaret mixtape might just spark a **brand-new cabaret crush**.

SCRATCH NIGHT

MUSIC

THEATRE

VARIETY



WHEN
Wed 1 July
6.30pm

WHERE
Wintergarden
THE CIVIC

DURATION
60
minutes

TICKETS*
\$20

BOOK AT
aucklandlive.co.nz

M

Recommended for
mature audiences

THE PIANO BAR

With virtuoso pianists **Robin Kelly** and **Jason Te Mete** ready to tackle any tune, and a different host each night, this after-hours playground brings cabaret stars and audiences together in a joyful free-for-all. Step up and claim the mic for your favourite tune or settle in with a cocktail and **watch the beautiful chaos unfold around you**.

WHEN
Times vary.
See schedule p.30

WHERE
Come find it...
THE CIVIC

TICKETS*
FREE

Wander up the staircase at The Civic and find yourself at the **Champagne Lounge** - an intimate hideaway fizzing with late night charm. Raise a glass, feel the vibe, and let cabaret's finest musicians surprise you with **pop-up jazz performances** throughout the festival.

CHAMPAGNE LOUNGE

WHEN
24 June - 5 July
Wed - Sun, 5.30 - 10pm

WHERE
Level 2 Foyer
THE CIVIC

TICKETS*
FREE

° Jazz artist performances differ, check website for details



Catch a glimpse of the future with our resident **Tarot and Palm Readers**, bringing a touch of otherworldly magic to the cabaret. Whether you're chasing destiny or craving a little drama, their readings will add an enchanting twist to your night.

Ringmaster extraordinaire **Hugo Grrrl** unleashes **pop-up Late Night Delights**, transforming the foyers with electrifying moments of spectacle that could only happen at the **Auckland Live Cabaret Festival**.

No two nights are ever the same.

FOYER FOLLIES

WHEN
Times vary
See schedule p.30

WHERE
Foyers
THE CIVIC

TICKETS*
FREE

YOUR GUIDE TO CABARET

TICKETING

See individual show pages for ticket price range*

WINTERGARDEN Best Value Tickets*

STANDING

Limited allocation - \$20 per ticket*

GROUPS 6+

Karaoke Heaven: \$32 per ticket*

The Gala Night: \$56 per ticket*

All other shows: \$46 per ticket*

MULTIBUY TICKETS

Two or more shows: \$46 per ticket*

*Not available for Cheeky Cabaret,
All That Glitters: The Gala Night,
Karaoke Heaven and Scratch Night.*

BOOKING FEES

ONLINE

*1.95% infrastructure charge plus booking fee.

BOX OFFICE

No fees apply.

Accessible seating can be booked online. Service animals are welcome. Our front-of-house team are always happy to help.

Book at aucklandlive.co.nz

Phone: 0800 111 999

Groups: 09 970 9745

   @aucklandlive

SIP, SAVOUR & INDULGE

Arrive early, linger longer, and make a night of it. Enjoy delicious bites and fabulous drinks before, between and during the show, all wrapped in an irresistible cabaret atmosphere. See what's on the menu at aucklandlive.co.nz

HAPPY HOUR

Thu-Fri, 5-6pm.



Information is correct at the time of printing. For any changes, visit our website or check your email - ticket holders will be notified.

SHOW	VENUE	PAGE	DURATION	WED 24 JUNE	THU 25 JUNE	FRI 26 JUNE	SAT 27 JUNE	SUN 28 JUNE	MON 29 JUNE	TUE 30 JUNE	WED 1 JULY	THU 2 JULY	FRI 3 JULY	SAT 4 JULY	SUN 5 JULY		
CHEEKY CABARET	On Stage THE CIVIC	p.4	75 min	8pm	8pm	8pm	2pm 8pm	2pm 6pm									
DANGEROUS GOODS Polytoxic	On Stage THE CIVIC	p.6	65 min								8pm	8pm	8pm	2pm 8pm	6pm		
MUSICALS MAYHEM Le Gateau Chocolat	Wintergarden THE CIVIC	p.8	60 min											9.30pm	9.30pm	4pm	
ALL THAT GLITTERS The Gala Night	Wintergarden THE CIVIC	p.10	60 min	6.30pm													
CALUZZI CABARET'S 30th Birthday	Wintergarden THE CIVIC	p.12	60 min				9.30pm	4pm									
SUGAR	Wintergarden THE CIVIC	p.14	70 min		9.30pm	9.30pm											
SIMPLY BRILL	Wintergarden THE CIVIC	p.16	70 min		6.30pm	6.30pm											
KO AU, KO KOE Nikau Grace	Wintergarden THE CIVIC	p.18	60 min				6.30pm										
THE VELVET LOUNGE	Wintergarden THE CIVIC	p.20	60 min								9.30pm	9.30pm					
DELANEY DAVIDSON Baby Heavyweight	Wintergarden THE CIVIC	p.22	60 min											6.30pm	6.30pm		
KARAOKE HEAVEN	Wintergarden THE CIVIC	p.24	60 min									6.30pm		3.30pm			
SCRATCH NIGHT	Wintergarden THE CIVIC	p.26	60 min								6.30pm						
THE PIANO BAR	Come find it... THE CIVIC	p.27		7.30pm till late	7.30pm till late	7.30pm till late	7.30pm till late			7.30pm till late	7.30pm till late	7.30pm till late	7.30pm till late	7.30pm till late	7.30pm till late		
CHAMPAGNE LOUNGE ^o	Level 2 THE CIVIC	p.27		5.30pm - 10pm	5.30pm - 10pm	5.30pm - 10pm	5.30pm - 10pm	5.30pm - 10pm			5.30pm - 10.30pm	5pm - 10.30pm	5pm - 10.30pm	1pm - 10.30pm	3pm - 8.30pm		
TAROT READER	Level 2 THE CIVIC	p.28		8pm - 11pm	6pm - 11.30pm	6pm - 11.30pm	6pm - 11.30pm	1pm - 6pm			6pm - 10pm		6pm - 11.30pm		3pm - 8.30pm		
PALM READER	Level 2 THE CIVIC	p.28		5.30pm - 9.30pm	6pm - 9.30pm	6pm - 11pm	5.30pm - 11pm	1pm - 6pm			6pm - 9.30pm	6pm - 9.30pm	6pm - 11pm	5.30pm - 11pm	3pm - 8.30pm		
LATE NIGHT DELIGHTS	Foyers THE CIVIC	p.28	10 min		from 10.45pm	from 10.45pm	from 10.35pm					from 10.35pm	from 10.35pm	from 10.35pm			

^o Jazz artist performances differ, check website for details



AUCKLAND LIVE
**Cabaret
Festival**



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Presented By
AUCKLAND LIVE

Part of the
Auckland Council
whānau

YOUR TICKET TO THE
EXTRAORDINARY

AUCKLAND LIVE

***Cabaret
Festival***

24 JUNE - 5 JULY 2026

aucklandlive.co.nz