



JTFNZ25

REGISTRATION + INFO PACK



FRI 24 + SAT 25 OCT 2025

Victory Centre, AKL

WELCOME

Hold onto your jazz hands theatre kids and whānau, because JTFNZ25 is gearing up to outshine 2024! 🎉

So, what's JTFNZ25, you ask? Picture this: a magical wonderland for musical theatre fanatics, where you can fine-tune your skills and soak up the crème de la crème with electrifying performances, hands-on workshops, and fabulous networking!

Trust us, this is one shindig you absolutely cannot miss!

Our crew is conjuring up a program that'll have you belting show tunes and busting moves like there's no tomorrow! We're talking international superstars, top-tier judges, and schedules so slick, everyone will be in on the fun! And guess what? Our pals from iTheatrics and MTI – Australasia, New York, and Europe are back for some good ol' face-to-face shenanigans!

Now, remember, every year brings a twist, so make sure to dive into the registration pack to make the most of your Auckland adventure. Got questions? Just give us a shout – we're here to sprinkle some fairy dust on your experience!

So, what are you waiting for? Start plotting, start dreaming, and get ready to join us in October 2025 for the ultimate musical theatre blowout! 🎭🌟



Emma Bishop
Producer
Junior Theatre Festival New Zealand

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WHAT HAPPENS AT JTFNZ?

Festival Pilot Programme

We are extremely excited to offer two pilots catering for up to 90 ākongā aged 11 – 18 from across the motu. Both pilots will be presented at the festival on Friday 24th October at The Victory Centre, Auckland. Registered groups are able to nominate up to five students who get priority entry before registrations are opened to individuals.

Adjudication

Student groups perform 15 minutes from a Broadway Junior Collection® musical (JR, KIDS or ONE ACT EDITIONS) for adjudication by leading theatre professionals. Groups are given feedback in the areas of music, acting, dance and overall performance. The adjudicators offer constructive feedback and feed forward for future performances to each group to encourage further learning.



Student and Teacher Workshops

Master teachers offer interactive workshops! Workshops are for both kaiako (teachers) and ākongā (students) in all aspects of musical theatre performance and technical theatre. The 2025 workshop leaders include members of the highly skilled iTheatrics team from New York as well as leading national practitioners. Professional Development starts 12pm Friday 24 October.

Outstanding Performances

Selected adjudications are chosen as Outstanding Performances. A selected number from these selected performances will be performed on stage in the Showcase Awards Ceremony as well as be offered the opportunity to present a New Works Showcase performance in the following year.

All-Stars

Selected student performers are chosen as Festival All-Stars. All-Stars are given the opportunity to perform on stage in the Showcase Awards Ceremony.



New Works Showcase

Get a sneak peek at the newest shows soon to be released in the Broadway Junior Collection here in Aotearoa.

On The Couch with Emma

Emma is joined on the couch by special guests, industry professionals, and performers.

Awards Ceremony

The JTFNZ Awards Ceremony is a celebration of the day's accomplishments. The ceremony features Outstanding Adjudication pieces, awards that encourage excellence in musical Theatre performance and participation, and the Festival AllStars.

Professional Development

Our JTF Professional Development Track is the ideal way to explore, experience and empower yourself to produce a musical theatre production with your kids or simply come and see how it works before you, your school or theatre company try your own Broadway JR Show! You will immerse yourself in workshops, adjudications, and discussions while having fun with fellow teachers and directors. We promise to leave you inspired and energized with new strategies and resources. The Professional Development Programme kicks off at 12pm on the Friday and runs throughout Saturday with all the main stage events as well as five workshops and two panel discussions.

PILOT PROGRAMME

Pilot Workshop Programme

As an extension of the Junior Theatre Festival, the Pilot programme includes a week-long workshop for selected students. Students in the program will work with industry professionals to workshop a new Broadway JR. musical.

Dialogue, music and choreography will be workshopped with these young performers to ensure the musical works are suitable to be performed by young musical theatre performers.

The programme culminates in a staged presentation as part of the first day of the festival

2025 Pilot Programme

Groups who have registered for the Junior Theatre Festival New Zealand will be invited to nominate five students for the program.

Places will be opened to students not in registered groups that are part of JTFNZ25 if spaces are available after the first round of nominations. These students must be nominated by their Performing Arts Teacher or Directors.

The 2025 Pilot program will take place in Auckland, Monday 20 October through Friday 24 October. The cost of the week-long Pilot program is \$599 per student. All pilot students must also be registered for the Festival either in a group or as an individual. This is an additional \$99.

Stay tuned for the announcement of this year's Pilot and the opening of registrations.



WHAT TO DO NEXT

1. Read everything in this booklet

This pack will give you all the information you need to prepare for the 2025 Junior Theatre Festival New Zealand (JTFNZ).

2. Meet with your whānau and group

- Share with students and parents what to expect from the festival and the amazing experience it will be;
- Muster the very important chaperones for your group for the festival;
- JTFNZ representatives are able to be a part of a pre-group meeting.

3. Select your show

Choose the show your group will be performing for adjudication.

- Any MTI Broadway JR. or KIDS Broadway JR. Collection or ONE ACTS Edition show licensed by your group between 2024 and 2026 is eligible for adjudication at JTFNZ 2025;
- If you want to present a show you haven't licensed before, you will need to contact your MTI-Australasia representative to get the performance license and materials;
- If your group has presented the full version of one of the Collection® musicals, please also contact your MTI-Australasia representative as they will be able to help by providing the junior equivalent for the celebration day.

4. Register your Group

STEP ONE

- Groups need to purchase a \$299 non-refundable registration fee.
- Go to iticket.co.nz/events/2025/oct/junior-theatre-festival-nz to complete your group registration. Online Registrations close 1 September.
- At this time you will need to enter your group contact details and adjudication performance. Remember, every person attending the festival must be registered with a group.
- Our preference that the registration of group and purchasing of tickets is done as one transaction. Please DO NOT ask parents to purchase individually.

STEP TWO

- Once your group is registered you will be emailed a group information form to be completed and returned. For this you will need everyone's first and last name, contact emails and phone numbers, any medical conditions, t-shirt size and an emergency contact name and number of every person attending (performers, teachers, chaperones and professional development) Remember, every person attending the festival must be registered with a group.
- Complete your form and return by 01 September 2025.
- Groups who do not submit forms by this date may miss out on T-Shirts.
- Take a group photo – school style naming it row by row left to right and send the file to 5678@juniortheatrefestival.nz by 14 September 2025.
- Once we receive your completed information and payment, we will assign your group an adjudication pod and order, your specific workshops programme, and your seats for all main stage events. This means, the earlier you send your completed material, the better seats you will have.

2025 JTFNZ Pricing	
Group Registration (non-refundable)	\$299
Artistic team / Teachers with PD	\$99
Artistic team / Teachers no PD	\$79
Performer (within a group or individual registration)	\$99
Professional Development (as an individual, not with a group)	\$119
Chaperones (1:7 ratio, cannot include artistic team)	\$50
Supporters or extra parents	\$50

5. Make your travel arrangements

Groups attending the festival are responsible for making their own travel, accommodation and food arrangements. The more arrangements you make now, the happier you will become in October!

6. Come to Auckland and sign-in

At JTFNZ 2025 sign-in, you will receive all festival materials, including your official JTFNZ guide and schedules, etc. To speed up the JTFNZ Sign-In, you can arrive anytime from 12pm on Friday which allows you to have enough time to get organised and settled in before the official JTFNZ Opening Ceremony Friday 24 October at 3:30pm.

Reminder: if you have members doing professional development they need to be signed in by 12:00pm start on Friday 24 October.

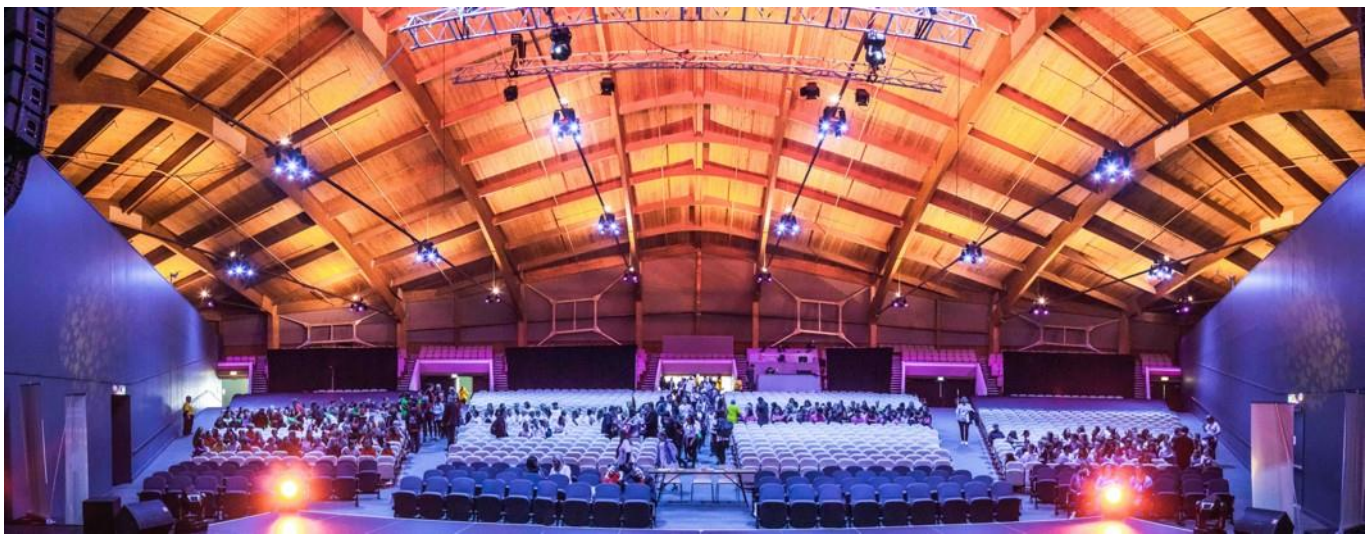
GROUP LOGISTICS

Venue

The Victory Convention Centre (VCC) is a fabulous complex located across from the tree-lined Victoria Park, next to the Fanshawe Street Harbour Bridge onramp. With its beautiful bespoke 2200-seat, tiered auditorium; curving front foyer; and lofty break-out rooms, VCC can host concerts and conferences, symposiums, and small exhibitions and expos. The Victory Centre is easily accessible providing FREE underground parking with lift and stair access from 3pm Friday and all day Saturday.

For more information go and check out:

<https://www.victoryconventioncentre.co.nz/victory-convention-centre/>



Lodging & Accommodation

Although lodging and accommodation is not provided by JTFNZ, we can help you find appropriate accommodations.

Meals

Groups are responsible for supplying their own morning tea, snacks, lunch and dinner. We will have food trucks at the venue, and there is a New World at the end of the block. However, we encourage you to pre-plan meals-deliveries. For us to jam as much into your JTFNZ experience we have allocated specific windows of time for lunch and dinner and we cannot wait for your group to return. Groups need to takeaway their own catering rubbish.

Travel

Each group is responsible for their own transportation to and from the venue. For larger groups please make your travel arrangements in advance.

Festival Sign-In

Festival Sign-In will take place within the venue. You will be able to enter through the main entrance and there will be helpful JTFNZ team members waiting to show you where to go. The venue will be open on Friday 24 October from 11:00am and Saturday 25 October from 8:00am.

To ensure a speedy stressfree sign-in process, please arrive with plenty of time to spare. It will take approximately 15 minutes for you to complete JTFNZ Sign-in.

Bring one director and at least one other adult to the sign-in table where you will receive all festival materials including your official schedules, t-shirts and the all important wristbands.

For Individual Students, Chaperones and Professional Development participants not part of a registered group there will be a dedicated table and JTFNZ representative to sign you in and give you your schedules, t-shirts and wristbands.



WHAT IS ADJUDICATION?

Each registered group presents up to fifteen minutes of a Broadway JR. or KIDS Collection or ONE ACT Edition to a small panel of professional theatre artists (aka adjudicators) and other festival attendees.

Before your specific performance, your group is given approximately twenty minutes to warm up in a separate room equipped with a speaker and iPod cords. Following the presentation, adjudicators talk directly to the student performers, highlighting specific impressive areas of the presentation and offering constructive feedforward to encourage further growth.

Following your adjudication and feedback session, your cast and creative team will be escorted to another room for a moderated discussion about what they experienced and how they interpreted the adjudicator comments. This discussion time is a great chance for students to reflect and celebrate their accomplishments.

Adjudication Rules and Guidelines

- No costumes, make-up, set pieces or props are allowed. The only exception is small hand props that are ESSENTIAL to the choreography. For example, mugs for the tavern dance in Disney's Beauty and the Beast JR. are acceptable. A mask for the Beast or books for Belle are not.
- The performance space is approximately 8m x 6m. There will be some space on both stage left and right, but there are no curtains or back cross-over space.
- Groups should wear either their own production t-shirts or drama blacks.
- Performers must wear shoes at all times.
- Groups must provide their own accompaniment on a memory stick/device and operator.
- Microphones are not available.
- Everyone in the Adjudication Room must be registered for the festival with a group. Parents and/or guests of performers will not be admitted to any performance if they are not registered with a group.

If You Have Two Groups

- Each group must present a different Broadway JR title and have obtained a full Showkit and license to present each of the titles within the timeframe guidelines.
- Each group must register separately. This means two separate registration forms and two non-refundable registration fees.
- Each group will be allocated to different adjudication categories and pods.
- Each group must have a minimum of 8 students performing.
- Each group must have a different primary contact. Each group must have a completely different creative team (includes director, choreographer and music director looking after them).
- Each group must have a different set of chaperones.
- Each group must have their own cast. No student can perform in both productions

Selecting Your Fifteen Minutes

1. Choose Your Musical

Any MTI Broadway JR. or KIDS Collection or One Acts Edition licensed by your group between 2024 and 2026 is eligible for adjudication at JTFNZ 2025.

2. Narrow Down the Scenes and Songs

You do not have to select one sequential fifteen minutes of your show, but make sure you select material that your students feel confident performing.

3. Honour the Author's Intent

You are not allowed to add lines, change the order of songs, make song cuts, add characters, or in any way, change the intent of the piece.

4. Make Sure You are Telling a Story

While it is impossible to tell the whole story in fifteen minutes, make sure you select scenes and songs that highlight your students' ability to tell a story. NO music cuts are allowed.

5. Ask the Following Questions

When you think you have a good fifteen-minute selection, read it aloud and ask yourself the following questions:

- Is a story being told? (Does your selection have a beginning, middle, end?)
- Is there a good balance between solos and group numbers, scenes and dialogue?
- Does your selection allow the students to shine and feel confident?

6. Read the Adjudication Rules and Guidelines

Read the information on the previous page to make sure your presentation can be accomplished without breaking any of the JTFNZ rules.

What the Adjudicators Are Looking For

Our adjudicators believe that engaging storytelling is the key to a good performance. Standout student performers are connected to the words, know why their characters are singing or dancing and are appropriately expressive in their presentation. These attributes are more important than being able to do a perfect triple pirouette with no connection to the story. For more detailed information, check out the JTFNZ Adjudication Rubric. This rubric will be completed by each adjudicator.

Watching the Other Performances

Students will have the opportunity to watch a number of other groups perform. This is their chance to discover other shows and support their peers. Your group's individual schedule will clearly detail which performances your group will be watching. Failure to attend these performances and be a supportive audience will affect your group's adjudication score.

Adjudication Tips from Our JTF Adjudicators

1. Mix it up. Don't choose all up-tempo songs or all ballads. A heartfelt scene or song is just as inspiring and entertaining as a large group dance number.
2. Plan a 14 minute presentation, rather than a full fifteen minutes, to ensure you don't go over time. Remember, you are performing live. There will be laughter and you will want to hold for applause. Also, you don't want to be penalized for performing too long.
3. Rehearse your presentation in an 8m (wide) x 6m (deep) area to give your students an idea of how much room they will have when they perform. Set up your rehearsal space to allow your students to rehearse as they will perform at the festival.
4. Focus on your actors. Without costumes or scenery, your students' bodies, faces, and voices become even more essential to the clarity of the storytelling.
5. Encourage students to be attentive and to engage audience members by giving them something to watch for in each of the performances. In any spare time, find out what they learned from watching the other groups or an element of one performance they specifically enjoyed.
6. Read the Adjudication Rubric on the next page to see exactly what the adjudicators are going to be looking for in your presentation.

ADJUDICATION RUBRIC

1. General (25%)

Overall:	Overall impression	1	2	3	4	5
Ensemble:	Performers work together as a team	1	2	3	4	5
Commitment:	Committed in all aspects	1	2	3	4	5
Transition:	Effectively used throughout	1	2	3	4	5
Pacing:	Intentional and appropriate	1	2	3	4	5
Sub-Total						

2. Music (25%)

Storytelling:	Story and emotion conveyed through singing	1	2	3	4	5
Intonation:	Intonation (pitch) is accurate	1	2	3	4	5
Diction:	Lyrics are understandable	1	2	3	4	5
Precision:	Rhythms and cut-offs are accurate	1	2	3	4	5
Expression:	Vocal variety and dynamics used throughout	1	2	3	4	5
Sub-Total						

3. Dance (25%)

Storytelling:	Story and emotion conveyed through movement	1	2	3	4	5
Style:	Appropriate to the setting and themes	1	2	3	4	5
Execution:	Performed cleanly and precisely	1	2	3	4	5
Variety:	Variety in tempo, style and pattern	1	2	3	4	5
Creativity:	Imaginative and interesting choreography	1	2	3	4	5
Sub-Total						

4. Acting (25%)

Storytelling:	Story and emotion conveyed through dialogue	1	2	3	4	5
Objective:	Actions are motivated	1	2	3	4	5
Characterisation:	Characters developed are appropriate to the story	1	2	3	4	5
Physicality:	Face and body are connected	1	2	3	4	5
Articulation:	Dialogue is heard and understood	1	2	3	4	5
Sub-Total						

5. Bonus

"Wow Factor":	Performance transcends and inspires (Up to 3 pts.)	
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6. Penalties

Overtime:	Minus 1 pt. for every 15 seconds over allotted 15mins	
Behaviour:	Minus up to 5 pts. for inappropriate behaviour	

5 – Perfect throughout the entire performance, no errors
 4 – Excellent through most of the performance, with a few minor defects
 3 – Good performance, but lacked consistency throughout
 2 – Fair performance with basic weaknesses clearly identifiable
 1 – Needs improvement

FESTIVAL CHECKLIST

Here is a checklist to help keep you on track for JTFNZ 2025!

- ❑ Register your groups interest in participating in the Festival with emma@juniortheatrefestival.nz
- ❑ Hold your whanau, community meeting – we are happy to attend to answer questions
- ❑ Confirm exact number of people attending with your group and collect fees
 - Number of performers in your group (\$99 per performer)
 - Number of chaperones in your group (\$50 per adult) ratio 1:7
 - Number of artistic team members / teachers (cannot be chaperones) also attending professional development (\$99 per artistic / teacher)
 - Number of other artistic team members/teacher not attending professional development (\$79 per artistic / teacher).
 - Additional parents, relatives, friends and family attending (\$50 per adult)
- ❑ Collate the following information for registration
 - Broadway JR / KIDS / One-Act title your group is performing
 - What year and month was this title licensed for performance
 - Name of organisation /group / school
 - Primary contact name
 - Primary contact phone number
 - Primary contact email address
- ❑ Register your group online by purchasing your \$299 non-refundable group registration along with your participant tickets at iticket.co.nz/events/2025/oct/junior-theatre-festival-nz

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- ❑ Take or select your group photo and email by 14 September 2025 to 5678@juniortheatrefestival.nz

- ❑ Collate the remaining information required for your Online Group Info Form
 - Names of all performers in your group, emergency contacts for each, medical conditions.
 - Names of all chaperones in your group (ratio 1:7), emergency contacts for each, medical conditions.
 - Names artistic team: Director, MD, Choreographer, teachers attending (cannot be chaperones), emergency contacts for each, medical conditions.
 - Names of additional parents, relatives, friends and family attending, emergency contacts for each, medical conditions.

- ❑ Fill out your JTFNZ 2025 Online Group Information Form (google doc) by 14 September 2025. Your link to this will be sent once initial registration complete

- ❑ Organize your meals, housing, and travel

OUR SUPPORTERS

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