

# CHILDREN TALK ABOUT

CREATED BY STUDENTS FROM ORMISTON JUNIOR COLLEGE  
AND WHITE\_MESS

March  
2018  
AUCKLAND  
ARTS FESTIVAL

*Complex and curious stories – told by the very young about the very old.*

**Children Talk About** is a new documentary theatre project that creates space for young people to have courageous conversations. We think that young people should be entrusted to talk about difficult subjects, and play their part in the process of change.

We have worked with the participants over five workshop sessions. Together, we have identified what courage is, what it looks and feels like, and how important it is to live in a world with courage. We have learnt about empathy, and how to share and understand the feelings of others. We've been practicing these skills through game and creative play – discovering how to make, accept and build offers, and listen with our whole selves.

This is a sharing of our process, so that you have some insight into the very rich conversations that have emerged – without compromising the authenticity of the story by 'presenting' or 'performing' for the audience. Our aim is to continue this project beyond Auckland Arts Festival, so we encourage you to dream around the possibilities of where we might go next.

— Alice, Lucy and Julie

**Director:** Alice Canton  
**Art Therapist:** Lucy Mulholland  
**Creative Producer:** Julie Zhu  
**Technical Operator:** Ronnie Livingstone

## About Alice Canton & White\_mess

Alice Canton is a New Zealand-born performer and theatre-artist of Chinese and Pākehā descent. Her collective, White\_mess, create distinctive live theatre experiences for audiences across the Asia-Pacific region. Her recent works include ORANGUTAN, White/Other, and the award-winning live-documentary show, OTHER [chinese].

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# WHĀNUI

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Whānui: Children Talk About is supported by

The Auckland Diversity Project



Celebrate Tāmaki Makaurau and our creative neighbourhoods with five arts projects created by people from Auckland's many communities in collaboration with established artists.

Intergenerational AUCKLAND-WIDE [aaf.co.nz/whanui](http://aaf.co.nz/whanui)

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## CREDITS

### Participants

Island Adams  
 Avi Arora  
 Roxanne Huriwai  
 Emma Imrutai  
 Rishabh Rawal  
 Juvraj Singh

### Wyatt Steenkamp

Shaval Toilalo  
 Claire Sneddon  
 Caitlin Purves  
 Blaine Windley  
 Shawn Lee  
 Tariq Ballani

### Ormiston Junior College Learning Coaches

Sylvie Huang  
 Aylene FizGerald  
 Nyla Joaquin  
 Nick Pattison

### Thanks to

Ormiston Junior College  
 & Principal Luke Sumich  
 All of the interviewees

### Auckland Arts Festival Whānui project team

Noma Sio-Faiumu  
 Amo Ieriko  
 Angela Green

## AUCKLAND March 2018 ARTS FESTIVAL

Auckland Arts Festival is a place for ambitious ideas by storytellers, provocateurs and creators.

The Festival reflects our contemporary, cosmopolitan city with its many communities. It challenges artists and audiences to be bold and take a risk. Through the work of artists from Aotearoa and across the world, we aim to unify, uplift, enlighten and inspire the people of Tāmaki Makaurau and our many visitors.

Taking place annually in March, 2018 marks the 10th Auckland Arts Festival. This year more than 200,000 people are expected to attend the Festival, which comprises more than 50 events taking place in all corners of the Auckland region and many of which are free.

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 Gareth Baston (Boris)

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Andrew Gibson

### Head of Lighting

Andrew Meadows

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Sandy Gunn

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