



Media release

****STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 10AM SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER, 2016****

THE BIGGEST

TIKAPA PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL

VENUE: Q Theatre, Rangatira

DATES: 9-19 March, 2017

WRITER AND DIRECTOR: Jamie McCaskill

After debuting in October in November 2016, the newest work by pioneering playwright Jamie McCaskill, and the third instalment in his popular Thames Trilogy, is coming to Auckland Arts Festival 2016.

The Biggest follows the adventures of a bunch of mates living some of the best years of their lives in small town New Zealand.

Stu has written off the new boat he spent his life savings on. Showing up at the local workingmen's club in a wheelchair after the accident, his closest mates decide to enter the upcoming Hauraki Fishing competition to win him a new one, without the skills or tools to do so.

The trouble is the town's best fisherman Jan has a personal vendetta against Stu and will stop at nothing to beat them.

This raw comedy, presented by Tikapa Productions in association with Auckland Arts Festival, explores the complex relationships between small town males, their identities and place in the world.

The cast includes Jim Moriarty MNZM, Peter Hambleton (*The Hobbit*), Tim Gordon (*The Kick*), Wesley Dowdell (*Outrageous Fortune*) and Apirana Taylor as the blokes, with Moana Ete (*Fly My Pretties*) as Cassie.

Formerly a fisherman, Bruce Mason Award Winner McCaskill is a highly regarded and multi-talented New Zealand playwright renowned for work that is funny with a powerful punch. Auckland Arts Festival audiences will remember his 2016 highlight, *Not In Our Neighbourhood*; a moving solo show that was created in partnership with the Hauraki Women's Refuge.

Tikapa Productions is committed to creating and developing professional Maori performance and artists. Established by McCaskill and Kali Kopae, the company's work includes *Manawa*, *He Reo Aroha* and *A Tale of Three Lonely Men and their Quest for an Audience with the Elusive Moa*.

A great group of actors bringing a great piece of new New Zealand theatre to the stage. – Dominion Post



PERFORMANCE DETAILS

TICKETS	A Res \$55 A Res Conc/Group \$49 B Res \$45 B Res Conc/Group \$39
WHEN	Thur 9 Mar 7.30pm, Fri 10 Mar – Sat 11 Mar 6.30pm, Sun 12 Mar 5.00pm, Mon 13 Mar 7.30pm, Wed 15 Mar 6.30pm, Thur 16 Mar – Sat 18 Mar 7.30pm, Sun 19 Mar 1.30pm & 6.30pm
WHERE	Rangatira, Q Theatre
BOOKINGS	qtheatre.co.nz 09 309 9771 ticketmaster.co.nz 09 951 2501
DURATION	1 hour 30 mins, no interval
IMPORTANT INFO	Contains strong language. Recommended for ages 14+
MORE INFO	http://thebiggest.co.nz https://www.facebook.com/TikapaProductions/
FOLLOW	@alkfestival #aklfest
ABOUT THE AAF	<p>Taking place annually in March, the Auckland Arts Festival is a globally recognised event that celebrates people and culture, and showcases the unrivalled location, cultural diversity and vibrant energy of New Zealand’s largest city.</p> <p>Over 1.6 million people have attended the Festivals to date.</p> <p>Auckland Arts Festival is governed by the Auckland Festival Trust. Trustees are John Judge (Chair), Rick Carlyon, Evan Davies, Sarah Judkins, Tarun Kanji, Margaret Kāwharu MNZM, Jim Moser, Ben Taufua and Fred Ward.</p> <p>The Trust receives core funding from Auckland Council through the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act, and Creative New Zealand through the Toi Tōtara Haemata programme.</p> <p>Significant support for AAF 2017 is received from Foundation North, Pub Charity, NZ Community Trust and The Lion Foundation.</p>
MEDIA CONTACT	Siobhan Waterhouse Media and PR Manager Ph: +64 22 126 4149 E: siobhan.waterhouse@aaf.co.nz