



Media release

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

THE AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY SEASON OF

LOST AT SEA

CATHERINE WHEELS THEATRE COMPANY (SCOTLAND)

Loft, Q Theatre: 16-19 March

Mangere Arts Centre - Ngā Tohu o Uenuku: 25 March

Award-winning theatre company Catherine Wheels are coming to the Auckland Arts Festival again. This time, the company that delivered the hugely popular kids' theatre show *White* to the 2016 Festival and brought the *Ballad of Pondlife McGurk* in 2013, find themselves *Lost at Sea*, exploring the biggest subject on earth – the ocean.

The journey begins with bath toys. It's January 1992 and 28,000 plastic ducks built for the warm, soapy comfort of a toddler's bath, accidentally find themselves flung into the unrelenting currents of the Pacific Ocean.

The cycles of the sea take these colourful characters far and wide; washing up on shores across the globe and capturing the imagination of those who end up discovering them on their local beaches. It is a delightful, inquisitive and immersive experience for 8+ year olds that weaves together the wonder of theatre and the dynamic world of science.

Lost at Sea was inspired by the true story of 7,200 plastic toys that spilled from a giant container ship in the Pacific Ocean in 1992, and, over many years, gradually found their way around the world.

Ten months later and the journey still isn't over for these colourful characters; they've travelled far and wide, some of them making it all the way to Scotland. What began as a headline grabbing, funny story begins to capture the imagination of scientists as they realise they can follow the journeys of these resilient toys to map the movement of the ocean currents and discover more of the underwater world they traversed.

Scotland's most prolific producer of work for children and young people, Catherine Wheels have taken on a whole breadth of subject matters over the past 15 years; transporting audiences from a sparkling world of white birdhouses to a sinister laboratory in Edinburgh, across the Atlantic in lifeboats and into the vast Australian outback.

With 27 inspirational and original productions presented in 23 countries since the company was created by Artistic Director Gill Robertson in 1999, the company is also Scotland's most well-travelled theatre company touring nationally and internationally taking productions to theatres, festivals and schools in communities and cities across Scotland, England, to London's Southbank and Barbican, and across the globe from Europe to New York, Canada, Mexico, Hong Kong, Macau, China, Taiwan, Singapore, Japan, Australia and of course Aotearoa.



PERFORMANCE DETAILS

TICKETS	A Res Adult \$25 A Res Conc/Group \$22 A Res Child \$15
WHEN	Loft, Q Theatre: Thur 16 Mar – Fri 17 Mar 6.30pm, Sat 18 Mar – Sun 19 Mar 2.00pm & 5.00pm Mangere Arts Centre - Ngā Tohu o Uenuku: Sat 25 Mar 2.00pm & 6.30pm
BOOKINGS	For shows at Q Theatre: qtheatre.co.nz 09 309 9771 For shows and Q Theatre and Mangere Arts Centre – Ngā Tohu o Uenuku: ticketmaster.co.nz 09 951 2501
DURATION	1 hour no interval
IMPORTANT INFO	Suitable for ages 8+
MORE INFO	<p>Web site: www.catherinewheels.co.uk More info: http://www.sciencefestival.co.uk/brochure-downloads Video: https://vimeo.com/179214011 Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CatherineWheelsCompany/</p> <p>Commissioned by Edinburgh International Science Festival working in partnership with Imagine, and supported through the Scottish Government’s Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund.</p> <p>Sponsored by The University of Auckland.</p> <p>With support from Creative Scotland.</p>
FOLLOW THE FEST	Facebook / Twitter / Instagram: @AKLFestival #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 Kawhāru 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>
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