

The Theatre Royal, Christchurch – an illustrated history

Since February 1908 Christchurch's Theatre Royal has been the venue for thousands of plays, recitals, operas, operettas, musicals, magic shows, rock concerts, wrestling matches, public lectures – in short, anything that needs a stage for performers and seats for an audience.

The Theatre Royal, Christchurch traces the story from its beginnings in the late Victorian period, through the dazzle of the J. C. Williamson years when the Australian entrepreneurs brought a succession of the world's most famous performers to New Zealand, to the present day, when local talent can compete with anything that comes from overseas. This is also the story of heroic community action: the saving of an almost derelict theatre in the 1980s and its transformation into a performing arts venue for the 21st century.

More than 10 specialist authors have contributed to *The Theatre Royal, Christchurch*. The principal contributors are: Professor Howard McNaughton, Peter Downes, Adrienne Simpson, Associate Professor Ian Lochhead, Edmund Bohan, Catherine Hurley, Malcolm Douglass, Sir Miles Warren, David Clarkson and Philip Norman.

Like a stage show itself, the book is highly visual: it contains more than 300 illustrations, including colour photographs of the theatre's splendid interior and historic material reproduced from theatre programmes down the ages.

The Theatre Royal, Christchurch – an illustrated history
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**Proceeds from sales of *The Theatre Royal, Christchurch*
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