

## TRAINING ACTORS

For over 40 years the acting course at Toi Whakaari has graduated internationally successful actors as well as writers, directors and producers. Through the training at Toi Whakaari you will hone your craft as well as satisfy your hunger to communicate. The course helps you learn to identify and nurture your own voice. It provides a range of challenges and skills that strengthen your craft as an actor as well as your capacity to achieve your dreams. At this School we celebrate both an ensemble spirit and individual ambition. You make the choices and together we will work to develop your career.

There are many strands to a student's time at Toi Whakaari that develop the ensemble, the individual, screen presence, interpretation and cultural awareness, as well as the ability to devise and collaborate with other disciplines. Each of these strands incorporates the skills of the actor's craft (voice, movement, acting, improvisation, theoretical and cultural understanding). In addition, Professional and Personal Survival is a core subject in the course.

## HOW TO APPLY

To apply for the acting degree, applicants must turn 18 before the first day of the first term. There is no upper age limit and candidates of all backgrounds, with or without prior acting experience, may apply.

Information about fees and application forms are available at [www.toiwhakaari.ac.nz](http://www.toiwhakaari.ac.nz). All applicants must complete the application form and attach four current passport sized photos, two written references and the audition workshop fee of \$100. **The closing date for applications is Monday 16 August 2010.**

All applicants are auditioned and are required to prepare two contrasting audition pieces and one unaccompanied song, each no more than two minutes long. Once initial regional auditions are completed, short-listed applicants are invited by mail to attend a recall weekend at the School in Wellington, consisting of further interviews, auditions and classes. From this group the national audition panel selects the successful applicants and notifies all applicants of its decision by mail.

40 YEARS  
OF ACTION, VISION  
AND INNOVATION  
1970-2010

TOI  
whakaari  
new zealand  
drama school

"Toi Whakaari graduates are professional, charismatic and extremely employable. They always deliver excellent work and their acting skills are world class."

IMOGEN JOHNSON, AGENT

"I was blessed with a fantastic mix of tutors and students, friends and adversaries. It was as difficult as it was inspiring and it was this team of people that helped forge a perspective that is unique to me and makes me valuable. I did this long before I ever worked on a movie or went to Hollywood."

CLIFF CURTIS, TE ARAWA/NGATI HAUITI, ACTING GRADUATE 1989,  
THREE KINGS, BLOW, WHALE RIDER

"Toi Whakaari is a whare-taapere: a place that nurtures you through challenges, helps you grow through the work and asks you to go to those places that we all hide away from. It's not for the faint hearted but it is for the courageous."

TE KOHE TUHAKA, ACTING GRADUATE 2007, SHORTLAND STREET

"The Drama School was the place where I felt I finally found my niche. I always wanted to act, but never believed it was possible in this county..."

KERRY FOX, ACTING GRADUATE 1987, INTIMACY, WELCOME TO SARAJEVO,  
ANGEL AT MY TABLE

"...an unforgettable welcome, a high point in my year of New Zealand experience."

SIR IAN MCKELLEN



## +THECHURCH+

PROVIDING GRAPHIC DESIGN  
AND CREATIVE ENERGY

### TOI WHAKAARI: NZ DRAMA SCHOOL

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# BACHELOR OF PERFORMING ARTS

(ACTING)



## THE COURSE

The first year is about discovery and exploration. We help you develop your craft within an ensemble through regular tuition in voice, movement, acting and performance for camera through the concept of *turanga* (difference). In the first year students may perform in one public performance (scenes from Shakespeare and his contemporaries), make up to four short films and perform in regular in-house showings.

The second year concentrates on strengthening technique and performance through *raranga* (collaboration). Special block-based courses may include bouffon, screen, object animation, mask, devising and theatre in education. In addition second year actors may participate in a short film with a professional director and crew, on a devised collaboration, a full-length play and perform in a cabaret.

During the third year, (*waewae* – moving forward), all students present a major research project and perform in the professionally directed and crewed graduation film, a season of devised performance monologues and a graduation production. In addition, each participates in professional industry secondments, supervised independent study and collaborative projects. Recent secondments have included working with Black Nexxus and The Wooster Group in New York, and with Eugenio Barba in Copenhagen; La Mancha International School of Image and Gesture in Santiago; London-based theatre companies Shakespeare's Globe, Tara Arts and Yellow Earth and a workshop in Paris at Theatre du Soleil. Many exciting relationships have been forged with New Zealand companies such as Taki Rua, ATC, Radio New Zealand, South Pacific Pictures, Liz Mullane Casting, Playmarket NZ, Sticky Pictures, Red Leap theatre and Fuse Circus.

The Bachelor of Performing Arts (Acting) programme is the only acting course in New Zealand to have the NZ Screen Council ScreenMark accreditation for high quality, relevant, successful, practical tertiary level courses in the film and television industry.



## FEATURED GRADUATE GARETH REEVES



Gareth has worked steadily in the decade following his time at Toi Whakaari and is fast becoming one of NZ's most sought after actors. He has performed in all the major theatres in New Zealand, most recently playing leading roles in *Hamlet* at the Court Theatre in Christchurch and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* for the Auckland Theatre Company. He won Best Actor in a Television Series for his first screen role in *The Insiders Guide to Love* and was nominated for Best Actor in a Feature Film for his first film role in *A Song of Good*. His most recent film work includes *I'm Not Harry Jenson* and *Under the Mountain*. Other television work includes *The Cult*, *Go Girls*, *Legend of the Seeker* and *Underbelly: The Mr Asia Story*. In 2010 he can be seen in British disaster film *Ice* and new New Zealand film *Tracker* which stars Temuera Morrison and Ray Winstone.

"My three years at Drama School were really the beginning of my professional life as an actor. I credit my time at Toi Whakaari with helping to turn me from a scruffy wayward unfocused mess of ideas and dreams into an employable actor and an artist with a better idea of how to put one foot in front of the other on the way to those dreams. It's a tough time and actor training is not going to be for everyone, but the same can be said for working in this industry. But if you have the belief and determination, the people you will meet and the work you will end up doing is all the reward you will ever need. If you're looking to find a way there, you could do a lot worse than three years' training at our national drama school."



## Course Outline

### Year 1

Core Skills:  
Acting for stage and screen  
Voice and Speech  
Movement  
Cultural and Theoretical studies / Turanga  
Professional practice  
Workshops/projects may include:  
Text Investigation  
Scene study  
Combat skills  
Voice projects  
Singing  
Screen performance  
Collaborative projects  
One public performance  
Auditioning technique

### Year 2

Core Skills:  
Acting for stage and screen  
Voice and Speech  
Movement  
Cultural and Theoretical studies / Raranga  
Professional practice  
Workshops/ Public performances may include:  
Film collaboration  
Classic and contemporary texts  
Physical theatre  
Devised performance  
Applied theatre  
Cabaret  
Visual Theatre  
Developing business skills  
Career development  
Auditioning practice

### Year 3

Advanced Skills:  
Acting for stage and screen  
Voice and Speech  
Movement/ Training  
Cultural and Theoretical studies / Waewae  
Independent practice  
Study and performances may include:  
A Short or feature length film  
Advanced auditioning practice  
Voice over and radio work  
Secondments to Industry  
Devised and self initiated projects  
Collaboration through pitched projects  
Laboratory work  
Research  
Performance in Graduation Season  
Developing future projects  
Managing a career pathway

### PHOTO CREDITS

Cover: On set filming *Telling Mali* 2010, a graduate film project, photo by Philip Merry.

Inside: On stage *Manuwa Pou* 2009, photo by Philip Merry.

Gareth Reeves, photo by Deidhra Fahey.

Screen shot from *I'm Not Harry Jenson*.

Carlyisle (Gareth Reeves) in a scene from *Tracker*, UK/NZ 2010, dir Ian Sharp ©Kirsty Griffin.