

23 SEPTEMBER - 21 OCTOBER 2023

# DANCE NATION

Written by **Clare Barron**

Directed by **Alison Walls**



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THE  
**COURT**  
THEATRE



Amidst the glittering swirl of sequins, perspiration, and high-stakes performances, six teenage girls and one boy (all portrayed by adults ranging from their 20s to 50s) remind us of what it is to be thirteen – a volatile blend of naiveté and wisdom, of humour and pain.

In this darkly comic, award-winning play, the lines between reality and fantasy meld in captivating ways. The characters extend a compelling invitation to revisit the realm of 'thirteen-year-old-land,' guiding us through their voyage of self-discovery as they unveil their vulnerabilities and aspirations.

Cutting through the fluff, embracing a pagan-like wildness, and harnessing unparalleled ferocity, Clare Barron's *DANCE NATION* shatters the façade of cuteness, offering front-row seats to a power-struggle and pursuit of flawlessness.

Get ready to reconnect with the fierce and ambitious thirteen-year-old residing within you... Or, gain a deeper insight into the psyche of the teen in your life! The globally lauded, sold-out sensation, *DANCE NATION*, finally graces the stages of The Court Theatre and New Zealand for the first time.

**This one is NOT to be missed!**

SOMEWHERE IN SMALL-TOWN AMERICA...  
AN ADOLESCENT DANCE TROUPE IS  
POISED TO CLAW THEIR WAY TO THE TOP.  
ONE. EXACTING. ROUTINE.  
AT. A. TIMEEEEEEEEE!

AND IF THEY DO...  
THEY 'WILL FLY ALL THE  
WAY TO TAMPA BAY,  
FLORIDAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA'  
'FOR NATIONALSSSSSSSSSSSS'

**AWARDS AND ACCOLADES:**

Finalist, Pulitzer Prize for Drama, 2019

Winner, Relentless Award, 2015

Winner, Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, 2017

**A RESOUNDING SUCCESS ON THE  
INTERNATIONAL STAGE:**

*Dance Nation* has taken the theatrical world by storm, receiving rave reviews and selling out performances across the globe. The play's bold and visceral exploration of adolescence has garnered critical acclaim, with New York Magazine describing it as "a brave, visceral, excitingly off-kilter barbaric yawp of a play," and the Washington Post hailing it as "the future of theatre."

**CONTENT DISCLOSURE:**

Contains strong language, scenes of a sexual nature, blood effects and nudity.

“A BRAVE, VISCERAL,  
EXCITINGLY OFF-KILTER  
BARBARIC YAWP  
OF A PLAY”

— NEW YORK MAGAZINE

## CAST:

### CHARACTER

Dance Teacher Pat

Amina

Zuzu

Connie

Luke

Maeve

Sofia

Ashlee

Crumpled Sailor AKA  
Vanessa and The Moms

### PLAYED BY

James Kupa

Ash Williams

Keagan Carr Fransch

Kalyani Nagarajan

Tom Eason

Jacque Drew

Rosalind Lay-Yazdani

Lizzie Tollemache

Kira Josephson

## CREATIVES:

Director

Alison Walls

Set Designer

Mark McEntyre

Intimacy Director and  
Choreographer

Kira Josephson

Costume Designer

Daniella Salazar

Sound Designer

William Burns

Operator

Rosie Gilmore

Lighting Designer

Giles Tanner

Stage Manager

Scott Leighton

Construction and  
Premises Manager

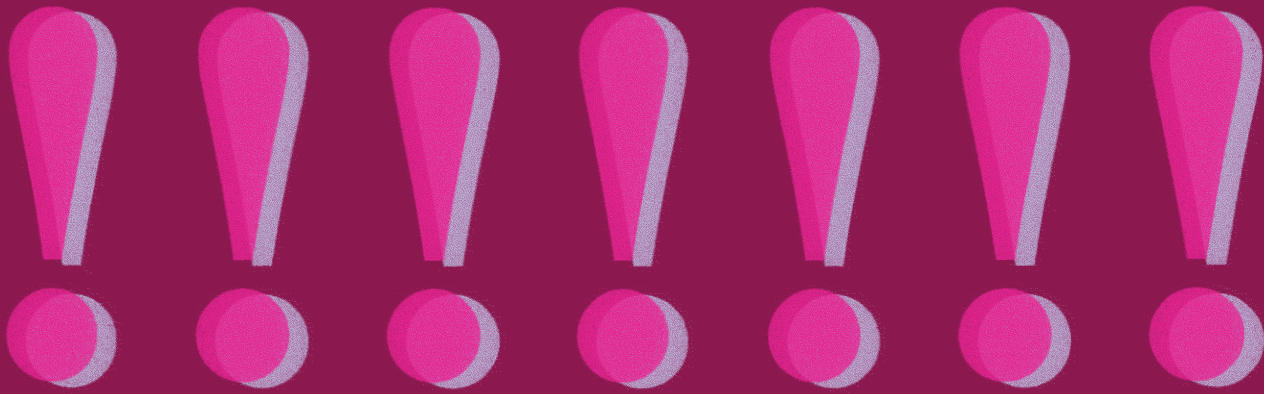
Matt McCutcheon

Properties Manager

Julian Southgate

Choreography Intern

Joelle Baclig



### SHOW TIMES:

Mon and Thur 6:30pm

Tue, Wed, Fri and Sat 7:30pm

### KEY DATES:

- 23 September 2023: Opening night
- 25 September 2023: Forum – a special performance where audiences get to ask cast and crew questions after the show
- 26 September 2023: \$20 Tuesday, on sale 9:30am Friday 22 September 2023
- 14 October 2023: Matinee performance at 2pm
- 21 October 2023: Closing night

### TICKET PRICES:

We recognise the escalating expenses of daily life, which have introduced financial constraints on our capacity to relish leisure pursuits.

The Court Theatre is committed to guaranteeing that the magic of theatre, remains accessible to a wider audience. In light of this aspiration, we have taken the decision to curtail the ticket prices for the duration of the 2023 Season.

#### Standard Pricing

Adult \$49

Senior (65+) \$49

All concessions (see website) \$34

Group (6+) 10% Discount Applies to Standard Adult, Friends, Child and Senior tickets

Bookings: phone 0800 333 100

or visit [www.courttheatre.org.nz](http://www.courttheatre.org.nz)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW PLEASE CONTACT:

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Images can be found at:

**The Court Theatre's Media Centre**

THE  
**COURT**  
THEATRE

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