



Auckland Theatre Company Welcomes Jonathan Bielski as New Artistic Director & CEO

Auckland Theatre Company (ATC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Jonathan Bielski as the Company's new Artistic Director & CEO. The appointment is for a fixed term of five years and commences immediately.

Over the last 12 months the Board has undertaken a strategic review of the Company as it prepares for its 30th anniversary in 2022. This review involved listening to many people connected to ATC. A major change was a merger of the previous two leadership positions into a single role combining both administrative and creative responsibilities titled Artistic Director & CEO.

ATC Chair Vivien Sutherland Bridgwater said, "Through an open recruitment process the Board was grateful to consider high-calibre candidates for this new position, but the standout was Jonathan Bielski. An experienced creative enterprise leader, Jonathan pitched a new way of leading the Company the Board considered apt for our times. As an arts administrator, Jonathan has a wide network of contacts and deep knowledge to draw upon and as a programmer he has two decades of experience commissioning, producing, and presenting work. He will bring a well calibrated balance of artistic curatorial ability and executive management expertise."

Jonathan Bielski has been ATC's CEO since July 2019. Prior to that he was Artistic Director of Auckland Arts Festival 2018–2020. From 2002–2016 he was at Sydney Opera House including five years as Director of

Programming and a stint as Interim CEO. Before leaving for Australia, he held senior positions at the Aotea Centre. Jonathan returned home in 2016 to work for ATC on the opening of the ASB Waterfront Theatre.

Jonathan Bielski said, "I am grateful to be entrusted with this opportunity. ATC is a company with a proud history run by wonderful, hardworking people; it will be my privilege to lead.

Our vision is of a company that raises up theatre artists to make their best work, telling stories from Aotearoa and afar, that is connected to its time and place in Tāmaki Makaurau. Our theatre making will be compelling, provoking, entertaining and playful.

I acknowledge the immense contribution of Colin McColl and the leaders of ATC who have come before me, who built the Company we have today. We now step into a new era with gratitude for all that has come before and excitement for what the future holds."

The remainder of ATC's 2021 season will continue to be led by Creative Director Colin McColl ONZM, with the programme from 2022 onwards being led by Jonathan Bielski.

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