



# ABOUT THE BASEMENT

2016  
- 2018





## OUR STORY

Once upon a time (in 2008) at the bottom of Greys Ave there was an empty theatre...

Silo Theatre had moved out after 10 years, and a group of actors, led by irrepressible Basement founder Charlie McDermott, had moved in. At first, to make ends meet they ran the space as a gig venue, squeezing in shows where they could and biding time until they could become a fully fledged theatre.

In 2010, The Basement Theatre Trust was formed and with a little help from their friends: Foundation North, Auckland Council, Pub Charities, The Wallace Arts Trust (plus a bunch of favours and private donations, including a record breaking PledgeMe campaign) The Basement really started to grow up. They received support from CNZ

to launch the Risk Share Model in 2013, and a year later added a bunch of artist development programmes to go with it.

Despite years of trials and tribulations – dead rats left backstage after a metal gig, deliberate use of fire extinguishers during shows, audience members passing out, the rent doubling overnight, and a poo-cano (you actually do not want to know), The Basement team has kept going. They have built their little-theatre-that-could into the premiere development company in Aotearoa, combining flexible performance spaces with development opportunities that make a real difference in the lives of artists and the wider industry.

They have done so because they, that is to say we, believe that the talent of emerging performing artists needs a place for fostering and development.

It's here.

The Basement Theatre Est. 2008.





## BY THE NUMBERS

Since **2013** we've...

Co-presented **170** independent productions, **56** Auckland Fringe Festival shows, over **90** International Comedy Festival shows, and more than **150** events. Paid out more than **\$600k** to artists, while saving them **\$100k** in venue fees through the Risk Share Model. Had **89,316** audience members through the doors; hosted more than **1,500** practitioners; trained **4** Producers; and grown our business by **47%**.



**RASHMI RAMAN**

Chartered Accountant



**MATT KENEALY (CHAIR)**

Former CEO of major  
IT company



**MICHELLE HINE**

Actor, Director & Acting Coach. Artistic  
Manager of The Actor's Program.



**JOSH MCBRIDE**

Barrister at Richmond Chambers

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**MANAGEMENT COMPANY:**

**BASEMENT 3.0 LTD**

Directors: Elise Sterback & Sam Snedden

# BASEMENT THEATRE TRUST BOARD

REGISTERED CHARITY #CC46535



**SAM SNEDDEN**  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
MANAGER



**GABRIELLE VINCENT**  
PROGRAMMING & ARTIST  
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



**ELISE STERBACK**  
GENERAL  
MANAGER



**JULIE ZHU**  
PRODUCER IN  
RESIDENCE



**DEANNA BORREN**  
SCHOOLS PROGRAMME /  
COORDINATOR LOVERS LIAISON



**CHARLOTTE VICKERS**  
BAR  
MANAGER



Asst Bar Manager  
Casual Bar Staff

**NAOMI SPUNGEN**  
BOX OFFICE MANAGER /  
MARKETING ASSISTANT



Box Office Staff  
Volunteer Ushers

**RONNIE LIVINGSTONE**  
TECHNICAL  
MANAGER



Venue Technicians

# BASEMENT TEAM 2016

BREAKFAST  
PRODUCERS  
TOURING  
APPRENTICE  
PLAYSCIENCE  
PLAYCHATS



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### BASEMENT & BREAKFAST

Where we host a series of early morning readings/showings of work, both scripted and devised, with coffee and breakfast (patisserie) provided. Followed by a facilitated Q&A forum and questionnaire.

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### PLAYSCIENCE!

Paid workshops for new works programmed in our venue. With budget for actors, dramaturge and director. Designed with a flexible workshop structure that develops the piece in a way that is both rigorous and supportive of the writer or devisers.

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### PRODUCERS DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

A year long, paid residency which takes on an emerging producer for a year of intense on-the-job training as part of The Basement team. The Resident works on Basement initiated projects, independent productions programmed in our venue, as well as their own practice. During the residency they are mentored by top industry professionals.

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### THE SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

This initiative fully subsidises access to four Basement shows annually for our partner schools. Partner schools have their show tickets, transport to and from the venue, post show forums, education packs and a snack provided to them at no cost. Three shows are performed onsite at The Basement, and a fourth show is selected for a paid tour to the partner schools.

# BASEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES





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### PLAYCHATS

A monthly meet up group with a new format in 2016 – a guest curator selects a topic (e.g. women in the arts) and holds a facilitated discussion. An opportunity for artists to connect and discuss what is going on in the arts in New Zealand and internationally.

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### BASEMENT APPRENTICESHIPS

We will broker a number of mentoring opportunities across the technical disciplines of Costume, Set, Lighting, Sound Design and Stage Management. The apprentices meet regularly with their mentors, assisting on productions that they are engaged in, as well as developing their own practice. The Basement will match-make the apprentices with a production at The Basement, helping them to begin building a resume of professional experience and facilitating connections within the emerging arts community.

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### TOURING INITIATIVE

In partnership with BATS Theatre, we will provide opportunities for 2-5 companies annually to tour their shows to The Basement or BATS with financial support for touring, remount, and marketing costs, as well as access to mentoring provided by established companies who have touring experience and networks in each centre.

COMING

2016

2017





## **“The beating heart of Auckland Theatre”**

Metro Magazine 2014

## **Go Basement Team Planet**

NZ Herald 2014

## **Artists strive to take Basement to the Top**

NZ Herald 2016

## **“The most eclectic, exciting venue in town...”**

Metro Magazine 2013

**“One of the largest cultural hubs in the world could be influenced by one of Auckland’s smallest theatres”**

“Auckland inspires Kowloon” – NZ Herald 2016

## **“a test-bed for talent”**

“Boom Times at the Basement” – NZ Listener 2015

## **Top 100 things to love about Auckland**

NZ Herald 2013

## **100 Most Influential Aucklanders: The Basement Theatre Management Team**

Metro Magazine 2015

# **BASEMENT IN THE MEDIA**