same but different.

A celebration of Aotearoa New Zealand’s LGBTQI writing talent

9–10 February 2018 @ AUT
Welcome

I’m writing this from a hospital bed in Ward 67 Room 4c at Auckland Hospital, where I’m being treated for cancer. These are not orthodox words to introduce the third outing of the same same but different LGBTQI Writers Festival, but in one way they evoke risk, challenge and even maybe a kind of daring – as this festival has always set out to do. We started same same to give ourselves – our words, feelings, frustrations, our opinions, outrage and even our contemplated silences – a very special space in which we could communicate.

In three short years we have created a festival which is energetic and complex, acknowledging our brilliant elders, such as Renée, as well as attracting the brightest young talent New Zealand has to offer. Snapchat dude Tom Sainsbury stands beside Madeleine Sami; the sensation of the moment Hera Lindsay Bird alongside Courtney Sina Meredith and Best First Book award-winner Gina Cole. Samesame 2018 is a complex queer mix, with visiting Australian writer and poet Quinn Eades, Wellington poet Chris Tse, provocative queers in academia as well as our always popular Gala events. Pick and mix, pop in and go off; it is our pleasure to provide this picnic of words, verse, laughter, memory, insight, anger and self-realisation.

Peter Wells
Director

The same same but different festival was the brainchild of Peter Wells, who founded it in 2016 and remains its director. The 2018 committee was chaired by Andrew Rumbles, with committee members Gina Cole, Pam Ford, Michael Giacon, Courtney Sina Meredith, Cole Meyers, Julie Watson (event producer), Ian Watt and Peter Wells.

Thanks to Sidney Ting for our festival logo, to Vicki Hall for the programme design and to Roger Hiscock for accounting services. Finally, our special thanks to AUT Design & Creative Technologies Dean, Guy Littlefair, Professor Welby Ings, Tim Huston, Brand and Marketing Services, and Aram Wu, AUT Rainbow Community Manager.
Wednesday 7 February 5.30pm-7pm

FREE EVENT: PRIDE Poetry Speakeasy

samesame but different and Auckland Libraries present the fourth PRIDE Poetry Speakeasy.

Bring your original or favourite LGBTQI poetry to present or come to listen and enjoy in a welcoming word nest.

The Leys Institute Library Courtyard,
20 St Mary’s Road,
Three Lamps, Ponsonby.

Friday 9 February 3.30pm-5.30pm

FREE EVENT: Queer Zine Workshop

Zine culture arose from the advent of the photocopier and the spirit of anarcho-punk and DIY culture.

AUT’s Art & Design Queer Reading Group, led by Richard Orjis, will run a workshop that explores this dynamic, low-fi, low-cost mode of publication.

Assembling text and image together, we will use the provocation ‘what is queer ecology?’ to generate individual or collaborative creative responses in a fun and open-ended way. Poetry, prose, fragmented thought, found imagery, recorded movement, collage and drawing will all be welcome. The final zine will be bound together in print and available online.

This event is at the Central City Library, Ground Floor, Lorne Street, Auckland.
Opening Night Gala

Friday 9 February
7.30pm – 9pm

‘Great Moments’

Great Moments in Queer life – that time you suddenly realised something important, or you made a crucial decision from which you never looked back, or you just thought – ‘Bugger it, I’m out of here. I’m off to the moon.’ A brilliant selection of speakers, breakthrough icons and established legends, will describe that ‘great moment’.

Featuring Quinn Eades, Chris Tse, Mani Bruce Mitchell, Hera Lindsay Bird, Anton Blank, Marilyn Waring and Peter Wells.

Chaired by Jeremy Hansen, editor of Paperboy magazine.

Drinks reception from 6.30 pm.
Come early – drinks and snacks included.
Saturday 10 February
9.30am – 10.30am
Pasifika Superstars of Tomorrow
Three stars have emerged in the limelight of literary Aotearoa recently – and they’re all Pasifika and all ours. Gina Cole’s Black Ice Matter won the Best First Book Award at the 2017 New Zealand Book Awards and her performance at the opening of the Auckland Writers Festival was a sensation. Poet and storyteller Courtney Sina Meredith is so sought after by overseas festivals we’re lucky to have her at samesame, while Tulia Thompson’s Josefa and the Vu is a quiet sensation all of its own. Hear these stars of the word read and talk about the path that led them to realise themselves through writing and how they use their Pasifika and queer voices to explore a bold new journey.

Chaired by leading kaupapa Māori educator, researcher and writer Leonie Pihama.

11am – 12 noon
Theatre in Aotearoa
Theatre in Aotearoa is crowded with queer talent. Does our understanding of role-playing inform performance on the stage, in presenting façades, in hiding in plain sight and revealing a truth under the burn of the spotlight? Three writer/performers, including theatre legend Renée, talk about entertaining the public, changing people’s perceptions, role-playing and telling stories that open up understanding. But is there a line you cannot cross? Renée is joined by Snapchat dude, playwright and underground maverick Tom Sainsbury and the wonderful Madeleine Sami, renowned for her versatility in assuming different characters, races and genders.

Chaired by writer, actor and talent scout Andrea Kelland.

1pm – 2pm
International Guest Quinn Eades

Australian trans poet Quinn Eades comes to Auckland to talk about difference, change and their book of poetry. A brilliant performer, Quinn will provide an afternoon of entertainment you will never forget.

‘I am at the Queensland Poetry Festival and Samoan poet Tusiata Avia asks what collection of molecules am I and I think about queer kinship and how do I trace my ancestors? Where is my lineage? My lineage is books, and dance floors, and documentaries – my lineage is not in my blood. It’s in Kathy Acker and Leslie Feinberg and Derek Jarman. That guy at Fair Day with a ‘MASC 4 MASC’ t-shirt on. It’s in protest signs. It’s in the slurs that we take and turn into love letters (faggot, queer, dyke, trannie, pervert, homo).’

Introduced by Courtney Sina Meredith.
2.30pm – 3.30pm
Intersex: The I in LGBTQI

‘Being intersex is not uncommon, it is just unheard of.’ John Keir and Grant Lahood sought to bring the intersex experience to greater awareness in their award-winning documentary Intersexion. Mani Bruce Mitchell, Wellingtonian and out and proud intersex person, narrates the documentary, which features many people from around the world who form a proud ‘tribe’. In this session, Mani is interviewed by Julie Watson, Programme Lead Silver Rainbow. They discuss the journey of making the documentary and show curated excerpts. John Keir and Grant Lahood may also be in Auckland to participate in the discussion.

Intersex is an umbrella term that encompasses over thirty different conditions that make one’s gender ambiguous. We believe that one person in every 2000 births is Intersex. In Intersexion a number of people discuss living in a society with a binary view of gender which, at best, has made them all but invisible, and, at worst, has subjected many to damaging ‘corrective’ surgery.

4pm – 5pm
Queering the Academy

‘I’m no prophet. My job is making windows where there were once walls.’ — Michel Foucault

Foucault shook up the staid heteronormative world of academia way back in the ’90s. Today subversive queer theory is everywhere and Rainbow scholars and students have occupied the Ivory Tower, taking a stand for LGBTQI identities and rights through their academic and creative writing and performance, research and jobs. In this session, queer or gender variant practitioners Ciara Cremin, Brendan Weir, Val Smith and Quinn Eades talk about windows and walls, fences and gates – being inside and out.

Chaired by award-winning poet and AUT Senior Lecturer Michael Giacon.

6.30pm Saturday 10 February
Book launch

Cloud Ink Press is pleased to invite you to the launch of Tane’s War, the first novel by Brendan Weir. Brendan has been a strong gay rights advocate for many years and a founding committee member of the samesame but different festival. Raise a glass and toast the success of his new novel.

Drinks and snacks provided.
5.30pm – 6.30pm
Honoured Writer: Renée

**Renée Taylor** is a legend both as a theatre writer and an outspoken advocate for women’s rights. She is of Māori (Ngāti Kahungunu), Irish, English and Scottish ancestry. Like Madonna and Adele, Renée is known by her Christian name alone. Humorous, humanist and perceptive, Renée has a lifetime of lived experience in her work and words. She has described herself as a lesbian feminist with socialist working-class ideals, but she is also a gifted and important storyteller in Aotearoa, always writing from her perspective as a woman and a lesbian. She wrote her first play *Setting the Table* in 1981. At the age of 88, she has just published a memoir, *These Two Hands*, in which she looks both back and forward in her characteristically wry way, commenting on life, her own work, the stage and the world.

Chaired by the inimitable and insightful **Carole Beu**.

---

7.30pm – 9pm

‘It Gets Better’

We like to think that LGBTQI life is all fine and upbeat, but all of us have faced challenges at times that seemed almost impossible to transcend. Nevertheless, somehow we crossed the bridge into a better future. A varied panel of writers and thinkers look back and glance forward, talking about challenges and realisation. While they might acknowledge it hasn’t all been rainbows and arias, they’ve still found the time for wry laughter as they walk the golden road. You need a will to survive (let alone succeed), steely grit and a sense of humour.

Featuring **Joanne Drayton**, **Courtney Sina Meredith**, **Cole Meyers**, **Sam Orchard**, **Gina Cole** and **Susannah Walker**.

Chaired by wickedly good dresser, provocateur/historian and author **Douglas Lloyd Jenkins**.
festival performers

**Carole Beu** is the proud owner / manager of The Women’s Bookshop in Auckland.

**Hera Lindsay Bird** is a writer from Wellington. Her debut poetry collection *Hera* won the 2017 Jessie Mackay Award for best first book of poetry at the Ockham New Zealand Book Awards. She is also the recipient of the 2011 Adam Prize, the 2017 Sarah Broom Prize and the 2017 recipient of an Arts Foundation New Generation Award. Her second chapbook *Pamper Me To Hell & Back* will be published by the Poetry Business in 2018.

**Anton Blank** has an extensive history in social work, communications, Māori development, public health and literature. Anton is also the editor and founder of the Māori literary journal *Ora Nui*. His creative writing has been published by Tandem Press, Huia Publishers, Turbine and Overland. His new short story collection *Global Roaming* will be sampled during the festival.

**Gina Cole** is of Fijian, Scottish and Welsh descent. She was born and raised in Auckland and is a barrister specialising in family law. Gina writes fiction and poetry and has a Masters of Creative Writing from Auckland University. Her debut book of short stories *Black Ice Matter* (Huia 2016) won the Hubert Church Prize for best first book of fiction at the 2017 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards. She is currently completing a PhD in English at Massey University.

**Ciara Cremin** lectures in sociology at the University of Auckland. She has published a number of books under the name of Colin, including *Totalled: Salvaging the Future from the Wreckage of Capitalism* (2015) and *Exploring Videogames with Deleuze and Guattari: Towards an Affective Theory of Form* (2016). Her latest book, the first under her feminine name Ciara, is entitled *Man-Made Woman: The Dialectics of Cross-dressing*. It explores her own relationship to gender and experiences of dressing publicly as a woman since 2015 and is a critique of masculinity, the gender binary and patriarchy.

**Joanne Drayton** is an acclaimed New Zealand biographer. Her book *The Search for Anne Perry* was numbered in the top 10 non-fiction books on the New York Times bestseller list in 2015, and was a finalist in the prestigious New Zealand Book Awards in August 2013, the subject of a 60 Minutes programme and a cover story for the *NZ Listener*. It has now been optioned for a feature film. Her earlier works included the critically acclaimed *Ngāio Marsh: Her Life in Crime* (2008), *Frances Hodgkins: A Private Viewing* (2005), *Rhona Haszard: An Experimental Expatriate NZ Artist* (2002) and *Edith Collier: Her Life and Work* (1999). She is now writing *Hudson & Halls: Inseparable*.

**Quinn Eades**, our international guest, is an Australian academic, published author, poet and trans man. A lecturer in Interdisciplinary Studies at La Trobe University, he is also the founding editor of Australia’s only interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed gender, sexuality and diversity studies journal, *Writing from Below*. The author of *All the beginnings: a queer autobiography of the body*, and *Rallying*, he is currently working on a collection of fragments written from the transitioning body, entitled *Transpositions*.

**Michael Giacon** is a poet who has been published in *Best Mates: Gay Writing in Aotearoa*, *Brief* and *Fresh Ink*. He graduated from AUT with a Masters in Creative Writing in 2016.

**Jeremy Hansen** is the editor of *Paperboy* magazine. He was previously the editor of *HOME* magazine for over a decade.

**Douglas Lloyd Jenkins** writes about design and architecture. Born in Auckland, he has been a lecturer, television presenter...
and museum director. He won the 2005 Montana Award for At Home and the 2017 Best Illustrated Book, PANZ book award for Beach Life.

Andrea Kelland has been in the theatre for 45 years as an actor, producer and director. She was casting director for Shortland Street from 2006 to 2017. She will be performing her own show, Random Shagger, for the 2018 Pride Festival.

Courtney Sina Meredith is a poet, playwright, fiction writer and musician based in Auckland. She’s held a number of international writers’ residencies, including the prestigious Fall Residency at the University of Iowa. In 2012 she published her first book of poems, Brown Girls in Bright Red Lipstick, and in 2016 launched a collection of short stories, Tail of the Taniwha (Beatnik Publishing).

Cole Meyers is a writer, director, actor and activist. He works as a consultant on trans and gender diverse narratives and inclusion in film, television, web series and theatre, including at Shortland Street, where he is currently a dialogue writer and was previously a story-liner and actor. He is passionately focused on supporting the authentic representation, creative opportunities and powerful potential of queer and gender diverse people, particularly those with disabilities and mental health experiences.

Mani B. Mitchell identifies as a queer, non-binary, intersex person and is a counsellor (MNZCA), clinical supervisor, educator and global activist. They are heartened and proud of the significant change that has happened over the past two decades, with so many people coming forward and trusting them with their stories, seeking support and knowledge. Their goal is to create a worldwide environment that ensures that the needs of the diverse trans, intersex and gender non-conforming communities are responded to appropriately. One powerful vehicle for education and understanding was the award-winning documentary Intersexion, which Mani narrated.

Sam Orchard is a queer trans guy from Auckland who draws comics and writes stories that celebrate difference. His awesome talent is on display on his website: roostertailscomic.com.

Leonie Pihama (Te Ātiawa, Ngā Māhanga a Tairi, Ngāti Māhanga) is an Associate Professor and the Director of Te Kotahi Research Institute at the University of Waikato. A mother of six and grandmother of four, Leonie is a leading kaupapa Māori educator and researcher and has extensive expertise connecting her to a wide-range of communities and iwi. She is currently the Principal Investigator on three Health Research Council projects, He Oranga Ngākau: Māori Approaches to Trauma Informed Care, Honour Project Aotearoa, and He Ngākau Māori: Investigating Māori Cultural Constructions of Emotions.

Thomas Sainsbury acted in Australia’s Hamish and Andy’s True Story, the New Zealand feature film, Pork Pie, as well as in Shortland Street and Filthy Rich on television. He has written, directed and produced many theatre shows over the last 15 years, most recently DOCing in the New Zealand Comedy Festival and Infectious in the Auckland Fringe Festival. He was a finalist in the New Zealand Comedy Festival’s Raw Stand Up competition in 2016, and has also made a name for himself parodying New Zealand politicians and well-known New Zealand character types through Snapchat and Facebook.

Madeleine Sami is an actor and musician who won international acclaim starring in two Toa Fraser plays: Bare (1998) and solo show No 2. Aged 18, she debuted on screen on Shortland Street and Pio. Following Insider’s Guide to Happiness, she was the romantic interest in Sione’s Wedding. She went on to win a NZ acting award for her show Super City, in which
she plays multiple characters, from a gym instructor to an Iranian immigrant. She co-wrote and created the show with Thomas Sainsbury. In 2017 she began production of a movie, *The Breaker Upperers*, which she co-wrote, co-directed and co-starred in with Jackie van Beek.

**Val Smith** is a blogger, choreographic artist, dance educator, community activator and writer. Their work as a choreographic artist investigates the body as a politically complex network, and they write reviews and reflexive pieces about dance and live art works for *Theatreview*, *Yellingmouth and Proximity* magazine. Val is currently pursuing PhD studies at AUT in association with Professor Welby Ings.

Valvalvalsmithsmithsmith.blogspot.co.nz

**Renée Taylor** is a leading lesbian feminist, dramatist and fiction writer. She has described herself as a ‘lesbian feminist with socialist working-class ideals’ and most of her writing is a direct expression of that conviction. Her plays, short stories and novels are characterised by their direct approach to women’s experience, whether lesbian, feminist, historical or rooted in memoir. In a long career, she has received many awards, and in 2006 she was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to literature and drama. She has recently published a memoir, *These Two Hands*.

**Tulia Thompson** is of Fijian, Tongan and Pākehā descent. She has a PhD in Sociology and a Masters in Creative Writing (Hons) from the University of Auckland. Her fiction and poetry is published in *Niu Voices: Contemporary Pacific Fiction 1*, *Overland*, *Blackmail Press* and *JAAM*. *Josefa and the Vu*, a fantasy adventure for 8–12 year-olds, was published by Huia in 2007.

**Chris Tse** is a Wellington-based poet and occasional food blogger. His debut poetry collection, *How to be Dead in a Year of Snakes*, won the Jessie Mackay Award for best first book of poetry at the 2016 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards. His new collection, *HE’S SO MASC*, will be published by Auckland University Press in March 2018.

**Susannah Walker** is the editor of *Metro* magazine.

**Marilyn Waring** is Professor of Public Policy at the Institute of Public Policy, AUT, Auckland. A former MP, she is well known both nationally and internationally for her contributions to politics, economics and feminism. She has published 23 books, including *If Women Counted*, *Women, Politics and Power*, *In the Lifetime of a Goat* and *1 Way to C the World*. She has received numerous international awards and was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order or Merit in 2008.

**Julie Watson** is Programme Lead of Silver Rainbow, works for Rainbow Tick and facilitates Drumbeat, a support group for those who love gender-questioning young people. She and Mani B. Mitchell have worked together on a number of projects.

**Brendaniel Weir** was born in Auckland and has been an LGBT community activist since he took part in the Homosexual Law Reform marches as a schoolboy. He has written educational television, worked in the film industry and is a lecturer in English language. In 2013, he graduated with a Masters of Creative Writing (Hons), also winning the post-graduate writing prize. Cloud Ink has just published his first novel, *Tane’s War*.

**Peter Wells** is the director of the *same same but different* festival, and well known as an award-winning novelist, film-maker and historian. He was the first-ever out gay fiction writer published in New Zealand.
You can book for individual sessions, or purchase a **Festival Pass** at a discount. There will also be door sales.

### SESSION PRICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prices per session (incl. morning and afternoon tea)</td>
<td>$17.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note: Opening Night Gala and Saturday Night Special are priced separately – see below.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Bird* discount per session</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concession for students and unemployed</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Night Gala (incl. drinks &amp; snacks)</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Bird* discount for Opening Night Gala</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concession for students and unemployed</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Night Special (incl. drinks &amp; snacks)</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Bird* discount for Saturday Night Special</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concession for students and unemployed</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FESTIVAL PASS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Festival Pass to all events</td>
<td>$110.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Bird* discount for Festival Pass</td>
<td>$95.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concession for students and unemployed</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* For the **Early Bird** discount, book before **26 January 2018**.

- Book through iTicket: www.iticket.co.nz
- There will be door sales.
Directions
The event is being held in central Auckland at the AUT University campus, Sir Paul Reeves (WG) Building, room WG126. The best access is via the main entrance to the WG building on Governor Fitzroy Place, which runs between Mayoral Drive and St Paul Street.

Transport
Buses run frequently on nearby Symonds Street, Wellesley Street and Queen Street.
Wilson Parking Unipark in St Paul Street is the closest parking building. There is another Wilson car park in Kitchener Street. The Civic car park, Aotea Square, is also within easy walking distance.

Refreshments
Morning tea and afternoon tea will be provided at the festival venue, but there are also numerous cafés in the vicinity for lunch. These include:
- Esquires Café at the Auckland Public Library, Lorne Street.
- Gloria Jean’s Café, corner of Lorne Street and Khartoum Place.
- Mojo Café, Auckland Art Gallery, Kitchener Street.

The University Bookshop will be selling books at the event.