

Performing Arts





'My learning experience was everything I'd hoped it would be. Whitireia provided artistic opportunities to learn and grow while surrounding us with experienced industry professionals. I found myself constantly being challenged, and I felt comfortable pushing myself to try new things.'

Jackson

 Drama

 Performer

Since graduating with a Bachelor of Creativity in Drama in 2022, Jackson Burling has been busy making waves in the industry. After being a swing performer in Circa Theatre's annual Pantomime last year, a position which required him to learn multiple roles in case of an absence, Jackson has moved to a full-time role for this year's "Treasure Island -The Pantomime". He also put on his first solo show for Fringe Festival 2023, coming out with a nomination for the award for "Most Promising Emerging Artist".

We spoke to Jackson about what he's been up to in his first year after graduating, his study experience, and why drama is the craft for him.

What drew you to study Drama?

Realising I could earn credits at college by being a class clown was the beginning of my performing arts journey. Drama wasn't the only subject I had a passion for, but there was something that drew me to pursue acting as a career - a feeling in my stomach that I don't think I'll ever be able to describe.

How has preparation been in the lead up to Treasure Island – The Pantomime?

The preparation has been intense and technically like nothing I have done before, but after going through several shows during my studies, I felt prepared and confident going into this process.

Have you been doing any other work since finishing study in 2022?

After graduating in 2022, I've had quite a fulfilling year in theatre and screen. I put on my first solo show, 'CAUTION WET FLOOR', a show I created in my final year of studies, at the New Zealand Fringe Festival 2023, which also got me a nomination for 'Most Promising Emerging Artist'. After that, I took the show to Centrepoint Theatre in Palmerston North for a few nights to reach new audiences and gain new feedback.

I was recently in WITCH Music Theatre's season of 'Into The Woods' as Cinderella's Prince/The Wolf, and I've had some appearances on screen as supporting roles on TVNZ's 'Hui Hoppers' and NEON's 'Not Even'.

At the Wellington Theatre Awards I was also nominated for 'Most Promising Newcomer' for my performances in CAUTION WET FLOOR and Into The Woods. So, it's been a great first year out for me with lots of connections with new people and constant learning!

Follow the QR code below to read the full story.



All things creative E/MERGE from Whitireia and WelTec | Te Pūkenga as students launch arts festival

Published on 4 October 2023

This week Te Auaha, the creative campus of Whitireia and WelTec in central Wellington, will open its doors to the public as ākonga (students) launch the arts festival - E/MERGE.

E/MERGE is a showcase by current students demonstrating the interdisciplinary study and training approach offered at Te Auaha which mirrors expectations in the creative sector. It runs from 4 - 19 October.

The festival includes cabaret, short plays, commercial dance, Māori and Pacific dance, musical theatre, film, readings, book launches and exhibitions in the gallery.

“Illustrating the strength of our interdisciplinary approach are standout performances including Ngā Atua, a collaborative performance brought to life by final-year creative tech, drama, and music ākonga (students); Fresh Cut Films a selection of sweet shorts from our screen production (film) ākonga; and raw performative works (Full Circle, Friction and Life Advice) from dance, drama and musical theatre ākonga,” said Kaiwhakahaere Hōtaka (Programme Manager), Brenda Saris. “Audiences will also be treated to the Wall of Words, a selection of creative writing poems, and a creative technologies exhibition.”

Mark Oldershaw, Executive Director (Tumu Whenua a-rohe 3) at Te Pūkenga said: “E/MERGE is an opportunity for the students to show and share their incredible skills in a professional environment - as if they were already employed in the creative sector. We do everything to help our graduates develop skills that are aligned with the industry they have set their sights on, to help them secure their dream job. Offering real-life and collaborative opportunities at Te Auaha will ensure they have the experience and knowledge that industry expects from them. I am excited to see what is in store for this year’s E/MERGE festival.”

Also celebrated during E/MERGE will be the 30-year anniversary of publishing programmes offered by Whitireia. The graduate diploma is currently the only qualification of its kind offered in Aotearoa. To mark this special event, the Whitireia publishing department has produced a book with 75 contributions from New Zealand writers, many of them graduates, with their insights on the world of publishing. The book is called: Everything I Know About Books: An insider look at publishing in Aotearoa. It has been edited by Whitireia tutors Odessa Owens and Theresa Crewdson.

New Zealand Diploma in Drama (L6)

📖 Level 6

🕒 2 years, full-time

💰 \$7,712 per year (indicative for 2025 intake)

Get centre stage and in front of the camera, and get the tools to tell your own stories for stage and screen. Train and perform in professional theatres and see your work on the big screen at our cinema. Learn from industry professionals.

Programme outline

This two-year practical programme puts you centre stage and in front of the camera, giving you the tools to develop your own stories for stage and screen. Learn about the many roles that exist within the theatre, film, broadcast and digital screen industries. Training includes classes in acting techniques - improvisation, script analysis, movement and voice – as well as theatre production practices. You'll have the opportunity to train and perform in Te Auaha's professional theatres and see your work on the big screen at Te Auaha's cinema. During the course you will collaborate with the Film School and audition in front of industry professionals. Our teachers are passionate about you and your learning. The course is taught by leading tutors from the arts industry.

On successful completion, students may apply to enrol in year three of the Bachelor of Creativity (Performing Arts) and create a body of work in their discipline.

What you will learn

Students will learn the following skills:

- Voice
- Movement
- Interpreting text
- Acting techniques
- Public Performance
- Film Co-productions
- Theatre and film history/styles
- Singing
- Devising work

More detail about this qualification

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document is correct at the time of print. Whitireia and WelTec | Te Pūkenga reserves the right to cancel or postpone any of the programmes, and shall not be liable for any claim other than the proportion of programme fees that the cancelled portion bears. Some programmes may be dependent upon formal approval from NZQA (New Zealand Qualifications Authority), TEC (Tertiary Education Commission) funding allocation, and the number of enrolments. As part of the NZQA targeted review of all Level 1-6 New Zealand qualifications, there may still be changes to some programmes starting in 2024. Fees, programmes, entry and selection criteria, and dates, are subject to change. Please check the relevant programme pages at whitireiaweltec.ac.nz for up-to-date information and full entry regulations before applying to enrol. Information regarding English language requirements is available on each course page at whitireiaweltec.ac.nz.

Performing Arts Auditions 2025

Online auditions will be open until February 2025. See the [Audition Information Pack](#) for all the details.

Entry requirements

Domestic Students

NCEA Level 2 or equivalent plus evidence of skills/ability/aptitude based on interview and audition.

International Students

Proven equivalence to domestic entry requirements and IELTS 6.5 (no band lower than 6.0).

**For fee exclusions, please see our [terms and conditions](#).*

Related study options

[Bachelor of Creativity \(Performing Arts\)](#)

Audition information

