



PRESENTS:



AWAKEN

SENIOR SHOWCASE

AWAKEN

30 AUG

1PM & 6PM SHOWS

RIVERBANK THEATRE

Awaken running order

1. Diamonds PG - Jazz - MJ Jazz
2. Emeralds PG - Jazz - Let's get loud
3. Madison Vuletich - Lyrical - The winner takes it all
4. Jessie Agnew - Lyrical - Pray
5. Zara Matthews - Lyrical - I'm not the only one
6. Mia Abbott - Jazz - Hip hip chin chin
7. Maya Raven - Lyrical - Liability
8. Peyton Seymour - Lyrical - A drop in the ocean
9. Aden Edwards - Contemporary - Chihiro
10. Jessie Agnew & Isabella Tamahori - Lyrical - Imagine
11. Maya Evans - Contemporary - Toxic
12. Mia Schutte - Jazz - I'd rather go blind

1. Diamonds PG - Jazz - She bangs
2. Emeralds PG - Lyrical - I will wait
3. Trinity Briden-Jones - Lyrical - Bound to you
4. Rebekah Kenwright - Jazz - Maneater
5. Karien Schutte & Mia Schutte - Lyrical - Must have been love
6. Isabella Tamahori - Jazz - Lady marmalade
7. Gabby, Aden & Madi - Lyrical trio - Happiness is a butterfly
8. Asha Huddleston - Contemporary - Hit the road
9. Sienna Renwick - Lyrical - Rescue
10. Maya Evans & Mia Abbott - Contemporary - Unsteady
11. Yvy Dance - Salsa duo (6pm show only)
12. Rhythm & Spice - Heels group
13. Diamonds PG - Lyrical - Burn



Belltech

Founded and directed by Tim Bell, Belltech is Northland's only dedicated theatre lighting design company. With years of experience spanning Whangarei, Auckland, Brisbane, and Perth, Tim brings expert design, staging, and technical skill to every project.

Belltech proudly caters to schools, organisations, theatre companies, and businesses of all sizes, offering creative, high-quality lighting that brings every stage to life. With a special love for dance shows, Tim's passion lies in crafting fun, dynamic designs that make performances truly shine.

WADPA – Whangarei Academy of Dance & Performing Arts

Established in 1976, WADPA has been at the heart of Northland's dance community for nearly 50 years. Offering classes in ballet, jazz, tap, lyrical, contemporary, acro, and musical theatre, WADPA is dedicated to nurturing dancers of all ages and abilities.

With a focus on excellence, creativity, and community, WADPA provides opportunities for students to sit exams, compete nationally, and perform on stage, while building confidence, friendships, and a lifelong love of dance.

This year's Senior Showcase – Awaken is a celebration of our talented senior students. Student-led, fun, and creative, Awaken gives dancers the chance to perform pieces they love, share their passion, and take audiences on an inspiring journey.



Mia Abbott (14)

Jazz - Hip hip, Chin chin - Choreographer - Mia Abbott

Over the past 10 years, Mia has explored every genre of dance on offer at WADPA, but more recently has focused on jazz, contemporary and lyrical. These genres allow her the freedom to fully express her personality, energy, flair, creativity, emotion, and sheer love of dance - qualities she enjoys bringing to the stage to entertain an audience.

Mia has a deep passion for choreography and is very proud to have received a PACANZ nomination to compete in the National Young Performer Awards later this year, with her self-choreographed jazz and contemporary dances. She was also excited to be given the opportunity to choreograph a jazz and a contemporary competition dance for 2 talented younger students this year.



Maya Evans (13)

Contemporary - Toxic - Choreographer - Natalia Bates

Meet Maya, one of the youngest cast member for *Awaken*

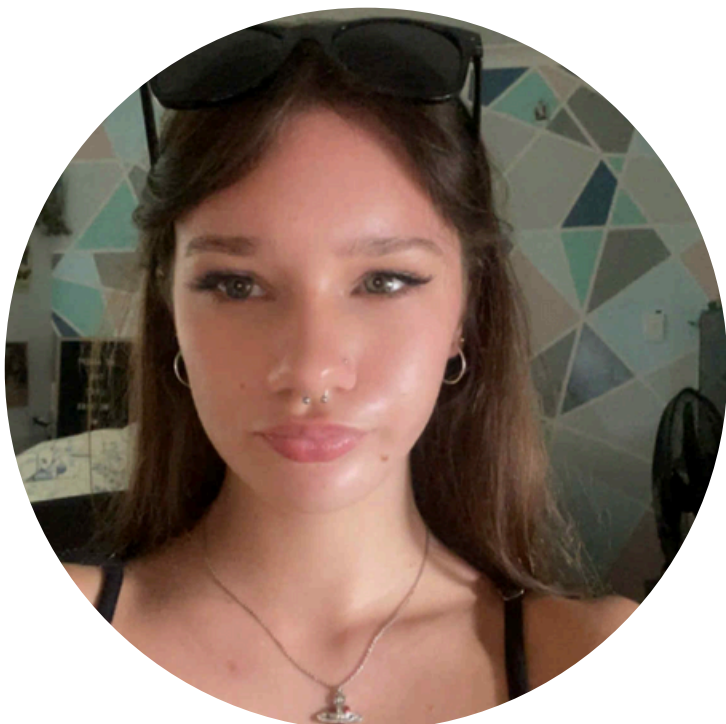
Maya has been dancing at WADPA since she was four and still loves every second of it.

Now 13, she trains in modern jazz, lyrical, contemporary, classical ballet, tap, acro, and is part of two performance groups.

She assists in a Grade 5 jazz class and has helped in other classes since she was nine – something she really enjoys.

Dance has given her amazing friendships, confidence, and a space to be herself.

She's excited to be part of *Awaken* and can't wait to perform alongside so many dancers she looks up to.



Lexi Duder (17)

At just 17, Lexi has been part of the WADPA family quite literally since she could walk! Over the years, she's trained in all styles of dance, becoming an integral part of the WADPA senior performance team. Lexi truly shines in acro, where her strength and flexibility light up the studio. Her passion for dance goes beyond performing – she loves teaching and assisting in classes, especially with our younger dancers, who light up whenever she walks in.

While she once competed regularly, Lexi has always been a devoted team player. Now, she's looking forward to sharing the stage with her closest friends in *Awaken* – dancing purely for the joy of it.



Aden Edwards (17)

Contemporary - Chihiro - Choreographer - Teagan Stewart

Aden began dancing at the age of six and started competing at eleven. She has explored a range of styles including contemporary, jazz, ballet, lyrical, barefoot, and pointe, with a special fondness for group performances. Aden is drawn to the storytelling side of dance, using emotion and movement to connect with audiences. Outside of her own training, she assists in younger classes, sharing her knowledge and encouraging others to grow. She has also enjoyed choreographing pieces and exploring her own creativity through dance.



Asha Huddleston (19)

Contemporary - Hit the road - Choreographer - Asha Huddleston

Asha, 19, is a passionate dancer and teacher at WADPA. At 7, she was diagnosed with severe hearing loss in her right ear and moderate loss in her left. Asha sometimes relies on lip reading, though she often forgets about her hearing loss.

Asha teaches Emeralds Performance Group, along with her other classes, and loves watching her students grow in confidence and passion for dance. Asha's favorite styles are tap and lyrical, but she is trained in various genres, including acro, jazz, ballet, musical theatre, and contemporary.

Asha has competed nationally and internationally, performed in shows and taken exams, earning awards such as Dancer of the Year 2023 and a Distinction for her Jazz Diploma. She has also performed at events like the Women's Rugby World Cup and the Bernina Fashion Awards.



Isabella Tamahori (17)

Jazz - Lady marmalade - Choreographer - Isabella Tamahori

Isabella is 16 years old and has been dancing since the age of 3, training in jazz, lyrical, contemporary, and as part of the Diamonds performance group. Her favourite styles, lyrical and jazz, allow her to showcase her strengths in stage presence and choreography. For Isabella, dance is as much about the friendships she's built as it is about performing on stage. This year, she's excited to perform a duo with Jessie and her own solo. She is so excited to share her talents with everyone and have fun with her teammates on stage.



Karien Schutte (14)

At 14 years old, Karien has already been dancing for a full decade – starting when she was just 4! Over the years, she’s trained in contemporary, lyrical, tap, jazz, and ballet, and is a member of our senior performance group named Dimond’s. At the moment, she focuses on the Dimonds performance group, jazz, and lyrical. Lyrical has Karien’s heart because it allows her to express emotions, tell a story, and bring the audience on a journey through movement. She loves the thrill of showcasing her hard work on stage and the magic of sharing those moments with her dance friends. For her, dance isn’t just steps and music – it’s laughter in the studio, the bond of a team, and the memories that last long after the curtain closes. This year, Karien is beyond excited to hit the stage at Awaken! She’s ready to light up the spotlight, celebrate her love of dance, and share her passion with everyone in the audience.



Madison Vuletich (14)

Lyrical - The winner takes it all - Choreographer - Madison Vuletich

Meet Madison, a 14-year-old dancer with a decade of passion for dance, having started at age four. She has explored various styles– tap, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, and ballet–but ballet and lyrical are where she feels most at home. Madison also enjoys sharing her passion with younger dancers, assisting in beginner jazz and ballet classes. She is excited to be part of Awaken and perform alongside her friends in the Diamonds performance group, and she can’t wait to share her love of dance with the audience.



Mia Schutte (16)

Jazz - I’d rather go blind - Choreographer - Holly Duder-Joy

Mia Schutte is a 16-year-old Year 12 student who has been dancing at WADPA since she was five. Ballet has always held a special place in her heart but loves many other styles of dance. Over the years, her love for dance has only grown stronger and she is honoured to have received a nomination for PACANZ later this year. She is incredibly passionate about performing and loves the feeling of being on stage, sharing what she loves with others. Mia also enjoys being part of a team and values the support, encouragement, and friendships that come with dancing together. She’s really looking forward to performing at Awaken!!.



Peyton Seymour (16)

Lyrical - A drop in the ocean - Choreographer - Peyton Seymour

Peyton is 16 years old and has been dancing for over 10 years. She's trained in jazz, ballet, tap, contemporary, and lyrical, but lyrical and contemporary are where she feels most connected. Dance has always been a huge part of her life, and she especially loves sharing that passion with younger dancers. Teaching little ones is something she truly enjoys—helping them learn and grow brings her so much happiness. Peyton is excited to be performing in Awaken this year and looks forward to bringing her love for storytelling through movement to the stage. She's grateful for every opportunity to dance and perform with her team!



Sienna Renwick (15)

Lyrical - Rescue - Choreographer - Asha Huddleston

Sienna Renwick is a 15-year-old dancer who began her dance journey at WADPA in 2018. Over the years, she has trained in a wide variety of styles including ballet, jazz, lyrical, tap, contemporary, musical theatre, and acro. In 2021, Sienna joined WADPA's Classical Competition Team, and the following year became a member of the General Performance Group. She is now in her third year performing solos, where she loves expressing her passion on stage. Alongside her own training and performances, Sienna has discovered a passion for teaching. She currently assists with the Jades and Pearls Mini Performance Groups, where she loves sharing her knowledge and inspiring younger dancers.



Maya Raven (17)

Lyrical - Liability - Choreographer - Maya Raven

At 16, Maya began her dance journey at WADPA 4 years ago taking lyrical. She has since expanded to include contemporary, jazz, and performance group – each style inspiring her in new ways. For Maya, dance is about connection. She loves learning new choreography and styles, pushing herself to grow, and building friendships with others who share her passion. This year, Maya is especially excited to perform a lyrical solo for the first time as part of Awaken.

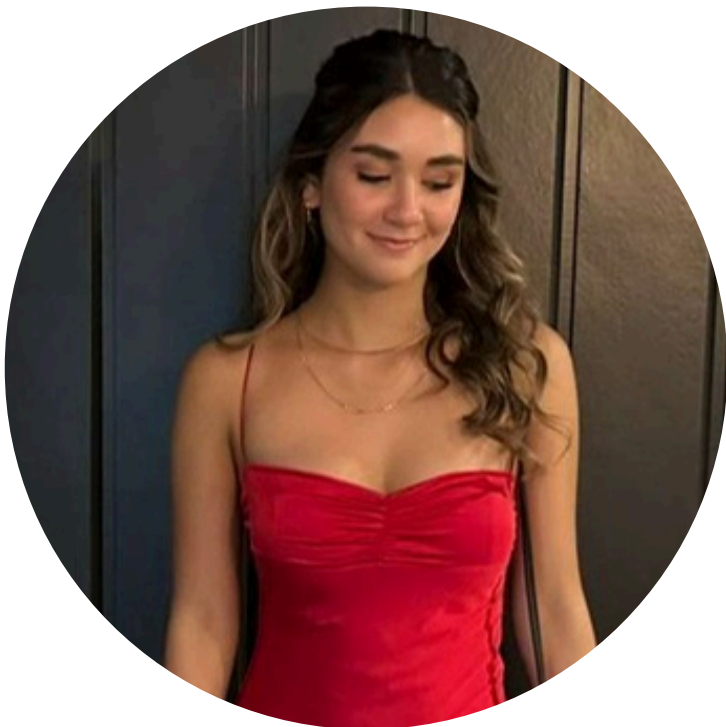


Trinity Briden-Jones (17)

Lyrical - Bound to you - Choreographer - Holly Duder-Joy

Trinity has been part of the WADPA family for as long as she can remember, starting ballet at just five years old before expanding into many different styles. By eight, she joined the Performance Group and began competing in solos, sparking her love for the stage. She has since received PACANZ solo nominations in lyrical and jazz (2023) and ballet (2024).

Alongside her own training, Trinity enjoys teaching younger students, guiding them through exams and shows, and sharing the joy of dance with the next generation. For her, WADPA is more than a studio – it's family. She is thrilled to perform in Awaken and share her passion with the audience.



Zara Matthews (17)

Lyrical - I'm not the only one - Choreographer - Zara matthews

Zara is a 16 year old dancer with 11 years of experience at WADPA where she has trained specifically in contemporary and jazz. This year, she's excited to explore a new style, lyrical, and perform a solo. Zara cherishes her time at WADPA, appreciating all the opportunities it provides and the supportive community plus strong friendships she's formed along the way. She looks forward to sharing her passion for dance with everyone and hopes to see you there.



Rebekah Kenwright (17)

Jazz - Maneater- Choreographer - Natalia Bates

Bekah began dancing at just 3 years old and has been passionate about it ever since. Over the years, she has explored a variety of styles, enjoying many along the way, with a special love for jazz and lyrical. However, it's tap that has always been her favourite, where she feels most at home bringing rhythm and energy to the stage. Dance has given Bekah confidence, creativity, and lifelong friendships, and she treasures the joy it brings both inside the studio and in performance. She is incredibly excited to hit the stage for Awaken and share her love of dance with the audience.



Jessie Agnew (17)

Lyrical - Pray - Choreographer - Holly Duder-Joy

Jessie started dancing when she was 6 and then joined WADPA when she was 12 and started off with just Jazz and Lyrical. Jessie is now 17 and also does contemporary and performance group as well. Some of Jessie's favorite things about dancing at WADPA are the connections and friendships that you make along the way, competing and performing on stage with her group, travelling to PACANZ and performing her lyrical solo as it is her favorite style of dance. Jessie is excited to be performing in this show as it is her final year at WADPA so this is another chance to be able to get on stage and perform her solo and dance with her team and showcase the hard work we all put in before the end of the year.

Special guests: Yvy Dance

Salsa & Bachata

Founded in 2021 by Tatum Tyslic, Yvy.DANCE was created to share her love for Latin dance and culture. For Awaken, Tatum and Kat will perform a dynamic duo, blending the rhythms and styles of Salsa and Bachata.

Kat trained at Excel School of Performing Arts in Auckland, studying jazz, contemporary, and hip hop. She began musical theatre in 2021 and has since performed in Legally Blonde, West Side Story, Seussical, and is currently in the cast of Elf the Musical. Tatum has been immersed in the Latin dance world for over 25 years, with a deep understanding of its cultural roots. She has competed and performed at events such as the NZ Latin Nationals and Salsa Congress, achieving a 1st place title with her dance team.

Special Guests: Rhythm & Spice

Jazz (heels) - Toxic - Choreographer - Amanda Smith

Rhythm & Spice is a dynamic heels dance collective made up of dancers from all walks of life, with training backgrounds ranging from hip hop to ballet. Together, they create performances that celebrate confidence, connection, and unapologetic feminine energy. Known for their bold style and empowering stage presence, Rhythm & Spice brings a unique blend of strength, artistry, and sass to every performance – leaving audiences inspired and entertained.





Special Guests: Emeralds PG

Lyrical - I will wait - Choreographer - Asha Huddleston

Contemporary - Flowers in May - Choreographer - Asha Huddleston

The Emeralds are a talented group of young dancers, many of whom have been dancing together for most of their lives. Known for their passion, teamwork, and love of dance, they bring energy and commitment to every performance.

For Awaken, the Emeralds will perform two beautiful routines – jazz and lyrical – choreographed by their teacher, Asha, who is also performing with the Diamonds in both group pieces and her own solo.

Thank You

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported Awaken this year — from our wonderful guest performers to our incredible Senior Diamonds Performance Team.

Your passion, talent, and energy have made this showcase truly unforgettable.

We can't wait to welcome you back next year for our next Senior Showcase!