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Touch Compass Newsletter ✨

Inside this week's update!

We're making noise at

Undercover Artist Festival

Alisha McLennan Marler premieres WHITE NOISE at Undercover Artist Festival!



This past week Alisha shared her work WHITE NOISE which explored the concept of hearing and being heard, being seen and unseen, and the agency to craft our own narrative. WHITE NOISE turns the tables of perception onto the audience – inviting them to reflect on the preconceptions that Alisha is so often confronted with as she moves through the world. The lens of motherhood brings the reciprocal and constant interplay of parent and child into the feedback loop. Intimate experiences of parenthood

intermingle with unapologetic social rebellion.

ID: Alisha wearing a black costume against a black background looks directly at you, her blonde hair cascading over either side of her face, framing an intense stare full of determination. She wraps her arms around herself gripping each shoulder tightly.

Congratulations Alisha and her fabulous WHITE NOISE whanau of artists and creators!

[WHITE NOISE World Premiere review HERE](#)

#YesToAccessNZ

Our campaign against exclusion



[Access is a Right, Not an Invite](#)

Small words, big change

[#YesToAccessNZ](#)

“Inclusion” keeps us outside, waiting to be invited in. It keeps the power with those who decide whether or not to invite Deaf and Disabled people in.

Access is different.

Access is a right, not an invite.

Access means: Building without barriers from the start. We are part of the design from day one. It is the foundation, not the add-on

Check out our **launch video below** to hear from artist Alisha McLennan Marler on:

“What does Access mean to you?”



Above: A video link to view the #YesToAccessNZ campaign launch video. The launch video combines video imagery, voiceover and is close-captioned.

The #YesToAccessNZ Challenge

On 3 December International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we're asking you to try something bold:

Swap every use of *inclusion* or *inclusive* (when we are talking about people) for **access** or **accessible**

YES!

It's that simple.

WHY?

It's more than a language fix, it's a mindset shift.

Maybe it sticks. Maybe it doesn't. Try it, you'll notice the difference!

 Words shape worlds.

Join us. Tell us. What does Access mean to you?

Share your words, your stories, your moments of change using the hashtag:

 **#YesToAccessNZ**

Together, let's move beyond inclusion. Let's talk Access.

Let's build a truly accessible Aotearoa for all.

[#YesToAccessNZ webpage here](#)



Rangatahi reaching higher | Next-gen arts development

Our work with young aspirant artists has really taken off this year and our leadership team have lent their incredible artistic prowess to power the next gen artists. Rodney's been partnering with Alisha McLennan Marler and Julie van Renen to support advancing our young people and set them up for future careers in the creative industry.

Enhanced by dance the team revels in supporting our ambitious disabled rangatahi to grow their skills.

The team are workshopping with their next-gen stars this week to create a new piece for this year's upcoming Interact Festival.

ID: A photo collage of Rodney Bell, tangata whaikaha Māori Artistic Director dancer, wheelchair user, as he works with Artistic Director and Rangatahi programme co-lead Alisha and programme co-lead Julie to support Deaf and Disabled rangatahi skills development in performance.



Catch us at Interact 2025!

We're saying yes to Access by bringing Touch Compass programme work to Interact Festival 2025. Not one day, or even two days, but on ALL THREE DAYS.

What will you get to check out?

1. **A Pasifika-led piece from Lusi Faiva**

On: Wednesday 22 October: 11.10am

2. **A kind of 2-for-1** with both our partner Arohanui School programme and our new Rangatahi development programme

On: Thursday 23 October: 10.55am

3. **Our community class contemporary dance** programme On: Friday 24 October: 1.00pm

AT THE FESTIVAL: Apart from us you'll be part of a vibrant, inspiring, and FREE event! Performances, workshops and more.

22 Oct - 24 Oct; 10am - 2pm

Includes so many performers, artists, film-makers and creative workshops. Start organising your group to visit Auckland's biggest festival for people with disabilities now!

ID: A poster image advertising the Interact Disability Arts Festival showing the dates October 22-24, 10am-2pm and the location Corbans Estate Arts Centre, Henderson. The poster captures the theme of the festival "Free Spirit" showing a central moving figure surrounded by colourful clouds and colourful bird silhouettes.

Say YES to Access: Donate Today!

Make dreams a reality!

Believe in a future where professional disabled artists and the next generation don't just participate, they lead.

Right now, your donation can help us continue to create world-class, disability-led work that inspires the next generation not just to dream, but to do.

By supporting our artists and development programmes, you're fuelling a creative ecosystem where emerging talent takes the spotlight and belongs there.

Make change happen. By backing excellence, creating pathways, and reimagining possible.

Donate today and help us make dreams a reality, shape a future led by lived experience!

[👉 Our Give-a-Little link – DONATE HERE NOW](#)

All donations over \$5.00 are tax-deductible.

Touch Compass Dance Trust is a registered charitable trust and donee organisation.
Charities Services #CC23088

DONATE right here today!

The banner features four logos on a black background. At the top left is the Creative NZ logo, which includes a treble clef icon and the text 'creative nZ' in a serif font, with 'ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA' written below it. To the right of this is the text 'Ngā Kaitautoko Matua o' and a circular logo for 'Touch Compass'. At the bottom left is the 'FOUNDATION NORTH' logo, featuring a circular graphic and the text 'Pūtea Hāpai Oranga Funding to Enhance Lives'. At the bottom right is the 'Auckland Council' logo, featuring a stylized tree icon and the text 'Te Kaunihera O Tāmaki Makaurau'.

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