

Auckland Writers Festival
Waituhi o Tāmaki - Aotea Centre
13 - 18 May 2025.

Friday 9 May 6:00-8:00PM

STREETSIDE: BRITOMART



FREE!



See what else is on!



Proudly sponsored by:

BRITOMART

Design concept and illustration by Jennifer Cheuk

WHAT IS IT? STREETSIDE IS OUR SURPRISING, HILARIOUS, PROFOUND AND A LITTLE BIT WILD FRINGE EVENING! FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY, WRITERS, ARTISTS AND MUSICIANS TAKE TO THE STREETS OF BRITOMART FOR AN EXTRAVAGANZA OF CREATIVE SHENANIGANS.

HOW DOES IT WORK? BITE-SIZED PANELS, PERFORMANCES AND DROP-IN CREATIVE KAUPAPA ARE SCATTERED ACROSS BESPOKE LOCATIONS FROM 6:00-8:00PM. NO TICKET OR REGISTRATION REQUIRED - JUST TURN UP AND ENJOY THE RIDE!

WHO IS IT FOR? STREETSIDE IS FOR EVERYONE! WHETHER YOU'RE A READER, WRITER, BOTH OR NEITHER.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED AND GET READY TO EXPERIENCE A FREE NIGHT OF LITERARY FUN.

THE PROGRAMME

BOOK (FIGHT) CLUB

Takutai Square

Back by popular demand, former WWF wrestling superstar **El Jaguar** will transform Takutai Square into a giant literary wrestling ring. Eight randomly selected books enter the Literati ThunderDome... and only one leaves. In this hilarious street performance, he brings together his two deepest loves: books & fights.

WHERE IS THE LOVE?

Hayman Building Lobby

Creating within a community can be both tender and radical. Join zine-maker, writer and activist **Taulofa Totua** in a gentle zine-making workshop. Together, you'll explore the softness that can be found in the cityscapes. Drop in throughout the evening to take part. All materials provided.

TYPEWRITER POETS AND THE GREAT POETRY EXCHANGE

STREETSIDE HUB @ Takutai Square

Give our street typewriter poets a word, prompt or mood, and take away a personalised poem written just for you! Or grab a pen and add your own to the great poetry exchange.

NAVIGATING WĀHINETANGA

Valet Parking - Opposite Takutai Square

Wāhine storytellers, equipped and empowered, are a force to be reckoned with. Join facilitators **Hariata Makiha**, **Tamzin Naicker** and **Te Kōwhai Huia** from Te Karanga Charitable Trust Wāhine Navigators in this dynamic session that weaves together talanoa, performance and prompts. Stay for as little or as long as you like!

NEW POETS ON THE BLOCK

Daily Bread

What better way to start STREETSIDE than with the freshest voices on the block? Join **Anne Kennedy** in conversation with AUP New Poets 11: **J.A. Villi**, **Xiaole Zhan**, and **Margo Montes de Oca** as they discuss their debut collections and what it means to be 'fresh' in 2025. Stay to hear readings from each poet.

FRESH FRUIT

Daily Bread

Writing across form, shape and colour, join fresh Āporo Press authors **Laura Vincent** and **Sloane Hong** as they discuss the synergies in their new works: *Hoods Landing and Marrow & Other Stories*. Stay to hear readings from each writer.

STREETSIDE: BRITOMART

TOIKUPU HEI KAPO WHETŪ POETRY TO CATCH THE STARS

Rocketman

Slam Champion **Matariki Bennett** brings together the city's top spoken word artists and turns Rocketman into a dynamic beat poetry lounge for the evening. Each performer's work has taken them to new heights, and each are poised to perform 3 outstanding pieces, with DJ **Jack Glacier** providing the beats between, MC'd by **Ken Arkind**.

PEOPLE POWER:

A wero from *Amnesty International*

STREETSIDE HUB @ Takutai Square

What does freedom of expression mean to you? What's your right to write? Check out the discussion prompts and interactive QR codes from Amnesty International in Takutai Square and add your voice and thoughts.

STORIES START HERE

Allbirds

The story you end up telling can be worlds away from the one you started with... Using the AWF25 theme of 'Stories Start Here' as their prompt, four great writers line up to tell us how their books began, and their own plot twists that brought them to their finished work.

BRITOMART COCKTAIL HOUR

STREETSIDE HUB @ Takutai Square

The Britomart Cocktail Cart will be serving free, alcohol-free Seedlip cocktails in Takutai Square from 5-8.30pm, with tunes throughout the night from DJ **Fraze**, back for his second STREETSIDE stint.

LAMPLIGHT BOOKS POP-UP

Allbirds

Loved one of tonight's performances or panels? Support the artists by buying books at the Lamplight Books pop-up at Allbirds & Friends.

ACROSS WHENUA AND FORM

Daily Bread

Khadro Mohamed wowed the '23 Ockham Poetry judges with *We're All Made of Lightning*. She joins **Ruby Macomber** to kōrero about her highly-anticipated first novel: *Before the Winter Ends*, and to discuss writing across whenua and form.