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Songs of the Sea's Success Overseas ...

Capital E National Theatre for Children's much-loved production of **Songs of the Sea** has returned to New Zealand after a highly-successful season at the Arts Centre, Melbourne, Australia as part of the Chookas Kids Festival.

Written by Capital E National Theatre for Children's Artistic Director, Peter Wilson and directed by Chapman Tripp Theatre Award winner (Best New Director), Lyndee Jane Rutherford, this mythical and enchanting story reveals where all the fish in the sea came from.

In a kaleidoscope of Maori and English song, dance, puppets and masks, **Songs of the Sea** (Nga Waiata Moana) audiences can float in a starry sky and dive into a great underwater world as music and stage wizardry transform the stage into a magical space. Australian children embraced the bicultural telling of this tale and called out the Te Reo words enthusiastically during the performances.

Over the week season, audience numbers were 2726, with 1251 children and their families attending the public performances during the weekend.

"This season builds on our recent tours across the ditch, which included a season at the Sydney Opera House last year. Producers and audiences in Australia are very much interested in hearing the unique stories we have to tell, and are recognizing the quality of New Zealand theatrical productions" says National theatre for Children General Manager Stephen Blackburn.

Capital E is a Wellington Museums Trust Facility. The Capital E National Theatre for Children receives major funding support from Creative New Zealand.

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