

Kieran Monaghan
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Profile:

Kieran Monaghan is a self taught multi-instrumentalist, writer, recording artist and sound engineer based in Te Whanganui-A-Tara. He is a prolific creative and organiser, with an irrepressible DIY ethic, known for his experimental and innovative approach to performance and sound making.

Experience:

- Multi-instrumentalist and sound maker: Drums, percussion, bass, guitar, electronics, voice with extensive experience across multiple genres
- Composer and lyricist
- Session musician
- Live, improvised sound for experimental theatre productions
- Improviser and collaborator
- Record label co-founder
- Tour, festival and event organiser
- Recording artist and engineer
- Graphic Designer
- Writer and artist

Projects and Performance Groups:

- vegetable.machine.animal - founder and performer, interspecies trio (2022-current)
- mr sterile - solo, low-fi noise rock - multiple instruments, voice, found sounds (1997-current)
- mr sterile Assembly - founder, performer, outsider math rock punk band (2001-2024)
- Ditzzy Squall - drummer, math rock band (2002 - 2007)
- Squidboat - solo guitar project (2019 - ongoing)
- SMEs-21: Sound art collaboration with Dr Emit Snakebeings - (Fiji and Taiwan) (2021)
- Kieran Monaghan - solo performance and experimental sonic collaborations - drummer, multiple instruments, voice, found sounds (ongoing)
- sSendam Rawkustra - mental health music ensemble - co-founder - (2007 - ongoing)
- Alan Brunton and the Free Word Band: the poetry of A Brunton - (1996 - 1998)
- Loosehead - founder (1991 - 2001)
- Morepork (1999 - 2000)
- Moral Fibre (1988 - 1991)

Indicators of Peer Esteem [awards/prizes]:

- Recipient of CNZ [Creative Fellowship Funding](#), 2025
- The album GUEST released on Audio Foundation Records, 2025
- Appointed Visiting Scholar at Te Kōkī/NZSM, 2025
- [Creative New Zealand/NZSM/Toi Pōneke Sonic Artist-in-Residence](#), 2024
- [Mundane Utopia](#) - Sound installation, Audio Foundation, 13 June- 14 July, 2024
- Artist-in-Residence, Driving Creek Railway, Coromandel, 4 weeks, November 2023
- [Artist-in-Residence](#), Audio Foundation, Auckland. 30 July- 6 August 2023
- Invited to contribute on David Long recording [I'll Hum the First Few Bars](#), 2022
- Audio Culture, Iwi Waiata: [10 Great New Zealand Rhythm Section](#) by Nick Bollinger May 2022
- [Commision from Pyramid Club](#), sound work and essay, 2020
- P-Club, Pyramid Club artist talk, 2019
- "Creating culture" - presentation at the International Conference on Thinking, 2013
- Profiles in book Erewhon Calling, Experimental Sound in New Zealand. 2012
- Interviewed for Oral Histories Project, Audio Foundation, 2010
- CNZ Recording Grant, 2010
- Whyt, the Show: Dunedin Fringe Festival, Best Music and Best Set Design awards, 2008

Publications:

- SOUNDBITTEN, Kieran Monaghan, 2025
- Sound Off, mr sterile Assembly, 2001 - 2024
- Whyt, mr sterile Assembly, 2008

Residencies:

- Creative New Zealand/NZSM/Toi Pōneke Sonic Artist-in-Residence, Wellington, 12 Weeks, Sept -Dec 2024
- Driving Creek Railways, Coromandel, One month, November 2023
- Audio Foundation, Auckland, One week, May 2023

Exhibitions:

- [GUEST](#), Toi Pōneke Art Centre, June 2025
- [Use Your Words](#), Te Atamira Arts and Cultural Centre, Queenstown, Dec 24- Mar 2025
- [Mundane Utopia](#), Audio Foundation, Auckland, June 2024
- [No Evidence of the Future](#), Pyramid Club, Wellington, August, 2024

Presentations:

- 27 Nov 2025, [國立臺南藝術大學 民族音樂學研究所 - Graduate Institute of Ethnomusicology, National Tainan National University of the Arts, Tainan, Taiwan](#)
- 12 Sept 2025, School of Biological Sciences, Victoria University, Te Whanganui-a-Tara
- 3 Sept 2025, Composer Series, Te Kōkī/NZSM, Victoria University, Te Whanganui-a-Tara

Interviews:

- [What music can we make together with machines, plants, and fungi?!](#), vegetable.machine.animal on RNZ, July 2025
- [Strange Intelligences Lab](#), vegetable.machine.animal interview with Awhiworld, 2023
- [Under The Radar](#), Kieran Monaghan discussing sSendam Rawkustra, 2013
- [Perfect Sound Forever](#) [USA], discussing mr sterile Assembly, 2010

Festivals:

vegetable.machine.animal:

- Jogja Noise Bombing, 2024
- Malang Noise Festival, 2024
- Malang Sub-Noise Fest, 2024
- Compassionfest, Island Bay, Wellington, 2023

mr sterile Assembly:

- Boskovice, Czechia, 2019
- She Shreds, Wellington Museum, Te Whanganui-a-Tara 2019
- Tora! Tora! Tora! Festival 2016
- Remember the Peacemakers, Te Whanganui-a-Tara, 2015
- Up the Punks, 35 years of punk in the capital, Te Whanganui-a-Tara, 2012
- Hamilton Fringe Festival, 2012
- Fredstock, Te Whanganui-a-Tara, 2010
- Borderline Festival, 2009
- Om the Space, 2008
- Whyt, Dunedin Fringe Festival 2008
- Meatwaters noise festival (2001-2004)

International Tours:

vegetable.machine.animal

- Taiwan (7 shows) 2025
- Java (6 shows) 2024

mr sterile Assembly:

- OrangeTime tour (33 shows) in Czech, UK, Thailand, Malaysia, Java, China, South Korea, and Japan, 2019
- HELLo tour (7 shows) in Tokyo and Seoul, 2018
- It's All Over tour (22 shows) in China, Italy, UK, Finland, Czech, Malaysia and Singapore, 2016
- London plus tour (6 shows) in London and Czech, 2014
- Southeast Asia tour #2 (12 shows) Malaysia, Java, Singapore 2011
- Southeast Asia tour #1 (11 shows) Malaysia, Java, Singapore, 2007
- Central Europe tour (8 shows) Czech, Slovakia, Poland, 2006

Discography (albums):

vegetable.machine.animal:

- GUEST, 2025
- My Daughter the Spider, 2023

mr sterile Assembly:

- Goodbye, 2023
- HELLo, 2023
- Run Peter Run, 2022
- Hūrrē, 2020
- It's All Over, 2015
- Transit, 2011
- Bug my Ride, 2009
- 15 Minute Crib, 2006
- Hulagu, 2004

mr sterile:

- Never Mind the Threat, Here's the Distraction, 2022
- Speaking in Dungs, 2022
- You are not a Fire, 2021
- Candor and Reason in Chat, 2021
- Suppository [remastered - originally released 1998], 2020
- The Rejects Usually Respect your Defects, 2019
- Haters, Wreckers, and Other Friends, 2018
- The General Pathetic, 2017
- Setting Fire to Bob, 2011
- Get Fucked Wellington!!!, 2004
- Pregnant Boy, 2004
- Hanging out the Washing, 1999

mr sterile et al

- Slip: A Bogan-Opera-Not in 3 parts, 2022
- Intl. Welder et al, 2020

SquidBoat:

- The trees are alive but not as animals are alive, 2019

Kieran Monaghan:

- History Wringing, 2002

Ditzy Squall:

- Skirt, 2004

SMEs-21:

- Ba-Umf, 2021
- Open to Suggestion, 2021

sSendam Rawkustra:

- Who's Mad: Greatest Hits, 2013

Alan Brunton and the Free Word Band:

- 33 Perfumes of Pleasure, 1997