



HUI

MITCH TAWHI THOMAS

AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND



PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN MCDERMOTT

AN AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL PRODUCTION

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH PLAYMARKET NZ

PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH SILO

**AUCKLAND
ARTS
FESTIVAL**

FREE PROGRAMME

**POST-SHOW TALK,
THU 21 MAR**

9.00PM, Q, Rangatira

HUI

MITCH TAWHI THOMAS

RANGATIRA, Q THEATRE

Saturday 16 March to Tuesday 19 March, 6.30pm

Thursday 21 March to Saturday 23 March, 7.30pm

FROM AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL

Tihei Mauri ora! Nei rā nga mihi a te Ahurei Toi o Tōmaki Makaurau. Nau mai, haere mai!

Welcome to Auckland Arts Festival 2013 and the world premiere of *HUI* written by Mitch Tawhi Thomas and directed by Rachel House.

This is a momentous production and one that as Artistic Director, I knew I wanted to programme from the moment Mitch and Rachel pitched the idea to me. And a few months later when I shed a few tears at a small showing of one scene, I knew that this was a work that could sit at the heart of the 2013 Arts Festival. It's story is of today, and challenges us to think and feel.

A big thanks to Mitch and Rachel for bringing their work to us, and to all the creative and performing team who have brought *HUI* to life.

Arohanui to you all. Carla

FROM THE WRITER—MITCH TAWHI THOMAS

This play is for fathers we forgave a long time ago but never see, it is for brothers we no longer talk to but secretly we miss, it is for any mother that never had the strength to stick around, it is for the unknown, unseen future and it is for all those that stay at home and wait.

A huge thanks to David Geary for helping me get this started way back, and of course to my creative whanau, Rachel, Sean and Jen.

CORE FUNDERS



GOLD SPONSORS

COLENSOBBDO



FROM THE DIRECTOR—RACHEL HOUSE

It's been over 10 years since I was lucky enough to work on Mitch Tawhi Thomas's play *Have Car will Travel*. Years later we still have the same creative team with a few new exciting touches — the wonderful Emma Ransley and Leon Radjokovic — who have given a wonderful depth and dimension to the vision. Sean, Jen and Mitch are old comrades and it's been a satisfying and familiar collaboration.

The cast of *Hui* have been equally generous in the team creation — the rehearsal room has been a genuine pleasure. Everyone has searched for the integrity of these characters and I've been bowled over by the fearlessness in these actors' explorations.

A very special thank you to Cameron Rhodes who has been a partner in arms and has brought his phenomenal vocal training skills to the work as well as his strong directing experience.

Thank you to the Silo crew, a beautiful bunch of people. Jess our line producer, Lauryn our awesome stage manager and Josh the forward-thinking driver.

Thank you to everyone at the Auckland Arts Festival for supporting local work and allowing us to see ourselves — too many names to mention.

This is *Hui*, a world I grew up around and lived amongst and observed from within and outside, like Mitch. He presents the familiar, the bold, the tragic, the beautiful, the tortured: the people from our land. You will recognise some too.

NAZREEN TENGGU Cassie Baker

PITA WAHIE Xavier Horan

TAMATI WAHIE Vinnie Bennett

GEORGE WAHIE Tola Newbery

TINA WAHIE Stephen Butterworth

BOB WAHIE Maaka Pepene

SET Sean Coyle

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT Josh Hyman, Rob Macdonald

COSTUME Emma Ransley

STAGE MANAGER Lauryn Wati

LIGHTING Jennifer Lal

OPERATOR Josh Bond

SOUND Leon Radjokovic

PROPS MASTER Becs Ehlers

LINE PRODUCER Jessica Smith for Silo Theatre

SET CONSTRUCTION 2Construct, Grant Hall and Peter Daube

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR & VOICE COACH
Cameron Rhodes

SET PRINTING OMNIGRAPHICS

KAUMATUA Taiaha and Sharon Hawke

MAJOR GRANTS



BIOGRAPHIES

MITCH TAWHI THOMAS

Mitch Tawhi Thomas was born in Taranaki and spent his childhood in Stratford. His whanau hail from Ngati Maniapoto and the Hutt Valley. In 2002 Mitch received the Bruce Mason Award and in 2012 he received the Adam NZ Play Award for *Hui*.

RACHEL HOUSE

Ngai Tahu and Ngati Mutunga

Rachel House is an award winning theatre performer and director with an increasing profile in film. She has been involved in films such as *Boy, Eagle vs Shark* and *Whale Rider* and has played pivotal roles in the premiere of some of New Zealand classic theatre such as *Woman Far Walking*. In 2012 she directed the reo Māori version of Shakespeare's *Titus and Cressida* which played to critical acclaim at the Globe Theatre in London.

SEAN COYLE

Sean has been a theatre designer and arts educator for the past 20 years. He initially trained at Toi Whakaari and has since completed a Graduate Diploma in Theatre Design from the Victorian College of the Arts Melbourne and a Masters in Art and Design from AUT. Some design credits include *Have Car Will Travel* for Taki Rua Theatre and *Shopping and F***ing* and *The Mercy Seat* for Silo Theatre.

JENNIFER LAL

Jennifer is a five time recipient of the Chapman Tripp Lighting Designer of the Year award — including Mitch's *Have Car Will Travel*. She worked on *Atamira* a theatre/television collaboration with five Māori theatre scripts being broadcast on MTS. Most recently she has been around the country designing *Englightenment* for Centrepoint Theatre, *In the Next Room* for the Fortune Theatre, the sold out Beatgirls *Spector* at Circa, the critically acclaimed *The Pride* for Silo Theatre and recently *Into the Uncanny Valley* the last STAB show at the old BATS. She has had the privilege of lighting most of Mitch's plays.

EMMA RANSLEY

Emma Ransley is an Auckland-based costume designer who graduated in 2009 from Massey University and Toi Whakaari: NZ Drama School. During and after university, Emma has worked with many of New Zealand's top designers on film and television projects.

LEON RADOJKOVIC

Nga Puhi

Leon Radojkovic is an Auckland-based musician and composer. He plays in bands and writes music for film, theatre and for fun. He is the creator of *LIVE LIVE CINEMA: Carnival of Souls* which has toured

Aotearoa, Australia and recently made its European debut. He was also the Musical Director/Piano Smasher for Silo's 2012 production *BREL*.

CAMERON RHODES

Cameron is a graduate of Toi Whakaari NZ Drama School, and is of Ngai Tahu descent. He has appeared in over 80 productions, including *Carnival of Souls* for the Auckland Arts Festival, which last year toured to Sydney, Perth and Frankfurt. Silo shows include *Tartuffe* and *Assassins*, ATC includes *Mary Stuart* and *She Stoops To Conquer*. TV: *Agent Anna*, *The Banker*, *The Escorts* and *The \$18 Million*. Film: *Romeo and Juliet A Love Song*, *Mr Pip*, *Housebound*. Recent directing work: *Elevator* for the Auckland Fringe and *Where Are You My Only One* at The Basement. Cameron is on the board of NZ Actor's Equity and The Actors Program.

STEPHEN BUTTERWORTH

Ngati Porou

Stephen graduated from Toi Whakaari in 1994. He has been working as an professional actor/performer for more than 25 years . It has taken him from Australia to Japan and Hawaii with shows like *Waioira*, *West Side Story* and *Brain dead - the musical*.

Stephen feels extremely fortunate to be in a Mitch Tawhi Thomas play under the detailed direction of Rachel House.

TOLA NEWBERY

Tuhoe, Ngati Manunui

KO HIWI-O-TE-WERA ME KIHA NGA PAE MAUNGA.

KO HAUREPO KO WAINUI NGA KOAWA.

KO TE UMUROA TE MARAE.

KO TE-POHO-O-PARAHAKI TE TIPUNA WHARE.

KO MIHI-KI-TE-KAPUA TE WHAREKAI.

KO NGATI MANUNUI TE HAPU.

KO PARAKI TE TUPUNA.

Tae noa,

Ko Ngai Tuhoe .

'Si Recte Pertes'

"Give him a brick he'll play for hours"

- Lionel Newbery

XAVIER HORAN

Ngati Awa

Xavier's many theatre credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Māori Trailus and Gressida* and for film *Netherwood*, *Dean Spanley* and *Number 2*; and for television *Nga Reo Hou—When Sun and Moon Collide*, *Shortland Street*, *Korero Mai*, *Ride with the Devil*, and *The Market*.

VINNIE BENNETT

Ngati Porou, Kai Tahu, Nga Puhī

Vinnie was born and raised in Christchurch. He began acting at high school before joining the Aranui Theatre Academy in 2010 where he landed roles on the kids' television shows *What Now* and *The Erin Simpson Show*. Following the February earthquake Vinnie moved to Auckland to continue his work in the arts. This is his first major professional role in theatre.

CASSIE BAKER

Te Whanau a Apanui

Cassie is a graduate of NASDA (The National Academy of Singing and Dramatic Arts) where she studied singing, dancing and acting for 3 years. Upon graduating in 2007 with a Bachelors of Performing Arts-Musical Theatre, Cassie has worked all over New Zealand acting in theatre, musicals, touring children's productions and TV. Originally from Christchurch, Cassie made her theatre debut at the Court Theatre. She made the move to Auckland in 2011 and this is her first production for Silo. She feels incredibly privileged and excited to be a part of this project.

MAAKA PEPENE

Tuhoe

Maaka has been a professional practitioner in the performing arts industry for over 20 years appearing on stage, screen and television in NZ, Australia, South East Asia and the USA. He has worked for Taiao Dance Theatre, Auckland Dance Company, Douglas Wright, Touch Compass Dance Trust, Atamira Dance Company and was a founding member of Black Grace. Maaka is excited to be a part of the team bringing you this production of *Hui*.

AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR	Carla Van Zon
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	David Inns
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR	Mark Burlace
BUSINESS & FINANCE MANAGER	Shona Roberts
MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR	Arne Herrmann
PROGRAMME MANAGER MĀORI AND PACIFIC PROGRAMMES	Tama Waipara
PROGRAMME MANAGER	Dolina Wehipeihana

AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL THANKS

We'd like to thank the Board and Management of Silo Theatre, in particular, Artistic Director, Shane Boshier, Executive Director, Jessica Smith, Communications & Digital Content Manager, Tim Blake and Programme & Ticketing Coordinator, Philippa Neels. Taiaha Hawke, Sharon Hawke, Omnigraphics, iSITE Media, John McDermott, MAC, Pacific Island Performing Arts, Jo Kilgour, Paul Lim, Jarod Rawiri, Sophie Roberts, Murray Lynch, ATC, Philippa Campbell, Jenni Heka, Ludus Magnus, Sophie Roberts, Keira Howat, Karlos Drinkwater, Chris Molloy, Kat Wong, Renee Liang, Manaaki Productions, Matariki Development Festival & Tawata Productions.

A special thanks to the staff of Silo Theatre for working on *////* with us and to Creative New Zealand Toi Aotearoa and the ASB Trust for supporting all the New Zealand work in the Festival.

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AOTEAROA AT ITS BEST

I, GEORGE NEPIA

SATURDAY 16, SUNDAY 17 MARCH 5pm AND
MONDAY 18 MARCH, 6.30pm, Q LOFT
THURSDAY 21—FRIDAY 22 MARCH, 7pm
SATURDAY 23 MARCH, 1.30pm & 7pm
MANGERE ARTS CENTRE

WHAKA-ARIA MAI

FRIDAY 22 MARCH IN THE CONCERT
CHAMBER, 7.30pm

TĀ MOKO: BETWEEN THE LINES

BLUES BAR AOTEA CENTRE, FRIDAY 22,
SATURDAY 23 AND SUNDAY 24 MARCH,
10am to 3pm

MOKO: ATAMIRA DANCE COMPANY

SATURDAY 23 MARCH, Q LOFT, 6.30pm