

THE SAVAGE COLONISER SHOW

NATIONAL TOUR 2024

PART ONE

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND
FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS:
29 FEB - 3 MAR

PART TWO

WORD CHRISTCHURCH:
12 - 13 SEPT

TE TAIRĀWHITI ARTS FESTIVAL:
10 OCT



Produced by FCC and presented as part of the PANNZ (Performing Arts Network New Zealand) touring programme with support from Creative New Zealand.



FROM THE POET

I'm so thrilled to have *The Savage Coloniser Show* in my home city, Ōtautahi Christchurch, and Te Tairāwhiti. Many thanks to **WORD Festival** and **Te Tairāwhiti Arts Festival** for including it in their programmes. I wrote the show in Ōtautahi and it speaks directly to our past and our present.

The show is made from a number of poems from my last two books: *The Savage Coloniser Book* and *Big Fat Brown Bitch*.

I want to acknowledge the courage and determination of the cast, crew, director and producers who have brought *The Savage Coloniser* to the stage despite disapproval and threats we have received from senior members of our coalition government, conservative media and white supremacists. Who knew poetry could be so threatening to those in power!

***"Art should comfort the disturbed
and disturb the comfortable."***

Caesar A Cruz

If the show makes you feel uncomfortable, I encourage you to keep your mind open and ask why. And keep asking why.

la manuia
Tusiata Avia



Tusiata Avia (front) with Anapela Polata'ivao (left) and Victor Rodger (right). Photo by Raymond Sagapolutele

PERFORMERS AND CO-CURATORS

Stacey Leilua
Petmal Petelo
Joanna Mika-Toloa
Ilaisaane Green
Katalaina Polata'ivao-Saute
Mario Faumui



CREATIVE

WRITER Tusiata Avia (MNZM)
DIRECTOR Anapela Polata'ivao (ONZM)
FCC PRODUCER Victor Rodger (ONZM)
COMPANY PRODUCER Andrew Malmo
ASSISTANT PRODUCER / TOUR MANAGER Kasi Valu
STAGE MANAGER Chrissy Vaega
CHOREOGRAPHERS Tupua Tigafua and Mario Faumui
COMPOSER David Long
PRODUCTION DESIGNERS Bradley Gledhill and Rachel Marlow (Filament Eleven 11)
PRODUCTION MANAGER / SOUND OPERATOR Emily Hakaraia
LIGHTING OPERATOR Peter Davison
COSTUME DESIGN Elizabeth Whiting



FROM PANNZ

Following a sell-out season earlier this year at the **Aotearoa NZ Festival of The Arts**, it is fantastic to be presenting ***The Savage Coloniser Show*** in **Tusiata Avia's** hometown Ōtautahi and in Tairāwhiti on this second part of the **Performing Arts Network New Zealand** national tour.

PANNZ is delighted to have supported FCC and Tusiata's success of ***Wild Dogs Under My Skirt*** and to be working closely with the company again. The award-winning production of Tusiata's ***Wild Dogs Under My Skirt*** triumphantly presented a three-week New York season in 2020, a national tour with PANNZ, and more recently a two-week tour in Queensland and New South Wales, Australia. We believe ***The Savage Coloniser Show*** will have an equally profound reach and connection to audiences in the hands of these powerful creatives.

Shows like this are unique to Aotearoa. The perspective of our makers cannot be found anywhere else - so providing pathways for our words and voices to be heard is so rewarding.

Following this national tour ***The Savage Coloniser Show*** will be making its international debut at the **Seoul Performing Arts Festival 2024**.

It is such an honour to support creatives like **Anapela Polataivao** (Director), **Tusiata Avia** (Poet/Writer), and Executive Producer **Victor Rodger** to bring their works to you first and foremost, before they enthrall the world stage with their shows.

Ngā mihi nui,
Louise Gallagher
Chief Executive of PANNZ

The PANNZ Team (PHOTOGRAPHED 2023)

L to R: Lesley-Anne Carey, Candice de Villiers, Andrew Malmo, Amie Moffat, Jo Bond, Dolina Weihipehana, Louise Gallagher, Emily Hakaraia (absent: Kasi Valu and Tānemahuta Gray)



Special thanks and acknowledgement to

FROM FCC

Frustrated with the narrow spectrum of roles I saw many of my Pasifika peers being offered, I founded Pasifika theatre movement FCC in 2015 with three specific aims: to encourage the FLOW of energy; to CREATE platforms for Pasifika practitioners; and to CONNECT emerging performers with seasoned veterans.

Since its inception, FCC has produced a series of play readings by diverse writers up and down the motu as well as award winning productions of plays such as Tusiata Avia's *Wild Dogs Under My Skirt* and Katori Hall's *The Mountaintop*.

It is a great pleasure for FCC with the generous support of PANNZ to now bring Tusiata's powerful new play *The Savage Coloniser Show* to Te Tairāwhiti, and to Ōtautahi - the hometown for both myself and Tusiata; a city that has given both of us plenty of inspiration over the years.

I couldn't be prouder of this work. It embraces everything that FCC stands for and watching the maestra **Anapela Polata'ivao** skilfully bring Tusiata's wonderfully provocative text to life with an outstanding ensemble and creative team was an absolute pleasure.

So to paraphrase the late, great Bette Davis: fasten your seatbelts. It's going to be a night you won't easily forget.

Victor Rodger

(Executive Producer) ONZM



POEMS

1. **Blackening out the Vā (iii)**
2. **Blackening out the Vā (ii)**
3. **Savage Coloniser Pantoum**
4. **^The City Fathers**
5. **250th anniversary of James Cook's arrival in New Zealand**
6. **How to be in a room full of white people**
7. **The Pacific solution**
8. **Blackening out the Vā (i)**
9. **^Gauguin is not a paedophile**
10. ***The past is the past**
11. ***Big Fat Brown Bitch 23: She receives an election year visit**
12. **Massacre**
13. **Ten Eighty**
14. **Environmental sex**
15. **^^House**
16. ***She goes to the hospital**
17. **Ten Eighty**
18. ***The dark verses the light**
19. **Prayer**
20. **Fafswag spell (i)**

All poems from *The Savage Coloniser* Book except:

**Big Fat Brown Bitch*

^*Fale Aitu/ Spirit House*

^^unpublished poems

All books published by Te Herenga Waka University Press (formerly known as Victoria University Press) www.teherengawakapress.co.nz/



ENSEMBLE



Mario Faumui

(Tufuiopa, Alamagoto, Vaimoso, Fausaga Safata / Samoa) is a multi-dimensional artist whose work crosses many platforms including dance, theatre, digital, film and TV. In 2021 Mario directed his first drama with the short film *Teine Sa* - part of a Pacific anthology series for Prime Television and the International film festival circuit. Mario was nominated for 'Best Director' for his work on *The Panthers* TV series for TVNZ which won Best NZ Drama at the 2022 New Zealand Television Awards.

In theatre, Mario co-founded Fine Fatale theatre performance company in 2013 along with Amanaki Prescott-Faletau as a platform for the new-age performing artists to showcase their stories through dance. Festivals have included PRIDE (2018, 2014), Urbanesia (2015), TEMPO Dance Festival and most recently The Auckland Cabaret Festival with shows including *The Heels Are Alive* and *FEVER* working as a Creative Director, Choreographer and Writer. Mario's latest work as a choreographer is part of the Award-winning *Wild Dogs Under My Skirt* which toured across New Zealand and had a season at SoHo Playhouse, New York early 2020. He is currently touring as an actor in Tusiata Avia's *The Savage Coloniser Show* which premiered at the 2023 Auckland Arts Festival.



Ilaisaane Green

(Veitongo, Ma'ufanga / Tonga). From starring in the box office smash hit film *Red White and Brass*, Otago native Ilaisaane Green's credits include *The Savage Coloniser Show*, with its world premiere at the Auckland Arts Festival 2023, *Tropical Love Birds* and *The Commons* opposite *Downton Abbey's* Joanne Froggatt. For her role in the groundbreaking Tongan language web series *Brutal Lives*, she won Best Actress at the 2020 Sydney Web Festival and also Best Acting in the Narrative Series 2023. Ilaisaane is a graduate of Unitec's Bachelor of Performing and Screen Arts Majoring in Acting Degree. She has been a cast member of *Wild Dogs Under My Skirt* since 2018.



Stacey Leilua

(Fusi, Safotulafai / Mata'utu-Uta / Samoa / Waikato Tainui / Ngāti Te Ata / Aotearoa) is a graduate of Auckland's Unitec School of Performing and Screen Arts. She has been part of *Wild Dogs Under My Skirt* since it was re-imagined as an ensemble piece in 2016. Alongside Anapela, Stacey was one of the directors of South Auckland based theatre company, Kila Kokonut Krew. Pioneers in Pasifika Theatre in the 2000's, their acclaimed musical *The Factory* toured Australia and to the Edinburgh Festival in 2014. Stacey's other stage credits include *The Songmaker's Chair* and *Things That Matter* for Auckland Theatre Company.

She played the lead role of Ata Johnson (Dwayne Johnson's Mother) in the NBC Universal production, *Young Rock*. Her performance in the show's first season earned her a Hollywood Critics Association Award nomination for Best Actress in a Broadcast Network Series (Comedy).



Joanna Mika-Toloa

(Waikato Tainui / Aotearoa / Neiafu, Savai'i / Samoa) is a singer, actress, band manager, vocal coach, and school teacher all rolled into one. Mother of 3 children, with over 12 years of experience in theatre and screen, she has built a successful career in the Pasifika Arts scene of Aotearoa. Growing up in a musical family, the Mika sisters, Joanna was exposed to music from a very young age. She attributes her talent to her late father, Fetulima Mika. Joanna sees songwriting and musicals as her future and is dedicated to pursuing her passion for music. Working alongside great mentors has significantly impacted her life and career. Anapela Polata'ivao has been an influential figure in her journey as an actor and educator. Joanna has been able to hone her craft and develop her skills through her guidance and support.



Petmal Petelo is of Samoan descent, and her ancestral roots stem from the villages of Saleaula and Samatau. A graduate of the Pacific Institute of Performing Arts (2017), she has been involved in numerous productions with several independent companies both on and off stage since graduating. Petmal received the Outstanding Newcomer Award at the Auckland Theatre Awards in 2018. Petmal is an original member of the *Wild Dogs Under My Skirt* cast and crew, which toured New York in 2019. Petmal had the opportunity last year to work as Anapela's assistant and part of the ensemble for *Things That Matter* by Gary Henderson at the ASB Waterfront Theatre. She also made her TV screen acting debut on one of the episodes of *Teine Sā: The Ancient Ones* which premiered on Prime TV in 2021. Most recently she featured in the groundbreaking TV series, *The Boy, The Queen And Everything in Between* by Ramon Te Wake, currently streaming only in Aotearoa New Zealand on TVNZ+.



Katalaina Polata'ivao-Saute

(Vailoa Faleata, Fagae'e Safune / Samoa, Mutalau / Niue) Straight outta Rewa, South Auckland born and raised, Katalaina was cast during her first year outside of high school making her acting debut in the 2023 Auckland Arts Festival season of *The Savage Coloniser Show*.

CREATIVE



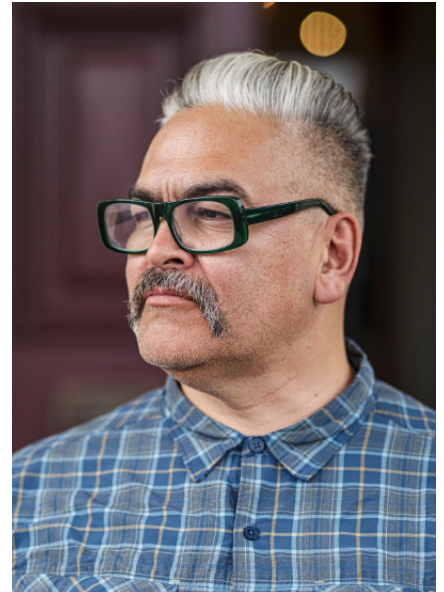
Tusiata Avia (WRITER)

One of Aranui's finest, Tusiata Avia crushed it with her first poetry collection, *Wild Dogs Under My Skirt*, which she toured around the world for several years as a one woman show. In 2020 she was named a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to poetry and arts and the following year became the first female Pasifika winner of the Ockham award for poetry with her fourth collection, *The Savage Coloniser Book*.



Anapela Polata'ivao (DIRECTOR)

Samoan-born Anapela Polata'ivao is from the villages of Vailoa ma Vaiusu in Upolu and Fagae'e Safune in Savai'i. Since graduating from Toi Whakaari in 2000, she and partner Vela Manusaute created the South Auckland theatre collective **Kila Kokonut Krew** which garnered them a New Generation Arts Laureate after producing the landmark Pasifika musical *The Factory – A Pacific Musical*. She gained international acclaim for her performance in the short film *Night Shift* (2012) and won Best Actress in the 2018 Wellington Theatre Awards for her role in Tusiata Avia's *Wild Dogs Under My Skirt*, which she also directed. Polata'ivao made history as the first Samoan woman to have directed a show off-Broadway when *Wild Dogs Under My Skirt* made its New York debut and was subsequently named the winner of the Fringe Encore Series at the SoHo Playhouse. In 2019, she staged her first original Samoan opera with opera superstars Sol3 Mio in South Auckland. Other film and TV credits include HBO's *Our Flag Means Death*, *One Thousand Ropes*, *The Justice of Bunny King*, *The Markets*. In 2024 Polata'ivao was named an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Pacific performing arts.



Victor Rodger (FCC PRODUCER)

Best known for turning his daddy issues into a cottage industry, Wainoni-born playwright Victor Rodger created the theatre entity FCC (Flow, Create, Connect) to give his Pasifika mates roles that placed them at the heart of the narrative. Celebrated for his hit play *Black Faggot*, he was named an Officer of the Order of New Zealand Merit in 2021 for services to theatre and Pacific arts.

Bradley Gledhill & Rachel Marlow

(PRODUCTION DESIGNERS)

One-time Lower Hutt local Rachel Marlow and North Shore native Bradley Gledhill are the co-founders of design company Filament Eleven 11 and create production designs – lighting / set / video – for live events and public experiences, both nationally and internationally. Individually, Marlow was the award-winning lighting designer for FCC's acclaimed production of *Wild Dogs Under My Skirt* while Gledhill's many credits include lighting Victor Rodger's play *My Name is Gary Cooper*.

Emily Hakaraia

(PRODUCTION MANAGER / SOUND OPERATOR)

(Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Kapu)
Emily has toured nationally and internationally as a Sound Engineer for many years in theatre and music. She currently works as a Production Manager for Performing Arts Network NZ.

David Long

(COMPOSER)

In 2022 Upper Hutt muso David Long released the album *Ash and Bone* and is soon to release a chamber orchestra piece, *I'll Hum the First Few Bars*. He also scored Loren Taylor's upcoming feature *The Moon is Upside Down* and Paul Oremland's *Mysterious Ways*. In 2021 he scored the feature film *Punch*, composed score for Tupua Tigafua's dance show, *Ciggy Butts in the Sand* and won Best Score for the TV series, *The Luminaries*.

Tupua Tigafua

(CHOREOGRAPHER)

Tupua Tigafua has danced with companies such as Black Grace, Mau and White Face Crew before establishing his own path as an Independent artist. A son of Mt Wellington, in 2017 he debuted his own piece *Shel We* at the Measina

Festival to huge acclaim and went on to perform it at the BIBU biennial in Sweden. Most recently he collaborated with composer David Long on the celebrated piece *Ciggy Butts in the Sand*. He has previously collaborated with *The Savage Coloniser Show* director Anapela Polata'ivao on *Alofagia, Le Opera* with Sole Mio.

Kasi Valu

(STAGE MANAGER)

('Eua, Ma'ufanga, Lapaha / Tonga)
Full time Fia Poto and assistant Producer for Le Moana, his work currently centres on our Pacific peoples' experiences, wit, nuance, and universality. If you don't kata you'll tangi.

Elizabeth Whiting

(COSTUME DESIGNER)

Khandallah native Elizabeth Whiting is the Rolls Royce of costume designers in Aotearoa and once dressed *The Savage Coloniser Show*'s director Anapela Polata'ivao as a mafiaesque rat in *The Worm*. Her work for opera, theatre, ballet and the **World of Wearable Art** has been seen throughout New Zealand and as far abroad as Edinburgh, Perth, Seattle and Kentucky. No stranger to designing Pasifika works, her past credits including designs for Black Grace and Victor Rodger's *My Name is Gary Cooper* for Auckland Theatre Company.





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