

A black and white photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a dark jacket and boots, leaning against a brick wall. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The wall has some graffiti on it.

As part of Kia Mau Festival
Te Whanganui-a-Tara

KIA MAU
FESTIVAL

Prospect Park Productions Presents

THE WORLD'S FIRST LOVERS

nā Jessica Latton

13th - 17th June 2023, The Dome, BATS Theatre

Nau mai, haere mai.

The World's First Lovers is proud to present this premiere season at Kia Mau Festival. Thank you for being here with us.

"Each one of us longs to belong, to have meaningful interactions, to be untidy and extraordinary and glorious together. I hope this performance will remind you how deeply you do belong. Ka rua, ka muri, walking backwards into the future." - Jessica Latton

Please note, this work contains references to suicide, violence and trauma. At the end of the performance, feel free to remain seated in the auditorium and take a few moments to sit in peace. This is a safe space for you.

Works like these don't emerge out of nowhere; we wish to acknowledge the process that has led to premiere.

EARLY 2021 Jessica workshops with Rachel Ruckstuhl-Mann. The seed of Jessica's story centering Hineahuone is born.

MAY 2021 Submission to Ōtepoti Theatre Lab Playwrights Programme

JUL-SEP 2021 Ten week development via ŌTL Playwrights Programme; three drafts written across this period.

OCT 2021 Draft four presented as public reading, ŌTL Playwrights Programme

DEC 2021 Draft five

JAN 2022 Draft six

FEB 2022 Cast reforms to rehearse towards season at Dunedin Fringe Festival

MAR 2022 Season at Dunedin Fringe Festival cancelled due to COVID-19

JUN 2022 Workshopping and public reading of draft seven as part of Breaking Ground, indigenous writing development festival

JUL 2022 Public and internal workshops as part of Puaka Matariki Festival

AUG 2022 Residency at Te Whare o Rukutia

SEP 2022 Drafts seven and beyond

OCT 2022 Rehearsal period commences, script continues to be worked

DEC 2022 Development season, Allen Hall Theatre, Ōtepoti

EARLY 2023 Further dramaturgy on script, premiere ready version emerges

APRIL 2023 Rehearsal period commences, full design crew joins the roopu

June 2023 - Premiere season, Kia Mau Festival, Te Whanganui-a-Tara

Cast

Jessica Latton

(Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe, Waitaha, Ngāti Porou)

Grace Turipa

(Tūhoe, Kāi Tahu, Ngāti Porou)

Catherine Duval

(Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Pāhauwera)

Nick Tipa

(Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe, Waitaha)

Manu Syme-Hepi

(Kāi Tahu, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Mutunga,
Moriōri, Ngāi Te Rangī, Ngāpuhi, Ngātiwai)

Taōka Puoro - **Ben Whitaker**

(Marutūahu, Ngā Puhi, Ngāti Raukawa)

Director - **Juanita Hepi**

(Kāi Tahu, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Mutunga,
Moriōri, Ngāi Te Rangī, Ngāpuhi, Ngātiwai)

Producer - **H-J Kilkelly**

(Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe)

Production/Stage Manager - **Sahara Pohatu-Trow**

(Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whāoa)

Lighting Design - **Marty Roberts**

Set Design - **Mark McEntyre & Tony De Goldi**

(GOM Arts Collective)

Sound Design - **Ben Whitaker & Tristan Dingemans**

Costume Design - **Amber Bridgman**

(Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe, Waitaha, Rabuvai, Moriōri)

Marketing Photography - **Lara Macgregor**

(Ngāti Toa)

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Additional support from



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“Kāi Tahu storytellers are the lifeblood of our communities – they occupy and hold space wherever they land, their stories span generations and genres from tribal histories to love letters, legal documents to plays, their/our words are prolific, expressive and sovereign, and to me they are almost always poetic.”

Te Kōpū Uriuri o Ngāi Tahu by Juanita Hepi

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