

# BIOS



## Tamati Patuwai (Kaitakawaenga)

Tamati has extensive experience as a cultural community practitioner and has spent 15 years of his career working to build a bridge between the commercial and community sectors.

Tamati has been a major player in many of the community development activities underway in Auckland and in the North, his home and tribal communities, working with businesses, schools, community and religious groups.

Tamati is recognised as an innovator within creative community development in Auckland and wider communities.

Tamati regards cultural and creative projects as his turangawaewae. He sees *The Whale Rider* as a pivotal bridge that can inspire people and their communities to work better together for the good of the whole. Kia kaha tātou!



## Raya Davis (Poutiaki Māori)

“Ko Raya Davis tōku ingoa, he uri tēnei nō Ngāti Whātua Ngāti Whakauae.” Raya comes from a background in Te Ao Māori and kapa haka (Māori performing arts). Raised in Ōrākei, she was fully immersed in her culture, so Kapa haka plays an important role in her life and the things that she does. Currently, Raya works for Auckland Council as a Māori programmes delivery specialist in Te Waka Kerewai with the purpose to innovate Māori services and programmes that enhance the wellbeing of empowered whānau across Tāmaki Makaurau.

# CREATIVES



Theatre design is a collaborative art. It is the bringing together of people with specialist visual design skills (scenic, costume, lighting) who work together in the spirit of mahi kotahitanga to contribute to making a visual ‘world’ that serves the director’s vision, and enables the actors to inhabit the story and to tell that story to the audience.

Theatre design is also about whānau and is a sort of ‘family business’, with personal relationships playing a big part in the ability of the design team to collaborate and communicate with each other. This is done in the spirit of ngākau mahaki which enables deep respect at a level that is

intuitive, and which allows them to achieve the artistic goals of the production.

The design team of Steve Marshall (Lighting), Vicki Slow (Costume) and Rachael Walker (Scenic and props) have been collaborating with Tim Bray Theatre Company for seven years and first met in 1999, 23 years ago at Auckland’s Performing Arts School.

Collectively and individually, they have created designs for 100s of professional theatre, dance, operatic, musical and event productions throughout Aotearoa New Zealand for more than two decades. Their close relationship and deep understanding of each other’s strengths enable them to work closely with Tim Bray to create magical worlds for our young audiences.



## Ben Anderson (Puppetry Designer and Maker)

Ben Anderson is a Tāmaki Makaurau-born artist now based in Melbourne. Beginning as a prop-maker for Red Leap Theatre Company’s *Paper Sky*, he has worked extensively in puppetry and mask and has written, directed and produced several works for puppetry including *The Last Man on Earth is Trapped in a Supermarket* (Auckland Fringe, Melbourne Festival of Puppetry), and *Escape From Trash Mountain* (Adelaide Fringe, Sydney Opera House).



## Chye-Ling Huang (Puppetry Director)

Chye-Ling is a Chinese-Pākeha writer, actress and the artistic director of Proudly Asian Theatre. Chye-Ling won awards for her original plays *Call of the Sparrows* (writer, actor) and *Orientation* (director, writer). After interning with puppetry company, The Finger Players (Singapore), she has run workshops and worked on productions including *Just above the Clouds* and *The Last Man on Earth is Trapped in a Supermarket*, which travelled to the Melbourne puppetry festival, as well as being a lead puppeteer on MCK Kids (web series). Chye-Ling is the co-designer for a series of luminous puppets for Deep (Q, Fringe).

# CAST



## Erin O'Flaherty

Erin is an actor and writer based in Tāmaki Makaurau. She attended The Actors' Programme in 2018 and since then has created two plays (*An Organ of Soft Tissue*, 2019), worked with companies such as Mind Over Manner and Act One Productions, and worked as a voice-over artist. She also writes for Theatre Scenes as a reviewer. She believes in the educational power of theatre, and especially loves working on interactive and experimental theatre. She loves storytelling, nature, and TTRPGs (and even started a TTRPG podcast called *Don't Forget Your Towel!*).



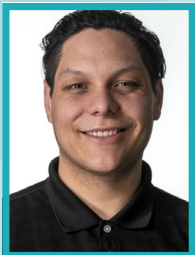
## Christian George

Christian is a university-trained actor with a performing arts degree from the Unitec Institute of Technology. He was born in the little town of Te Awamutu in the Waikato, and his father is pākehā Kiwi, and his mother is Samoan and they whakapapa proudly to the village of Malie. He loves breathing nature and feels at home in the countryside. Christian says, "I have had a heart condition all my life and it has limited me in so many ways but this passion for acting gives me a freedom, not to just be my own circumstance but to embrace something else and share it. I am pacific, I am queer, I am proud."



## Talia Pua

Talia is a storyteller working across theatre, performance and interaction and play design. She is the co-founder and Creative Director of Hand Pulled Collective, which produced Talia's award-winning writing and directing debut *Pork and Poll Taxes*, at the Herald Theatre in August 2021. Talia has a passion for physical theatre. Her most recent acting credits include *The Miracle Worker* with Auckland Theatre Company in 2020, *Vagina Monologues* (2019) and contemporary dance theatre show *AKL, Babel* (2019).



## Awatea Timothy

Awatea grew up in Fairton, Ashburton. Kai Tahu te iwi. Awatea moved to Auckland in 2017 to study acting at Unitec. Straight out of acting school, Awatea played the Sultan in *Aladdin* and played various characters in *The Christmas Carol*. Awatea enjoys chess and kickboxing in his spare time. Awatea loves performing to kids as he has over 15 nieces and nephews and he is excited to work with Tim. Awatea has been playing the guitar on and off for 10 years.



## Jaeden Lawrie

Jaeden is a Unitec graduate with a Bachelor's in Performing and Screen Arts, Acting. Their last play was *Te Pakkhai*, a Greek tragedy translated into reo Māori. He has always had a huge fascination with performing and creating fun worlds, "whether it was making stop-motion lego movies as a kid on my mum's phone or telling old man Giles Corey's story in *The Crucible* or watching my lover and best friend die as Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*", Jaeden says, Jaeden's last role was a young tyrant King Penetue/Pentheus hungry for authority and control. Jaeden thinks it will be nice to juxtaposition that with the older, wiser Koro Apirana.



## Kat Glass

Kat is an actor who revels in performing on stage and screen alike. They've appeared in many shows and tours for Tim Bray Theatre Company, on stage at NZ Fringe Festival, Basement Theatre, Q Theatre, Auckland Fringe Festival and more; and on screen on *Shortland Street* and in many short films and commercials. Kat is the star and lead producer of internationally touring, award-winning stage play *ALONE* - a female-led sci-fi about climate change.



## Kim Halliday

Kim's musical experiences have been strewn across the globe over the past 35 years. Kim's teachers include Robert Fripp, [voted best guitarist in the world three years running, *Guitar Player Mag*] and Nigel Gavin. Kim has many and varied styles of musical flavours. Kim was the principal writer for Pacific Curly Trio for 12 years and wrote six albums for that trio. Kim has been involved in over 20 different groups, 38 recorded works, and composed for three documentary soundtracks. Kim was commissioned to compose 5 pieces for the dance company Atamira. She also composed music for Fijian-born Darren Kamali's play *Mango Tree*, improvising with the actors at live shows, and worked with "Rako", the Rotuman dance company in Fiji. Kim has toured the globe extensively performing in major festivals around the world. Kim was mentor for NZMC from 2006 to 2020 and is currently a freelance musician,

working with Gitbox Rebellion, The Voyagers - a 9-piece world music ensemble -and now, Tim Bray Theatre Company.