

GAFa
ARTS COLLECTIVE

Presents:

Pacific Voices London

Opera • Song • Music • Spoken Word • Culture

Monday, May 19th 2014, 7:00pm

Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road, Chelsea, London SW3 5EE

www.gafasamo.com

'Three performers. Three lives. One role.'



'COVER GIRLS'

'KAVA GIRLS' Gafa Arts Collective (GAC)

written & directed by Sani Muliaumaseali'i

Sinalei is a young Fa'aafafine' (a Samoan male who lives as female) who has just landed her first job in a Westend show 'People are intimidated by my lipstick' She shares the understudying twilight with the gutsy Salma & the cucumber cool Debra. Kava girls is a new play with original songs about dreams, hopes & the uneasy road to stardom.

Tickets £6.50/£5.00, available from:

www.spotlites.co.uk/bindex.shtml

www.edfringe.com

www.gafasamoa.com



Sunday 10th August to Monday 25th August 2014, 4.05pm

Zone Theatre Spotlites @ The Merchants' Hall

22 Hanover Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2EP





Upu Temua

FOREWORD

Talofa lava and Greetings,

Making the voyage to this vast city of culture, industry and intoxicating mayhem can reveal that romance is matched by challenge. As the London love affair settles into the usual, an impregnable, finite circle is uncovered. The voyage to the dream morphs into a London commute. Calls to “mind the gap” are abundant, but actually finding it is another matter altogether.

Luckily, coming from a big family my “gap” finding skills are well honed. With immigrant savvy, I voiced my lofty intentions to the London universe knowing full immersion is mandatory. Vocalising in the vernacular, I ensured I did not lose my own voice, my Pacific Voice.

My Pacific Voice flows through the world becoming my opera voice and any other voice I choose. This is only possible as my Pacific Voice insists on “minding the gap” between worlds.

Samoaans call “the gap” – “le Va” – the Sacred Space. This Sacred Space, *le Va*, allows me to wholly experience the worlds yet keep my voice and stay true to it’s origins.

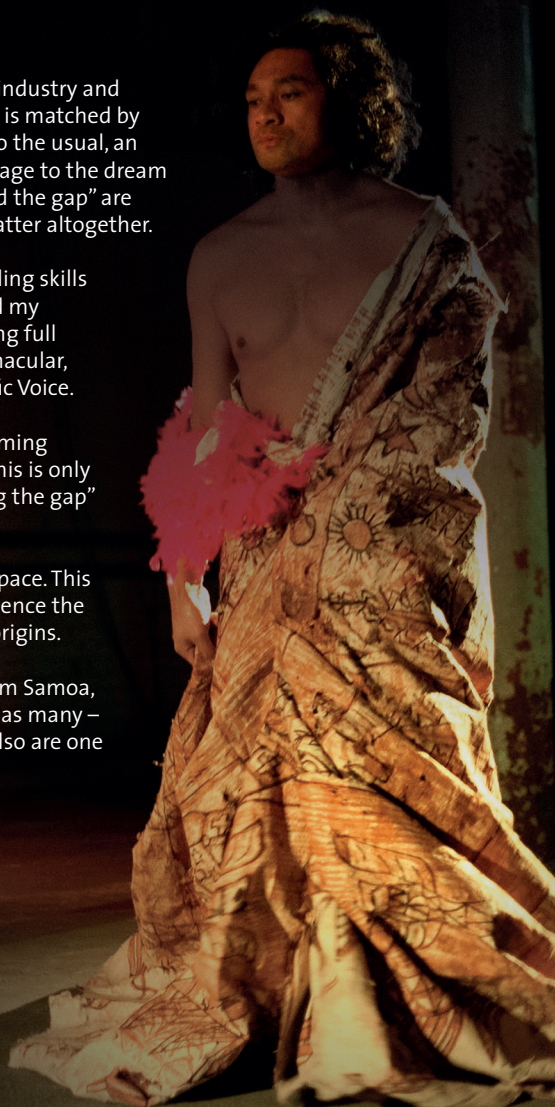
The Pacific Voices in London tonight herald from Samoa, Tonga, Aotearoa NZ, and Australia. We appear as many – keeping *le Va* between us all sacred – but we also are one voice – one glorious Pacific Voice.

Faafetai lava and thank you,
la manuia,

Sani Muliaumaseali'i
Creative Director & Co founder

GAFa
ARTS COLLECTIVE

www.gafasamoa.com



Gafa

ARTS COLLECTIVE

We are London's first Samoan Arts Collective. Gafa (pronounced *Nga-fah*) is a Samoan word meaning genealogy. Our work is primarily focused on Samoan art practice & culture reflecting our ancestral roots. Our connections. We seek truth, innovation & enquiry. We are a cross cultural and cross disciplinary group of London based artists. We are performers, musicians & writers. We are filmmakers & designers: Professionals & novices collaborating to create a unique art view.

2014

Pacific Voices London, Chelsea Old Town Hall, London

Culture for Sale, Shigeyuki Kihara – Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum, Cologne, Germany

London School of Samoan Language & Aogamo le Gagaga Samoa (AGS) established in April

2013

Gafa A family called Samoa, Origins Festival of first Nations – Testbed1, Battersea, London

2012

The layered art experience: Gafa A family called Samoa, Premiere – Testbed1, Battersea, London

2011

Gafa Arts Collective (GAC) Founded in London



FUTURE PROJECTS

2014

Kava Girls

An original play with songs, Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

2015

R'Otello

We are aiming to raise £30,000 for our winter season Opera Otello, Verdi. We're presently inspiring support from major artists & companies for this. Our London Pacific Otello is bound to cause a Ruckus!

PLEASE SUPPORT US

THE GafAgelu – Gafa Angel – Patrons programme

The Gafagelu Patron will receive various benefits according to their preferred level of giving. If you would like to become a patron, visit the Gafagelu desk to fill out the form. One off cash donations are also welcome, so make your donation today and join this special group of people, who are committed to the future of the innovative Gafa Arts Collective (GAC).

Fa'afetai Lava, and thank you

Programme

Spokenword | *Glass Walls & Dark Seas / Me & Ku* | Rosanna Raymond

Aria | *È la solita storia del Pastore, L'Arlesianna*, Cilea | Ben Makisi

Aria | *E lucevan le stelle Tosca*, Puccini | Ben Makisi

Aria | *Tracea la notte, Il trovatore*, Verdi | Aivale Cole

Duet | *O soave fanciulla, La Boheme*, Puccini | Aivale Cole & Ben Makisi

Aria | *Habanera, Carmen*, Bizet | Louise Callinan

Duet | *Mon coeur s'ouvre ta voir, Samson & Dalilah*, Saint-Saens | Louise Callinan & Ben Makisi

Pese | *Talune, Gafa A family called Samoa*, Muliaumaseali'i | The GAC Singers conducted by Simon Eastwood

Aria | *O mio babbino caro, Gianni Schicchi*, Puccini | Aivale Cole

Aria | *Nessun Dorma, Turandot*, Puccini | Ben Makisi

Duet | *Viens Malika Dôme épais le jasmin, Lakme*, Delibes | Aivale Cole & Louise Callinan

Interval (20 minutes)

Improvisation | Simon Eastwood, Double Bass

Aria | *It ain't necessarily so, Porgy & Bess*, Gershwin | Sani Muliaumaseali'i & the GAC singers

Song | *You raise me up*, Løvland | Ben Makisi

Aria | *Dere's a boat dats leavin for New York, Porgy & Bess*, Gershwin | Sani Muliaumaseali'i

Musical | *I could have danced all night, My Fair Lady*, Lerner/Loewe | Louise Callinan

Pese | *Musumusumu mai*, Samoan Traditional | Ben Makisi

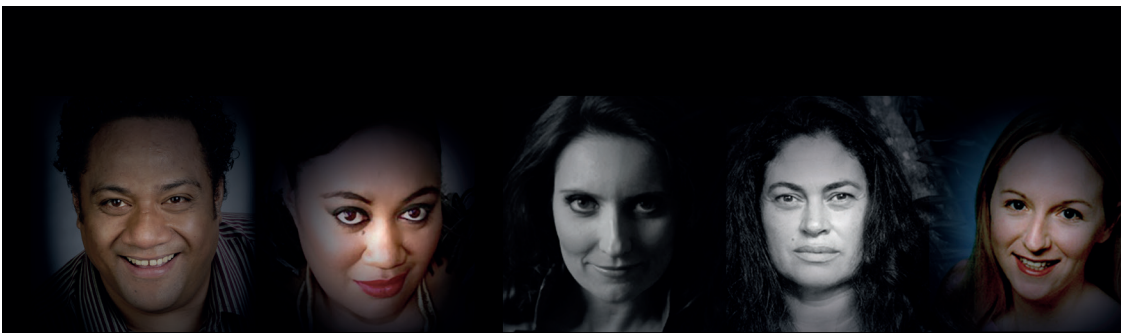
Waiata | *Pokarekare ana*, Maori Traditional, arrangement by Carl Doy | Ben Makisi

Spokenword | *Ode To a Pale Sina* | Rosanna Raymond

Pese | *Lota nu'u Traditional*, Samoan Traditional | led by Louise Callinan supported by GAC

Pese | *Fa'amavae Tofa mai feleni* and traditional Samoan Siva, | The Gafa Arts Collective & tutti

all artists are accompanied by Kathryn Bolitho on the piano



Ben Makisi

Tenor

Ben Makisi is an International Operatic Tenor from Wellington, New Zealand and is of Tongan and Samoan descent.

He graduated with a Masters of Performance (Opera) High Distinction, University of Sydney and Bachelor of Music, Victoria University, New Zealand.

Ben has travelled extensively and performed in concerts and operas all over the world. He has performed alongside Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Dame Malvina Major and Sir Donald McIntyre. He sang for the State funeral of Sir Edmund Hillary.

Ben is a charismatic and engaging performer with a beautiful voice. The GAC proudly welcome Ben as a featured guest artist tonight.
www.benmakisi.com.



Aivale Cole

Soprano

London based soprano, Samoan Aivale Cole, was born and raised in New Zealand.

An honours graduate of the Australian Opera Studio, she was awarded the Dux Prize. She completed a Bachelors in Performance Art, at the National Academy of Singing & Dramatic Art in New Zealand, and studied at the University of Auckland.

A winner of numerous awards, her operatic roles include *Aida*, *Cio-cio San*, *Micäela*, *Ariadne*, and others.

It is the golden voice of Aivale that you hear on the soundtrack of *The Lord of the Rings – Fellowship of the Rings*.
www.aivale.com



Louise Callinan

Mezzo-Soprano

International mezzo-soprano, Louise Callinan, was the first Australian to be accepted into the Young Artist Program at the Opera National de Paris.

A winner of countless awards, Louise has sung with some of the world's leading orchestras including the BBC Symphony, Chicago Symphony and l'Orchestre National d'Ile de France. Louise has interpreted many lyric roles at Opéra National de Paris.

She is now singing the dramatic mezzo roles such as Daliah, Waltraute, Tigrana. On film, Louise was directed by Kenneth Branagh in *the Magic Flute*.
www.louiseccallinan.com



Rosanna Raymond

Artist & GAC Associate Director

An innovator of the contemporary *Pasifika* art scene as a long-standing member of the art collective the Pacific Sisters, *Sistar S'pacific* aka Rosanna Raymond embodies the cutting edge.

Born in New Zealand, Rosanna's Samoan heritage has fuelled her artistic practice.

A Tusitala (Teller of Tales) at heart, her art practice takes a variety of forms; installation works, spoken word pieces and body adornment.

She fuses traditional Pacific practices with modern innovations and techniques.

Fa'afetai to all our supporters





Pacific Voices



Kathryn Bolitho Accompanist

Kathryn studied at Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, Australia. In 1999/2000 she was a Repetiteur at the National Opera Studio, London, supported by the Friends of Covent Garden, and in 2001 she was the Trainee Repetiteur at the English National Opera.

Returning to Australia from Germany, after working in Theater Freiburg, Kathryn re-joined Opera Queensland in 2003, and assisted with the musical preparation for all of the Company's major opera productions until 2012.

She now lives in Germany and this year worked as a guest Repetiteur for Landestheater Coburg and in September begins work at the Theater für Nieder-sachsen.



Sani Muliaumaseali'i Layered Art Exponent

Sani has worked in opera, music theatre, film, television & radio the world over.

A tenor, Sani studied singing at Griffith University QCM, Australia where he gained his B.Mus & Post Graduate Diploma.

As a writer, composer, director and choreographer, his work reflects his Samoan heritage.

He is currently performing as Uncle Edward in the innovative puppet opera *Skitterbang Island* in London. His play with songs 'Kava Girls' premieres at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, 2014.

www.sanimalo.co.uk



Simon Eastwood

New Zealand composer, Simon Eastwood's music has influences from popular culture to European Modernism, but also draws upon music from a variety of cultures around the Pacific Rim.

He completed his studies at the Royal Academy in 2012 with distinction under David Sawyer and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies.

Simon's work for two pianos '*Interference*' had it's US premiere in New York in 2013.



Gafa Arts Collective

Connie Tancredi Brice
Sharlene Nair
Loretta Vui
Nina Thilas Mohs
Stella Duffy
Mary Price O'Connor
Masina Maleapai Frost
Lianne Unasa
Julius To'o
Jo To'o
Lyndall Dawson
Richard Twycross-Lewis
Mark Moys
Michele Bridgman
Lan O'Connor
Karin Mochan
Sunita Passi

Fa'afetai & Thank you to our partners, families and volunteers without whom much of this would not have been possible.

We would especially like to thank the following: Luana Asiata, Khing Chadwick, Alicia Fantozzi, Marion Muliaumaseali'i, Shireen Nathoo, Fa'autu Talapusi, Robert Trew, Peter Rice and Paul Yandall.

JERWOOD SPACE





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Vavau Beach