

ILBIJERRI Theatre Company &  
Te Rēhia Theatre Company

# Black Ties

March  
11–29 2020  
AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL



11–15 March • Waitākere Room, Aotea Centre





## Credits

### Written by

John Harvey &  
Tainui Tukiwaho

### Directed by

Rachael Maza &  
Tainui Tukiwaho

### Set Design

Jacob Nash

### Composition & Musical Direction

Brendon Boney

### Lighting Design

Jane Hakaraia

### AV Design

James Henry

### Sound Design

Laughton Kora

### Costume Design

Te Ura Hoskins

### Performers

Jack Charles  
Mark Coles Smith  
Lana Garland  
Tawhirangi Macpherson  
Lisa Maza  
Tuakoi Ohia  
Brady Peeti  
Tainui Tukiwaho  
Dalara Williams  
Dion Williams

### Band

Brendon Boney  
Mayella Dewis  
Laughton Kora

### Producers

Nina Bonacci  
Amber Curreen  
Laila Thaker

### Production Manager

Nick Glen

### AV Mentor

Sean Bacon

### Audio Engineer

Jake Luther

### AV Operators

James Henry

### Stage Manager

Casey Norton

### Assistant

### Stage Manager

Nazaree Dickerson

### Company Manager

Jamara Maza

### Technical Consultant

Paul Lim

### Design Assistant

Hannah Murphy

BLACK TIES  
SUPPORTED BY

Major  
Festivals  
Initiative



Australia  
Council  
for the Arts

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nz  
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA

AUCKLAND SEASON  
PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



AUCKLAND LIVE

ILBIJERRI  
THEATRE COMPANY

TEREHIA  
THEATRE

2hrs 45mins approx. inc. interval

COVER: GARTH ORIANDER  
IMAGES: LUKE CURRIE RICHARDSON;  
TIFFANY GARVIE (bottom image, p2)





Top (pictured, from left): Amber Curreen, Tainui Tukiwaho, Dion Williams, Mark Coles Smith, Tuakoi Ohia, Laughton Kora, Mayella Dewis, Brendon Boney, Lisa Maza, Dalara Williams.

Bottom (pictured, clockwise from left): Amber Curreen, Tainui Tukiwaho, Brendon Boney, Brady Peeti, Mark Coles Smith, Dalara Williams, Laughton Kora, Llsa Maza, Tuakoi Ohia, Tylor Wilson-Kokiri, Dion Williams, Tawhirangi Macpherson, Rachael Maza.

## Artist Statements

### RACHAEL MAZA Co-Director / ILBIJERRI's Artistic Director

The big highlight for me is that I finally get to work with an all First Nations creative team, and what a team: Jacob Nash, Brendon Boney, James Henry, John Harvey, but especially my old and new whānau from New Zealand: Tainui Tukiwaho, Amber Curreen, Jane Hakaraia, Laughton Kora and Te Ura Hoskins. On and off stage this work is a celebration of who we are as Blackfullas and Māoris: the resilience, the humour, the passion; strong family and culture; thriving despite our shared experiences of colonisation.

I think about the trajectory of black theatre in this country to where we are today, and this cocktail of hard hitting/political. The humour has always been there – how else could we have survived?

### JOHN HARVEY Co-Writer

When we started out on this journey we wanted to make a show that our Elders, our Aunties and Uncles – in fact all of our community – could enjoy. And in *BLACK TIES* we have spades of that! *BLACK TIES* celebrates our rich cultures and our connection across the water between our people.

ILBIJERRI Theatre Company is leading the way in creating paths for our stories on an international level, and the company is perfectly placed to embark on a bold First Nations collaboration of this scale thanks to the support of AsiaTOPA and MFI. I think as First Nations people, we often have conversations with our Māori sisters and brothers across the water, but rarely do we embark on these types of collaborations. It's been an amazing experience for me as writer.

### TAINUI TUKIWAHO Co-Writer / Co-Director

He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.

What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people.

This whakatauki or proverb from home speaks to the importance of people and relationships to ngai Māori. *BLACK TIES* brings these relationships to the stage, blows them up, re-builds them, and allows us to love and laugh with our people from both sides of the ditch. We empower our people by bringing our mums, our aunties, our cousins to the stage and sharing what is important for them; it is family, it is laughter, it is music, it is kail! Whether we are fighting for our land and our language, mourning our loved ones or having a party, these same things remain. It is the ultimate act of self determination for us as first peoples artists to create theatre at the scale of *BLACK TIES* for our people, by our people, and about what we think is important. We've started a mean party – can't wait for everyone to join us.

# Creatives

## JOHN HARVEY

(Saibai Island)  
Co-Writer

John Harvey is the Creative Director of Brown Cabs and is a producer, writer, and director across theatre and film. He is the writer of the highly acclaimed, Green Room-nominated *Heart is a Wasteland*. He has been a recipient of the Footscray Community Arts Centre Writer-in-Residence. In 2018 he was a recipient of the Malthouse Theatre Sydney Myer Fund Tower Residency, creating a new theatre work. In the same year he was a recipient of Creative Victoria Creators Fund. He currently has writing commissions with Malthouse Theatre, ILBIJERRI Theatre Company and has a new work in development for Brown Cabs. In 2018, he directed a new theatre work, *A Little Piece of Heaven*, for Orana Arts. John has many accomplishments in film, including producing feature film *Spear*, being a producer on *The Warriors* TV series, and producing numerous First Nation short dramas. He has also directed documentary and short film narratives for the screen.

## JACOB NASH

(Murri)  
Set Designer

Jacob Nash graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) Design Course in 2005. In 2010, he designed the set for Bangarra Dance Theatre's *of earth & sky* and received a Green Room Award for Best Design in Dance. He was appointed Artist-in-Residence at Bangarra the following year and is now Head of Design. Nash received a Green Room Award nomination for his unique set design for Bangarra's season of *Belong* (2011) and has designed sets for each of Bangarra's annual productions since. This year he was awarded a Helpmann Award for 'Best Scenic Design' for his powerful and evocative set in *Bennelong*. Nash was the specialist production designer and creature designer for season one of the critically acclaimed sci-fi TV drama *Cleverman*, and production designer and creative designer for season two.

## RACHAEL MAZA

(Meriam Mer/Yidinjini)  
Co-Director

Rachael Maza is widely known for her wealth of acting, directing and dramaturgical experience across the Australian film, television and theatre industry, most notably the AFI (Australian Film Institute) award-winning *Radiance*; the stage production of *The Sapphires*, presented for ABC's *Message Stick*; and acting coach for the multi-award winning *Rabbit Proof Fence*. Her performances have also been acknowledged with a Green Room Award and Sydney Theatre Critics Circle Award. Maza first worked with ILBIJERRI Theatre Company in 1992, as director of *Stolen*, and in 2008 joined the company as Artistic Director. Since then she has directed iconic works such as *Jack Charles V The Crown* (2010), *Foley* (2011), and *Which Way Home* (2017). Maza's contribution has been recognised through multiple awards, including the Touring Legend Drover Award (2017) and the Australia Council of the Arts Award for Theatre (2019), as well as an Honorary Doctorate of Performing Arts from Edith Cowan University (2019).

## JAMES HENRY

(Yuwaalaraay and Yorta Yorta)  
AV Design

James Henry is involved in many aspects of the music industry, from singer/songwriter to sound engineer and musical director. His diverse skill set has seen him perform as a guitarist on the Black Arm Band tour of the UK, and as a choir member and guitarist as part of Archie Roach's *Into the Bloodstream* tour. His composition skills have attracted commissions from City of Melbourne to compose for experimental medias. Henry was also musical director of *Tanderrum* for the 2014 Melbourne Festival, and AFL's Dreamtime at the 'G performances. James has also worked with ILBIJERRI as sound designer for the 2017 touring production of *Coranderick*.

## TAINUI TUKIWAHO

(Te Arawa/Tuhoe)  
Co-Writer / Co-Director

Tainui Tukiwaho has been a company director, producer, director, actor and writer of Māori theatre for a number of organisations over the last decade, leading Te Rēhia theatre, Takirua and Te Pou Theatre. His most recent directing credits include *Astroman*, presented in partnership with Te Rēhia Theatre and Auckland Theatre Company, Māori language play *He Tūrū Māu* (2018), Albert Belz's *Cradle Song* (2018). He has worked with Albert Belz as director and co-creator over many project since 2008 developing their distinctive comedic style. A Unitec graduate (2001), Tukiwaho multiple short films, television shows and theatre productions in Aotearoa and abroad to his name as a performer. In 2011 he took on the challenge of playing legendary entertainer Billy T. James, for telemovie *Billy*. Other notable roles include *Tangiwai – A Love Story*, as Dave's boss in TV series *Step Dave*, and co-starring in feelgood fishing movie *The Catch*, as a man trying to win a Kaipara fishing contest. His latest work includes *The Sounds* (2019), the Australian Channel 7 comedy *Fam Time* (2019) and *The Gulf* (2018). Fluent in te reo Māori, Tukiwaho also hosted Māori Television talk show *O Whakaaro* and featured in te reo Māori drama *Kōrero Mai*.

## BRENDON BONEY

(Wiradjuri/ Gamilaroi)  
Composer / Musical Director

Brendon Boney is a recording and performing artist, touring the world as part of the act Microwave Jenny for the past decade. He has composed for and performed at festivals such as Bluesfest, Woodford Folk Festival, Festival of the Sun and The Aussie BBQ (UK). Theatre credits include Dubboo Bangarra Dance Theatre (David Page Fellowship), Winyanboga Yurringa Belvoir Theatre (Composer and Sound Designer) and Black Cockatoo Ensemble (Assistant Music Supervisor and Sound Design).

## JANE HAKARAIA

(Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga)  
Lighting Designer

Jane Hakaraia is a freelance theatre and TV designer. Theatre companies she works with regularly include Auckland Theatre Company, Bullet Heart Club, Silo Theatre and Massive Company. In theatre, she is known primarily for lighting design but, in the last few years, has expanded into set design. She also works with Blue Bach Productions as Art Director on their TV offerings and is currently working with Māoriland Film Festival in the design of their outdoor spaces at the Māoriland Hub in Otaki. In 2019, Hakaraia worked with all her favourite theatre companies, including Te Rēhia and Auckland Theatre Companies on *Astroman*, and Silo Theatre on *Wild Dogs Under My Skirt*, both for Auckland Arts Festival. She will also work on *Half the Sky* and *Like a River, I Disagree with Massive*, and *Owls Do Cry* with Red Leap Theatre. Hakaraia has a degree in design from Unitec and undertook an honours degree in design at AUT.

## LAUGHTON KORA

(Ngāi Tūhoe, Ngāti Pūkeko)  
Sound Designer / Band Member

Laughton Kora has been playing music since the age of six, appearing on stage as part of his father's band until he was 17 years old, when he won Smokefree rockquest. His band, Aunty Beatrice, toured New Zealand and released a single. He moved to Queenstown and formed Soul Charge with members KP (Sunshine Sound System) and P Digsss (Shapeshifter). In 2001, he headed to Wellington and formed Kora (2003–2012) with his brothers. Kora toured extensively with Kora to Australia, England, Ireland, Scotland, Japan, Singapore and the USA. Since 2012, Kora has forged ahead with his own solo project and has also formed duo Neon Ninja with Andy Keys (ex-Opshop). Kora attended Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School and has a bachelor's degree in Performing Arts. He featured on series two of *Songs from the Inside*, with Don McGlashan, Anika Moa and Annie Crummer, and starred in TVNZ's drama series *Coverband*. Kora was sound designer on *Amadeus* and *Astroman* with Auckland Theatre Company.

## TE URA TARIPO-HOSKINS

(Ngāti Hau, Ngā Puhī, Ngāti Uriarau ki Rarotonga) • Costume Design

Te Ura Taripo-Hoskins graduated with a Diploma in Fashion Design from Auckland's University of Technology and is developing her career as a young Māori and Indigenous Costume Designer and Stylist. She is passionate about Māori and Indigenous storytelling and enjoys adding layers to characters' stories through costume design and styling. She has worked on a variety of local and international productions, including: *The Shannara Chronicles*, *The Wilds*, *The Deadlands*, and *Ahikāroa*. Costume design for television includes *Ahikāroa* and *The Ring Ins*; for web series *The Baby Mama's Club* and *I Date Rejects*; and most recently for *Black Ties*. Taripo-Hoskins is also a long standing stylist to Aotearoa's very own Teeks. She has dressed him for various award shows, costume designed and advised on multiple video clips, and most recently styled his press images and the release of his new album for Sony. Taripo-Hoskins is bilingual and bi cultural and brings these skills to all her projects.







## Cast

### JACK CHARLES

(*Boon Wurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung*)  
'Uncle Mick'

Uncle Jack Charles is a beloved and respected elder, an actor, musician, potter, writer and gifted performer. He is acknowledged as the grandfather of Aboriginal theatre in Australia and co-founded the first Aboriginal theatre company, Nindethana Theatre, with Bob Maza in 1972. Charles' acting career spans over six decades and has touched many across the globe. He has showcased his work in many nations including Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, the United States. His early career highlights include *Cradle of Hercules* (Old Tote Theatre); *Ben Hall and Rush* (ABC TV); and the feature film *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*. In 2019, his memoir, *Born-Again Blakfella*, was released by Random house, and tells his extraordinary life story.

*Jack Charles V The Crown*, co-written by Charles and John Romeril, directed by Rachael Maza, was first produced by ILBIJERRI Theatre Company in 2010. An almost entirely autobiographical work, Charles was able to bring the lived experience of being a member of the Stolen Generation to the world with empathy and charm. The production won the Drovers Award for Best as well as a Helpmann Award for Best Regional Touring Production in 2012. His recent credits include *Gods of Wheat Street*, *Cleverman*, *Black Comedy*, *Play School* (ABC TV); the feature film *Pan* (Berlanti Productions, RatPac-Dune Entertainment); and *Wolf Creek* (Stan).

In 2009 Charles was awarded the Tudawali Award at the Message Sticks Festival, honouring his lifetime contribution to Indigenous media. He was the recipient of a Green Room Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014 and in 2016 was named Victorian Senior Australian of the Year. Most recently, Charles was awarded the 2019 Red Ochre Award at the National Indigenous Arts Awards, a prestigious honour that recognises his outstanding contributions to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts in Australia and abroad.

### MARK COLES SMITH

(*Nyikina*)  
'Kane Baker'

Mark Coles Smith is a Helpmann Award winner, for Leah Purcell's *The Drover's Wife*, and has twice been nominated at the AACTA Awards, for *Last Cab to Darwin* and *Pawno*. He also won a Film Critics' Circle of Australia Award for *Last Cab to Darwin*. Most recent screen credits include Channel Nine's *Halifax*; ABC's *Les Norton*, *KGB* and Shaun Micallef's *Mad as Hell*; and Lucy Durack's writing debut, *Lift*. Smith also presented the ABC documentary *Will Australia Ever Have a Black Prime Minister?* An in-demand voice artist, he voiced the 2018 character of Crash in *Call of Duty: Black Ops 4*, for PlayStation. Smith also works as a sound designer under the alias Kalaji, which is a Nyikina word for 'whirlwind'. His first major experimental work, *Night River*, played at the 2019 Yirramboi festival in Melbourne. He has produced across an array of genres and projects, including the sound for *Which Way Home* (ILBIJERRI Theatre Company, 2018). Recent theatre acting credits include *Bottomless* (FortyFiveDownstairs); both seasons of *Bliss* (Malthouse and Belvoir); and *The Man with the Iron Neck* (Legs on the Wall theatre company). Previous screen credits include the short film *Miro*; *Picnic at Hanging Rock*; US series *Hunters: Old School*, opposite Bryan Brown and Sam Neill; *The Gods of Wheat Street*; American comedy *Modern Family*; *Hard Rock Medical* and *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*, among others.

### LANA GARLAND

(*Te Atiawa*)  
'Sylvia Tapuwera'

Lana Garland has been working as an actor for over 20 years both in theatre and on screen in Aotearoa, New Zealand. She's probably best known for appearing on television in Aotearoa every evening for seven years on 'Food in a Minute'. Garland has worked with Te Rēhia theatre presenting the highly popular musical drama *Raising the Titanics* at festivals throughout New Zealand. What excites her most is the potential of theatre and storytelling to affirm, reflect and transform our community. Garland has been fortunate to have been cast in many new Māori theatre works, helping to bring our Indigenous stories and perspectives to the stage. Being a part of this collaboration between ILBIJERRI and Te Rehia theatre companies is a great next step in her journey and she can't wait to share it with the world.

### TAWHIRANGI MACPHERSON

(*Te Arawa, Tuhoe*)  
'Tama-Girl'

Tawhirangi "Duchess" Macpherson is an exciting emerging young talent from Rotorua, New Zealand who is currently studying drama in high school. She received her first public review this year after she "impressively played" Tatiana in a Māori adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. We are fortunate to be able to represent the full strata of our large indigenous families from youth to elders in this play. Macpherson is a keen singer and performer who aspires to find a career in stage and screen.



## LISA MAZA

(Meriam/Yidindji/Dutch)  
'Ruth Baker'

Lisa Maza has been acting and singing professionally for more than 20 years. She recently acted in two world premier theatre shows written by First Nations Australians: Steven Oliver's *From Darkness* (La Boite – Brisbane Festival 2019) and previously in Nathan Maynard's *The Season* (Tasmania Performs) in Sydney, Tasmania and Melbourne, followed by a national regional tour in late 2018. Maza was awarded Best Supporting Performance (Female) at the Tasmania Theatre Awards in 2018 for her role in *The Season*. She played Senior Constable Judy Bowden in TV Show *True Story* (Radio Karate) directed by Tim Bartley, and played a mother in short film *Paper Cut* (Finalist, Tropicana Film Festival) directed by Virginia Gay. Maza has been associated with ILBIJERRI Theatre since 1999, first as an actor in *Stolen*, then as tour manager for *Chopped Liver*. A Black Writers Lab participant (from its inception in June 2010) and a VIPAA panel member for a few years, she is currently a board member. In 2009, Maza co-wrote and performed in autobiographically-inspired show *Sisters of Gelam* (Ilbijerri Theatre/Malthouse), and co-wrote and performed the Black Sheep comedy show *Glorious Bastards* in 2010 (Ilbijerri/Melbourne International Comedy Festival).

## TUAKOI OHIA

'Hera Tapuwera'

Tuakoi Ohia is a dynamic and exciting young Māori actress in New Zealand, new to the entertainment industry but already securing some strong roles in TV and now in theatre. She was recently cast in Māori TV's *Ahikāroa* as Dylan, a standout role in the bilingual TV series. Along with her casting in *BLACK TIES*, this is the beginning of what will be a continuing and successful career for this young wahine.

## BRADY PEETI

(Te Ati Hau Nui A Paparangi,  
Ngati Maniapoto)  
'Shannon'

Brady Peeti is a Takatapui actor and singer hailing from the Whanganui region. They have worked on multiple productions in and around the Auckland region and was awarded the NAPTA Award for "best supporting male actor in a musical" for their role as Jimmy in *Dreamgirls*. Recent credits include Auckland Theatre Company's *Alone*; Fine Fatale's *The Heels Are Alive*, programmed in the Cabaret Festival with Auckland Live; and a directorial debut for *Sinarella* with the Māngere Arts Centre. Brady's single of Allen Toussaint's 'It's Raining' made it to the top of the 2016 New Zealand Blues Charts twice, and their "killer voice" and "soulful vocals" have been praised in productions including *Dominion Road – The Musical*, *Larger than Life* and *The Wizard of Otahuhu*.

## TAINUI TUKIWAHO

(Te Ararwa & Tuhoe)  
'Robert Tapuwera'

Tainui Tukiwaho, a Unitec graduate (2001), has multiple short films, television shows and theatre productions in Aotearoa and abroad to his name as a performer. In 2011 he took on the challenge of playing legendary entertainer Billy T. James, for telemovie *Billy*. Other notable roles include *Tangiwai – A Love Story*, as Dave's boss in TV series *Step Dave*, and co-starring in feelgood fishing movie *The Catch*, as a man trying to win a Kaipara fishing contest. His latest work includes *The Sounds* (2019), the Australian Channel 7 comedy *Fam Time* (2019) and *The Gulf* (2018). Fluent in te reo Māori, Tukiwaho also hosted Māori Television talk show *O Whakaaro* and featured in te reo Māori drama *Kōrero Mai*.

## DALARA WILLIAMS

(Wiradjuri/Gumbaynggirr)  
'Alethea Baker'

Dalara Williams graduated from the prestigious National Institute of Dramatic Art in 2017. Dalara made her feature film debut in Wayne Blair's *Top End Wedding*, which premiered at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival, and she has recently completed production on her follow up feature, Victoria Wharfe McIntyre's *The Flood*. Her recent television credits include *Get Krack!n* and the third and fourth series of *Black Comedy* for the ABC, which went on to win the 2018 Casting Guild of Australia Award for Best Casting in a TV Comedy. Williams' short film credits include *Last Drinks at Frida's* which premiered at the 2017 Sydney Film Festival and *Origins*. Her stage credits include *Winyanboga Yurringa* for Belvoir, and *Blackie Blackie Brown* for the Sydney Theatre Company and the Malthouse Theatre. Whilst at NIDA her stage credits included *Realism*, *Love and Money* directed by Judy Davis, *The Season at Sasparilla* and *Twelfth Night*. She was also awarded the Hazel Treweek Shakespeare Award during her time at NIDA. Prior to NIDA, Dalara studied Aboriginal Theatre at Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts and performed in *Crowbones* and *Carnivores*. She also performed as Goneril in *The Shadow King*, a reworking of Shakespeare's tragedy *King Lear* as part of the Darwin Festival. Her professional acting debut was starring in the Tiwi adaptation of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs – Wulamanayuwu and the Seven Pamanui*, directed by Eamon Flack, which toured nationally.

## BRENDON BONEY

(Wiradjuri/ Gamilaroi)  
Band Member 'Tony'  
See p4 for biography.

## LAUGHTON KORA

(Ngāi Tuhoe, Ngāti Pūkeko)  
Band Member 'Blackie'  
See p5 for biography.

## DION WILLIAMS

(Wiradjuri and Wokaman)  
'Jermaine'

Dion Williams hails from Echuca in country Victoria. He played the lead role of Ruben in the Jada Alberts' play *Brothers Wreck* at the Malthouse and Adelaide's State Theatre, and recently starred in a schools production of *Black Diggers / The Longest Memory* for Complete Works Theatre Company. Williams' acting career began when he won the role of Marlon in Chris Lilley's *Angry Boys*. He was a runner up in Melbourne Comedy Festival's 2017 stand up competition *Deadly Funny*. He has played roles in large scale drama series including a recurring role in the primetime drama *The Time of Our Lives* and was a lead guest in *Redfern Now*, both for the ABC. He also played a lead role in the Nine Network's mini-series *Gallipoli*. Williams is also an accomplished athlete and footballer.

## MAYELLA DEWIS

Band Member 'Sarsaparilla'

Mayella Dewis is a multi-instrumentalist and vocalist. She considers her music as a tool to motivate aspiring musicians of all cultures and socio-economic backgrounds. The industry has allowed her to draw on her 18+ years of experience to work alongside numerous community initiatives delivering development workshops and mentoring programs such as the Human initiative – Creative Tracks. Creative inspirations for programme development are heavily influenced by her Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Malay, Dutch-Indonesian and German cultural roots. She is a firm believer in using her past and present experiences to propel her towards future musical endeavours. For Mayella Dewis, "music is the rhythm to my life's melody. They complete each other".

# About the Creators

## ILBIJERRI THEATRE COMPANY

is Australia's longest established First Nations theatre company. We create, present and tour powerful and engaging theatre creatively controlled by First Nations artists that gives voice to our cultures. Born from community, ILBIJERRI remains grounded in telling the stories of what it means to be First Nations in Australia today. ILBIJERRI supports self-determination for First Nations voices through programs that foster emerging First Nations theatre makers and industry professionals. ILBIJERRI works to reclaim First Nations ways of working within the Australian arts sector, through programs and projects grounded in deep listening with and for community and country. We engage purposefully and promote discussion around key issues facing

First Nations community. There is a growing hunger for ILBIJERRI's work across Australia and around the world, and we are committed to continuing to develop meaningful relationships with audiences through sharing the stories we are uniquely placed to tell.

Established in 2012, **TE RĒHIA THEATRE** is a proudly Māori theatre company, championing Māori playwrights, tikanga Māori arts practice and the presentation of our diverse stories. Te Rēhia Theatre, named in honour of the atua of leisure is led by Amber Curreen and Tainui Tukiwaho based at Te Pou – The Auckland home of Māori Theatre. We're passionate about te reo Māori (the Māori language) in theatre and the exploration of innovative ways of telling Māori stories.



## Thanks & Acknowledgements

Original concept developed by: Kamarra Bell Wykes, Albert Belz, Amber Curreen, John Harvey, Rachael Maza & Tainui Tukiwaho.

Special thanks to the following collaborators who contributed to the creative developments for *BLACK TIES*: Nelson Baker, Sermsah Bin Saad, Mark Coles Smith, Erina Daniels, Kristel Kickett, Miriama McDowell, Jennifer Medway, Ngaire Pigram, Jarod Rawiri, Melodie Reynolds, Rickylee Russell-Waipuka, Iain Sinclair, Regan Taylor, Maria Walker & Tyler Wilson-Kokiri.

Special thanks also to: Stephen Armstrong from AsiaTOPA for his faith and support from the very beginning; Wesley Enoch for his unwavering guidance and support; Louise Gough, Laura Milke-Garner, Tame Iti, Toi Iti and Te Rewarewa Marae.

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ILBIJERRI Theatre Company and Te Rēhia Theatre Company acknowledge and pay respect to the Country that we travel through and share stories on. We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Traditional Owners, Elders, Ancestors, and young leaders. We acknowledge, with full respect, the strength of First Nations people and communities, continuing to practice culture, and connection to Country. We acknowledge, with full respect, the power and excellence of First Nations people and communities fighting to protect and look after Country, Community, Language and Lore, in the face of ongoing colonial interruptions and cultural genocide. Always was, always will be, sacred Indigenous land.



## AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL

TE AHUREI TOI O TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU

**Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland Arts Festival is a place for ambitious ideas by storytellers, provocateurs and creators.**

The Festival reflects our contemporary, cosmopolitan city with its many communities. It challenges artists and audiences to be bold and take a risk. Through the work of artists of Aotearoa and across the world, we aim to unify, enlighten and inspire the people of Auckland / Tāmaki Makaurau and our many visitors.

A globally recognised celebration of art and culture taking place each March in New Zealand's largest city, AAF will be presented for the 12th time in 2020. The Festival has attracted nearly two million visitors to date.

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