

ARTS PASIFIKA

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FINE ART

BOTTLED OCEAN EXHIBITION

The Edge: Series 02, Programme 17 (extract)

Gibson Group 1994. Duration 3.17

Bottled Ocean at the Wellington City Gallery, was a showcase of work by New Zealand born Pacific Artists, and New Zealand's first survey exhibition of contemporary Pacific Art. In this extract curator Jim Vivieare discusses the exhibition and the range of mediums chosen to reflect the diversity of artists: from computer generated images to glassware.

FATU FEU'U

Feu'u (extract)

University of Auckland 1990. Duration 9.20

Fatu Feu'u was born in 1946 in Western Samoa. In 1998 he started work as a full time artist primarily using paint but also bronze, wood, stone, pottery, lithographs, woodcuts and glass. He is considered a pioneer in the emergence of a Pacific identity within New Zealand art.

Feu'u has been inspired by Polynesian art and craft, particularly bark cloth, tattooing, weaving and ceremonial mask making which he blends with more contemporary mediums. In this extract Feu'u discusses the motifs and traditions that influence his work.

JOHN PULE

Talk Talk, Episode 05 (extract)

3rd Party Productions 2008. Duration 10.51

A writer, printmaker and painter John Puhiaatau Pule was born in Liku, Niue in 1962. He moved to Auckland in 1964. Pule's work addresses personal concerns about the colonisation of the Pacific through the recording of his family's history "All are extensions to an on-going project to record his family history into an Aotearoa and Pacific context, combining elements of poetry, prose, drawing, printmaking and painting to maintain his routes/roots to the Pacific."(www.artsfoundation.org.nz)

In this studio interview with Finlay MacDonald Pule discusses the recent birth of his daughter and his life as an artist.

IOSEFA LEO

The Big Art Trip, Series 02, Episode 08 (extract)

Communicado 2002. Duration 8.45

Working predominately in limestone, marble and wood, Leo's early sculptures reflect Samoan village life, but his later work embraces the more universal theme of spirituality "The sculptures have an easy monumentality with his ability to simplify without losing the power of observation and sensitivity". (Tautai Contemporary Pacific Arts Trust).

ANI O'NEILL

The Big Art Trip, Episode 02 (extract)

Communicado 2001. Duration 6:42

Ani O'Neill was born in Auckland in 1971 and is of Cook Island descent. She creates installation based work using a range of mediums including craft, performance, video and text. Her work draws on traditional female practices from the Cook Islands that her grandmother taught her: weaving, planting and sewing. It also draws on the Pacific tradition of working in co-operation with other artists.

SOFIA TEKALA SMITH

Tagata Pasifika, 12/05/2003 (extract)

Television New Zealand 2003. Duration 4.04

Sofia Tekala-Smith, born in 1971 of Rotuman descent, introduces her exhibition Melodies of their Honey Coloured Skin at the Tuhi Gallery in Howick. Smith learned traditional crafts from her mother and is especially interested in body adornment and decorative arts. By experimenting with traditional symbolism Tekala-Smith explores her heritage "turning familiar stereotypes into something beautiful".

ANDY LELEI SI'UAO

The Big Art Trip, Episode 03 (extract)

Communicado 2001. Duration 8:38

Andy Lelei si'uao was born in Auckland in 1969, of Samoan descent. Rejected from Elam he went to work in a factory but returned to painting a few years later. His work discuss issues surrounding identity and dislocation: the welfare system, domestic violence, unemployment and suicide. Here Lelei si'uao is interviewed in his garage studio in Mangere.

MUSIC

KING KAPISI

The Big Art Trip, Episode 03 (extract)

Communicado 2001. Duration 8.56

Born in Wellington of Samoan descent, King Kapisi, aka Bill Urale,, is one of the country's best known hip hop artists. His songs address topics such as the dumping of nuclear waste, dawn raids on Pacific overstayers, and the negative effects of organised religion on Polynesian societies. Nick Ward and Douglas Lloyd Jenkins go to Piha to visit King Kapisi.

IOSEFA ENARI

Tagata Pasifika (extract)

Television New Zealand 1999. Duration 11.15

Iosefa Enari is a choreographer, director/producer, performer, teacher, and filmmaker. He has choreographed and taught dance in Samoa and Auckland and performed in Samoa, Australia, the United States, and Europe. For a number of years Enari has been working with the Pacific Islands community in Auckland to develop performing arts programmes across all levels from at-risk youth through to tertiary students, gifted performers, and adults. In this extract Enari discusses his opera "Classical Polynesia" starring Samoan Daphne Collins.

JONATHAN LEMALU

60 Minutes, The Next Big Thing (extract)

Television New Zealand 2002. Duration 10.22

Born in Dunedin of Samoan descent, Jonathan Lemalu is a one of the world's most sort after bass baritone's booked years in advance to sing in the most prestigious concert halls, and with a three year recording contract with EMI Classics.

Critics describe his voice as exceptional "Every so often a musician arrives on the scene with a talent so richly endowed that the musical world sits up and takes note. The New Zealand born Samoan Jonathan Lemalu is one such" .

SCRIBE

Frontseat, Series 02, Episode 26 (extract)

Gibson Group 2005. Duration 4.24

Malo Luafutu or 'Scribe' was born in Aranui, Christchurch of Samoan and Chinese descent. His songs Stand Up and Not Many were the longest running Kiwi No 1 hits on the singles charts. His first album Crusader sold more than 80,000 copies in New Zealand and 100,00 in Australia – going platinum in its first week of

release. While he was influenced by American hip hop artists, Scribe's music avoids violence and focuses on more affirmative themes.

Here Scribe talks to Julie Hill minutes after winning a Tui Award about how he became a household name in Australia and how his sights are now set on the UK.

DOUGIE B.

The Living Room, Series 01 (extract)

Sticky Pictures 2003. Duration 5.42

Dougie B was born in Porirua where his beatboxing started at Bishop Viard College. He first began performing as part of Wellington hip-hop crew GND. Dougie has represented New Zealand at the World Beatbox Convention in New York City.

His style pays homage to Aotearoa music, old school beatbox legends and sound effects.

DANCE, THEATRE & FILM

MAU DANCE COMPANY

Tagata Pasifika (extract)

Television New Zealand 2003. Duration 2.36

Choreographer and founder Lemi Ponifasio was born in the Samoan village of Lano and came to New Zealand as a teenager. Ponifasio trained in ballet and contemporary dance before joining Takitimu kapa haka group led by Tama Huata and touring Canada. Following this experience he spent twelve years dancing in Tokyo and Europe before returning to New Zealand and establishing dance Company 'Mau' which is the name of the Samoan independence movement of 1908.

Ponifasio takes dance seriously. He sees himself as more than an entertainer but is on a mission to create social and political change through his art. He plays major theatres throughout the world, but despite a loyal following in New Zealand his audience er eremains small.

BLACK GRACE DANCE COMPANY

Artsville: From Cannon's Creek to Jacob's Pillow (extracts)

Television New Zealand 2005. Duration 10.11

In 1995 Neil Ieremia formed the all male Black Grace Dance Company which integrated traditional Pacific and contemporary dance. The company are predominantly Maori and Pacific Islanders. Black Grace have enjoyed international acclaim appearing at the prestigious Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in the United States. Ieremia has also become involved in Urban Youth Movement and choreographed for the Royal New Zealand Ballet, the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Opera New Zealand, New Zealand Wearable Arts and the Holland Dance Festival. While many of the founding members of Black Grace have left, the company continues to develop. "Black Grace is the most positive, living expression of any New Zealand art..." Sunday Star Times

PACIFIC UNDERGROUND

The Living Room, Series 01 (extract)

Sticky Pictures 2003. Duration 4.07

Established in 1993 'Pacific Underground' (who recently changed their name to New Pacific Underground) is a performing arts group who aim to "tell stories of Pasifika peoples living and growing up in Aotearoa by developing music and theatre shows that will entertain, uplift, promote as raise awareness of Pasifika peoples locally and globally" (New Zealand Culture Online). While its members currently consist of Chris Seale on drums, Posenai Mavaega on guitar, Cliff Mavaega on keyboards, Michael Banks on bass and Tattane on vocals. Past members have included Sanya Muagututi, Oscar Knightley, Malo Laufutu, Anton Carter, Dallas Tamaira, Shimpal Lelisi, David Fane and Joy Vaele all started their careers with 'Pacific Underground'.

URALE SISTERS

The Living Room, Series 01 (extract)

Sticky Pictures 2003. Duration 6.11

Born in the Samoan village of Fagamalo the Urale family moved to Wellington in 1974. Three of this talented family are featured here; Sima, Makarita and Malia. Their siblings include the legendary King Kapisi.

Sima Urale completed a year of study at Toi Whakaari New Zealand Drama School, before entering the the Victoria College of the Arts, Film and television Department in Melbourne, Australia. In 1996 she completed her acclaimed short film 'Tamati' before going on to direct more short films, music videos and television commercials. In 2008 she directed her first feature film "Apron Strings". Makarita Urale has worked as a journalist and free lance writer of

children's stories and plays. She currently works as a documentary director in Film and television. Malia Urale works as a publicist.

In this extract the sisters talk about their various artistic pursuits.

NAKED SAMOANS

The Living Room, Series 01 (extract)

Sticky Pictures 2003. Duration 5.01

'Naked Samoans' consists of David Fane, Mario Gaoa, Shimpal Lelisi, Oscar Knightley, Robbie Magasiva, and Jerome Leota. The comedy group started in 1998 with a stage production that became a sell out success. Their material is based on social satire and attracts a broad audience, including palangi New Zealanders.

In 2004 Naked Samoans created 'Bro town', New Zealand's first animated television show. 'Bro Town' was the unexpected hit television show of 2004. AC Nieslen reported that in its first week on air 13% of the target demographic total potential and 32% of viewing audience watched it during its 8-8:30 time slot. By its second week this had risen to 15%. An animated series detailing the adventures of a group of Polynesian friends growing up in South Auckland, it parodies Pacific Island culture.

In 2006 most members of the 'Naked Samoans' starred in the feature film 'Siones Wedding', which was co-written by Oscar Knightley. The movie became one of the highest grossing New Zealand films of 2006, making over \$3 million.

LAUGHING SAMOANS

The Best of Laughing Samoans (extract)

Double E/Spot On 2003. Duration 6.37

'The Laughing Samoans' is the comedy duo that consists of Wellingtonians Eteuati Ete and Tofiga Fepulea'i who met through their relationship with the Samoan Congregational Church.

Eteuati Ete was born in Samoa and was 12 years old when his family migrated to New Zealand to serve as Ministers in the church. In 1981 he founded New Zealand's first Pacific Island theatre group before attending the New Zealand Drama School between 1983/4. That year Ete also staged the first full length

Pasific Island play 'Le Matau' for which Ete played the lead and was voted by the dominion Post as the most promising male performer of the year.

Tofiga Fepulea'i was born in Wellington of Samoan descent. He is a sought after MC whose career debuted with he 'Laughing samoans' in the 2003 Fringe Festival.

LITERATURE

ALBERT WENDT

Kaleidoscope: Albert Wendt. Fa'a Samoa

Television New Zealand 1982. Duration 14.07

Albert Wendt was born in 1939 in Apia, Western Samoa and educated at New Plymouth Boys' High School, Ardmore Teachers' College and Victoria University (MA in history). In 1965 to Samoa where he became principal of Samoa College and in 1974 moved to Fiji to the University of South Pacific where he became Professor of Pacific literature and pro-vice chancellor. In 1988 Wendt became professor of New Zealand Literature at Auckland University.

Peggy Fairburn-Dunlop describes Wendt's role in developing a specifically Samoan literature in her essay Samoan Writing: The Search for the Written Fagogo . Wendt's writing is interested in exploring the construction of identity, especially in his poetry.

ALISTER TE ARIKI CAMPBELL

Like you I'm trapped (extract)

Martyn Sanderson 1976. Duration 11.27

Alister Te Ariki Campbell was born in the Cook Islands in 1925, immigrating to New Zealand seven years later when he was sent with his siblings to an orphanage in Dunedin. His early work reflects his European education and focuses on themes of love, nature and death, but his later writing is a celebration of this Polynesian roots "[his poetry] is essentially original, finely crafted and spans the objective world of sensation and the inner world of spirit or presence" (John O'Connor in NZ Books)

Alister Campbell and family read Home from hospital and The Trap and discuss the personal circumstances behind the poems.

SIA FIGIEL

The Write Stuff, Programme 03 (extracts)

Pinnacle Productions 1997. Duration 11.24

Figiel is often described as Samoa's first women novelist. where we once belonged won her the first best book award in the South East Asia/South Pacific region of the Commonwealth Writers Prize in 1997. She also writes poetry and is a performance artist.

Figiel's work is based on Samoan traditions. She interweaves allegory and mythology with contemporary experience, and structures her narrative in a cyclical way. The publisher from Pasifika Press describing her first novel says " [where we once belonged] attempts to structurally represent one of its central themes: the dominance of the community identity and continuity over the identity and growth of the individual".

TUSIATA AVIA

Talk Talk, Episode 04 (extract)

3rd Party Productions 2007. Duration 9.28

Tusiata Avia is of Samoan descent but was born and raised in Christchurch. A performance poet, Avia also writes children's books. Her mother being palangi, Avia's writing is often about the challenges of not fitting neatly into a particular cultural background, "In her writing Avia explores the boundaries between custom and contemporary life, between place and self." (www.bookcouncil.org.nz)

In this studio interview with Finlay MacDonald Avia talks about her life growing up in Christchurch and her evolution as a writer.