

Hekama Creative & Chocolate Stigmata present

Goodbye My Feleni

Written by D F Mamea

Unsung stories of WWII Pasifika soldiers honoured this ANZAC Day.



When you're in the army of a country that's not your own, about to fight a war half a world away, who do you fight for - God, king and country? or your fellow brothers-in-arms?

Hekama Creative, in association with Chocolate Stigmata, is proud to present the world premiere of *Goodbye My Feleni*, an uplifting and moving new play by Samoan playwright DF Mamea.

Goodbye My Feleni pays tribute to the Pasifika soldiers who served with the 28th (Maori) Battalion in World War II. Using Pasifika humour and song to tell the tale of brotherhood forged in the fire of battle, *Goodbye My Feleni* explores the sacrifices a Pasifika man must make in order to fight for God, king and country – even when it's not his own.

Goodbye My Feleni runs from 16 – 25 April, to celebrate ANZAC Day.

“I was listening to a Maori Battalion CD a few years ago,” says playwright David Mamea. “Then I heard someone talking in Samoan introducing two Samoan songs - something pulled right away at my heart, that seventy years earlier and half way around the world, four young Pasifika men sang of their homelands and their fears, and risked their lives for the world we have today. I knew I had to write something about that.”

Goodbye My Feleni joins a growing and dynamic canon of dramatic work about New Zealand military history from a Polynesian point of view, which includes Paolo Ratondo and Rob Mokaraka's *Strange Resting Places*, Briar Grace-Smith's *Haruru Mai*, and Hone Kouka's *Nga Tangata Toa*. *Goodbye My Feleni* is the first play to look at WWII from a Pasifika perspective.

Starring Taofia Pelesasa (*A Frigate Birds Sings, The Factory*), Andy Sani (*The Brave*), Leki Jackson Bourke (*The Brave, Taro King*) and Samson Chan-Boon (*At the Wake*), and produced by Jenni Heka of Hekama Creative Productions. Directed by Amelia Reid-Meredith (*Shortland Street*) and Shadon Meredith (*Hypothesis One: Le Tonu*). *Goodbye My Feleni* is made with the support of Auckland Council Arts Alive and The Basement.

www.basementtheatre.co.nz

Goodbye My Feleni

16-25 April 8pm

Basement Theatre – Main stage

\$20/\$25

<http://www.iticket.co.nz/>

For more information contact:

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