

GOODBYE MY FELENI

2nd Lieutenant Ete Masani.....Taofia Pelesasa
Lance Corporal Simi Bishop.....Samson Chan-Boon
Private Tama Apala.....Leki Jackson Bourke
Private Ioane Churchward.....Andy Sani
Choir Mistress.....Maureen Fepulea'i
Technical Advisor.....Jack Counsell
Hair.....DJ at Westside Barbers
Costumes.....Miranda at First Scene
Publicity and Production Photography.....Sian Parker
Graphic Design.....Tim Gomez for Studio Everyday
Publicity.....Kristina Hard, Little Miss Publicist
.....Qiane Matata-Sipu for Qreative Native Media
Sound Design.....Thomas Eason
Dramaturg.....Stuart Hoar
Lighting Design, Operator and Stage Manager Extraordinaire...Ruby Reihana-Wilson
Special Thanks.....Holly Chappell, Max Palamo, Jake Arona
Directors.....Shadon Meredith & Amelia Reid-Meredith
Producer.....Jenni Heka
Writer.....D F Mamea

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Hekama Creative appreciates and acknowledges:

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Chocolate Stigmata appreciates and acknowledges:

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TOI ORA LIVE ART TRUST BANANA BOAT CHARITABLE TRUST
BASEMENT THEATRE TRUST AUCKLAND COUNCIL ARTS ALIVE FUND



PROGRAMME

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Talofa lava
Malo e lelei

Kia orana
Ni sa bula

Fakaalofa lahi atu
Tena koutou

Taloha ni
Welcome

You've paid your hard-earned money, you've got mere minutes before the lights go out and you're squinting at this programme in the dim light, wondering if things'll start on time, hoping that the next hour or so of Pasifika theatre will be memorable for the right reasons, and trying to get comfortable in your seat.

You and me both.

Goodbye My Feleni is the product of collaboration: I wrote a script, a couple of young directors took hold of its spirit, four actors signed up for duty, and our producer kept us all trained, fed and watered - just like a military unit where every person has their place - yet each one is essential, culminating in a work that is greater than the sum of its parts.

It has been a true and rare pleasure to work with: the boys - **Taofia, Samson, Andy** and **Leki** - whose youth and energy have been equal parts inspiring and exhausting; directors **Shadon & Amelia** who generously showed me just how much more than just the printed word can be wrung out of a script; the multiple-hat-wearing **Ruby** whose unflappability and design aesthetics are a gift to a tired crew; and producer **Jenni** who brought together everyone and everything into a tight fighting unit, and furnished us with an environment where everyone was safe and supported. Thanks also to **Chris Molloy** who directed this play when it was just one act long: you set the pace, man.

Goodbye My Feleni came about because the last thing I expected to hear on a CD of the 28th (Maori) Battalion's songs were the voices of five Pasifika soldiers singing Samoan songs of love, fear, home and country. This play is for those who came before us, who chose this country to call home, and are part of the fabric of Aotearoa.

Thank you for coming this evening - don't worry you can study this programme at your leisure later, I expect the show will open on time, and I hope that the show will engage you in such a way that you won't even notice your seat.

Thank you for supporting New Zealand theatre. Tell your friends and family. And, maybe, we'll meet again.

Mannia le po.



David Fa'auliuli Mamea (Safune/Safotu, Samoa) has written for film, television, and radio. *Goodbye My Feleni* is his first full-length play.

He is a founder and trustee of the Banana Boat Charitable Trust, 'a loose bunch of Pasifika and Maori writers', is a paid-up member of the New Zealand Writers Guild, and sometimes when he should be writing, he's blogging at www.dfmamea.com.

He lives in West Auckland with his very own Domestic Goddess and a growing menagerie of animals.

LYRICS

O le Lanu a Samoa (The Colours of Samoa)

Samuel Churchward / Louis Aspinall / Jacob Foster / Eric Henry / Harry Irwin, traditional music, 1941

Ou te le fa'avaivai
O le mea na 'ou loto i ai
Le tauavega o le lanu a Samoa i lo'u fatu
Le penina o le Pasefika
Le motu lea pei o le taelago
E le galo lou manatu, mafaufau i aso ua alu
Po'o le ola, po'o le oti
Tumau pea lo'u fa'amaoni
Samoa o le a le su'ega o se lanu mo i tatou
Ou te ta'amilo i nu'u ese
Ma tu'u upu pele i le pese
Ta'amilo le lalolagi ae gata i le mea tasi
Tiga le faigata o pulu fana ma mea papa
E leai o se vaivai Samoa lo'o fa'atali mai
Samoa ia alofagia, talosaga i a molia
I lenei faigata malo o e alofa

I don't want to understate
What I wish for
As I travel the world
with the colours of Samoa in my heart
That jewel of the Pacific
The isle [that is my home?]
I will think of you always
If I live or if I die
I will have done my best
The colours of Samoa
I will see you wherever I go
As I journey through countries far and wide
With these precious lyrics [in my heart]
I will travel the world over
but always come back to this place
No matter these trials with guns and bombs
It is easy as Samoa waits for me in my heart
Please deliver my love for you, Samoa,
in these difficult times

Goodbye My Feleni (Goodbye My Friend)

Napoleon Andrew Tuiteleapaga, year unknown

Goodbye my feleni
O le a ou te'a
Ae folau i le vasa le ali'i pule i meleke
Ne'i galo mai Apia, lo ta'ele'ele
Ae manatua ai pea le au pasese
Oh I never will forget you
Samoa e le galo atu
Oh I never will forget you
Samoa e le galo atu
Fa'afoga foga mai Samoa uma
Ae se'i fai atu o la'u fa'atusa
Pei o le susana e sosolo i le mauga
Ae fa'apea la'u pele o Samoa uma
Oh I never will forget you
Samoa e le galu atu
Oh I never will forget you
Samoa e le galu atu

Goodbye my friend
I am about to go forth
To sail the seas [with God at my side?]
I will never forget Apia
where I used to swim in its harbour
Don't forget me and my fellow travellers
Oh I never will forget you
Samoa I will always remember you
Oh I never will forget you
Samoa I will always remember you
O Samoa please listen to my song
And all that I have to tell you
My love for you is like the flower
that grows up in the mountains
Oh I never will forget you
Samoa I will always remember you
Oh I never will forget you
Samoa I will always remember you

PRODUCER'S NOTES JENNI HEKA

What inspires me is a great story - a story that needs to be told and retold. A story that ignites a spark that catches in the hearts and minds of the audience. *Goodbye My Feleni* is one such story.

I was thrilled when **David** decided to write *Goodbye My Feleni*. After the reception of the one-act version at the Herald in June 2012, I urged him to expand it to a full-length play, and he has truly delivered.

This tale of four Pasifika young men preparing to go to war deserves to be told. It is about honouring our Pasifika soldiers. And it is about remembering the untold and the unknown.

I have had a lot of fun producing this work. There have been challenges as well but it has been worth it to ensure that the script was honoured, and that David, **Amelia**, **Shadon**, **Ruby**, **Andy**, **Samson**, **Leki**, and **Taofia** were supported all the way through the process.

To create work that transforms and connects, you have to be brave, you have to be fearless, and you have to push yourself and others around you to move outside their comfort zones, their norms, and work bloody hard. This wonderful group of creative people I stand alongside have done that and more. I have learned so much from them.

Tears, laughter, bravery, frustration, fierceness, unconditional love, and a lot of sweat has been left on the rehearsal floor. The result of that hard work is the gift we give to you tonight.

Kia monuina.



Jenni Heka (Ngati Niue/Malay) is a freelance theatre practitioner, her roles encompassing producing, directing and acting. She has worked in film, television, theatre and festivals in New Zealand and overseas.

Jenni is a producer for Massive Company. She is a founder and trustee of the Banana Boat Charitable Trust, a "loose bunch of Pasifika and Maori creatives". And because relaxation is optional for Jenni, she is the director of Hekama Creative, a nascent theatre production powerhouse.

www.hekamacreative.co.nz

DIRECTORS' NOTES SHADON MEREDITH & AMELIA REID-MEREDITH

David Mamea gave us the gift of the script, we worked to bring it to life, and now it's the boys' turn to tell this tale. David's words are a gift for Polynesian actors. It's a script that requires energy, articulation, thought, stamina and actors willing to delve deep into themselves. It's been an honour working with the boys on their craft. They have been open in allowing us to take them through a hard-working, collaborative and explorative process.

It's been a journey. It has been a continuous work in progress. The work doesn't stop on opening night - in fact it's just the beginning. Our job now is to share this with an audience and let that relationship inform the work.

We believe this story is important as it honours those who fought for our future, and gives us the perspective as a society that we are always walking forwards backwards.

We pay tribute to the work that was done before us. **Chris Molloy** paved our path with the first season of *Goodbye My Feleni* as a one-act play. He and **Jenni Heka** also pulled together the cast and crew for this season of *Goodbye My Feleni*.

Jenni - thank you for this opportunity to continue developing David's work; it is no small thing to believe in someone.

David - you are an incredible man. Your support and trust in us has meant we have been able to test, challenge and unpack your words and ultimately keep practicing our craft - thank you.

We dedicate this production to those that dedicated their lives. *Lest We Forget.*



Shadon Meredith (Safune/Tua'efu, Samoa) graduated from Toi Whakaari: The New Zealand Drama School in 2009, and has kept busy with a range of film and theatre productions including *The Orator* and *Sione's 2: Unfinished Business*, a recent tour with Red Leap's *The Arrival* through Asia, and was in the original line-up of *Goodbye My Feleni* at Auckland's Herald Theatre in 2012.

Amelia Reid-Meredith (Nelson, New Zealand) may probably be better known to New Zealand as Bella Cooper in *Shortland Street* but her devising and co-directing debut with last year's *Hypothesis One* heralds a cross-cultural vision to watch out for.



Shadon and Amelia's last co-directed theatre piece, *Le Tonu (The Decision)*, a follow-up to last year's acclaimed *Hypothesis One*, played at the Basement Theatre in March 2013.

TAOFIA PELESASA

2nd Lieutenant Eteli Masani, Niue

Through this process we've had the opportunity to reconnect with a part of our history in this country which is rarely acknowledged. In a day and age where we idolise 'glamour and swag' – we often forget the people who died getting us here; these should be our idols and heroes. It's been an honour breathing life into this part of our Pacific heritage with the boys and the crew in acknowledging the role which our smaller Pacific counterparts (Niue and Cook Island) played in our identity in Aotearoa. Lest we forget.



Taofia (Nukunonu, Tokelau / Fatausi and Vailoa, Samoa) is a Rotorua native who found his way to the stage via law school and then UNITEC Drama School. He is currently studying a Graduate Diploma in Writing for Screen.

He feels blessed to have worked with the likes of Auckland Theatre Company (ATC) and Kila Kokonut Krew (KKK) but his proudest moment since graduating from drama school in 2011 is co-founding Whenua Tapu Creative Limited as a vehicle to share the rich small-town Polynesian experience of which he is a product.

LIGHTING DESIGNER, OPERATOR and STAGE MANAGER

RUBY REIHANA-WILSON



Ruby (Nga Puhi) studied at the Unitec School of Performing Arts, gaining a Diploma in Performance Technology (2010). Since graduating, she has worked as a freelance lighting designer, stage manager and occasional film producer. Recent design credits include *Just Above The Clouds*, *How To Make Friends and Still Appear Normal* (choreography by Natalie Clark - winner of Best Dance and Best Newcomer at Wellington Fringe 2013) and *Cloud 9* which has just finished a sell-out season at the Basement.

She has spent heaps of time touring around New Zealand this year, which she thinks is really super. She also thinks her job is CHOICE and looks forward to doing as many shows as physically/mentally possible.

SAMSON CHAN-BOON

Lance Corporal Simi Bishop, Cook Islands

Samson (Vailele/Tafua, Samoa) is a Pacific Institute of Performing Arts (PIPA) graduate who has worked with Sam Scott, Tama Waipara, Pua Magasiva and many more. His credits include *Sinarella* (PIPA/ATC, 2012), Lima Productions' *Fathers* short film, and Victor Rodger's *At the Wake* (Centrepoint Theatre, 2012).



LEKI JACKSON BOURKE

Private Tama Apala, Niue

Leki (Hakupu, Niue / Vava'u, Tonga / Talimatau, Samoa) is a PIPA graduate and Lima Dance Theatre member. He's been studying drama ever since his first year of high school. His credits include *The Brave* (Massive Company, 2012), *The Taro King* (KKK, 2012), and *Gaga: the unmentionable* (We Should Practice, 2012).



ANDY SANI

Private Ioane Churchward, Samoa

Andy (Sinamona/Faatoia, Samoa) is a PIPA graduate whose credits include *Polly Hood in Mumuland* (PIPA/ATC, 2011), *The Brave* (Massive Company, 2012), and *The Taro King* (KKK, 2012).

