

## Unitec Creative Industries – Weekly Newsletter: 18-25 March 2019

New stories by Unitec grads **Hanelle Harris** (*Sis*) and **Danny Aumua** (*Rumble*) are among eight scripts for and about Pasifika and Asian peoples that have been selected for development under a new initiative from NZ On Air. The teams selected will participate in a development programme run by Script to Screen, including follow up mentoring to guide them as they prepare to submit production funding applications. Script to Screen looks forward to working with these creative teams as they develop their projects to submit to NZ On Air for production funding. More info [here](#).

Fractious Tash's gut-punch new play *HeadSand* opens at Basement Theatre on 26 March until 6 April and slams together a powerhouse cast of New Zealand's most experienced actors – including Unitec grad **Saraïd Cameron** and former Unitec lecturer **Michele Hine** – alongside industry game-changers to unravel an apocalyptic, surreal new play lampooning an apathetic world. Tickets [here](#). More info [here](#). Or follow the [Facebook page](#).



Unitec Screen Arts grad **Amberley Aumua** is one of nine female Pacific filmmakers who co-wrote and directed *Vai*, a film about female empowerment that spans the breadth of the Pacific telling the story of one woman's life in eight separate moments from the perspective of eight different Pacific Island cultures. *Vai* was filmed in seven Pacific countries: Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Kuki Airani (Cook Islands), Samoa, Niue and Aotearoa (New Zealand) and will be released in New Zealand cinemas next week on 4 April. The film's world premiere was on 8 February at Berlin's CineStar Imax, as part of the 2019 Berlin Film Festival. The New Zealand premiere was held last week in Ōtaki, as part of the 2019 Māoriland Film Festival. More info [here](#).

After sell-out shows in 2018 and five star reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe, 2012 Unitec acting grad **Eli Matthewson** (right) returns to the New Zealand Comedy Festival with a new comedy lecture that combines Ancient Myths with his own legendary life stories called *Myths & Legends* which runs 14-18 May at the Basement Theatre. Eli is a multiple Billy T Nominee from 2013 + 2015, and a Nominee 2017. More info [here](#). Read more [here](#).



Unitec last week signed an agreement with the Beijing Film Academy (BFA) to initiate the **Kevin Smith Memorial Scholarship**, named after Kiwi actor Kevin Smith who passed away in Beijing in the 1990s. The scholarship will see an exchange of acting student from both institutions get to experience life as a student in the other country. This initiative may open doors for staff exchanges.



2010 Unitec grad **Felix Schaefer** was the lead actor in German feature film *Freddy/Eddy* which has done well on the international film festival circuit. Nominated best actor at the 2017 Fantaspoa International Fantastic Film Festival. The film won best director at the Achtung Berlin Film Festival and best production at the Austin Film Festival in 2017. More on the film [here](#). Felix also directed, wrote, produced and acted in a 2018 film called [Da Unten im Himmel](#).

*The Inhabitants of Arlecchinia* written and played by **Claudia Contin Arlecchino** - known worldwide as the first woman who reinterpreted the masculine character of Arlecchino, one of the most intriguing characters of the Commedia dell'Art – is coming to Auckland from 30 September to 11 October. *The Inhabitants of Arlecchinia* is a journey through the secrets of the actors work and at the same time an exploration between the “drawings” of bodies, the gestures and the understandings of the main classical Commedia dell’Arte masks. Produced by grads **Emily Hurley & Elizabeth Roberts**.



Staff movements: Acting lecturer **Pedro Ilgenfritz** will be taking a yearlong sabbatical to complete his PhD from July 2019 to July 2020. **Jeffrey Holdaway** has replaced **Duncan Milne** as lecturer in Production Design and Management.

Student movements: Year 3 **PDM technical and stage management students** are returning from secondments with numerous live performance productions during the Auckland Arts Festival which ended yesterday.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

<i>Postponed</i>	<i>Unitec Maori &amp; Pacific Family Day</i>
10 April	Unitec Autumn Graduation – Aotea Centre, 7pm
11-12 April	Year 2 Acting: Scenes – 2057-006, 1pm & 6pm
12-14 April	Drama NZ Conference – Christchurch
30 April	Auckland Theatre Company Here & Now Careers Day – ASB Waterfront Theatre