

## Unitec School of Creative Industries – Weekly Newsletter: 2 Mar 2020

Wellesley Studios have announced their 2020 New Graduate Residency Artist – Unitec dance grad, **Miriam Eskildsen**. They will be hosting Miriam for two weeks from May 4 – 15 while she creates the choreographic material for her short dance film – '*in liminal language*'. Miriam is particularly interested in how text and narrative can be used as instigators for creative movement – holistically interweaved within contemporary dance.

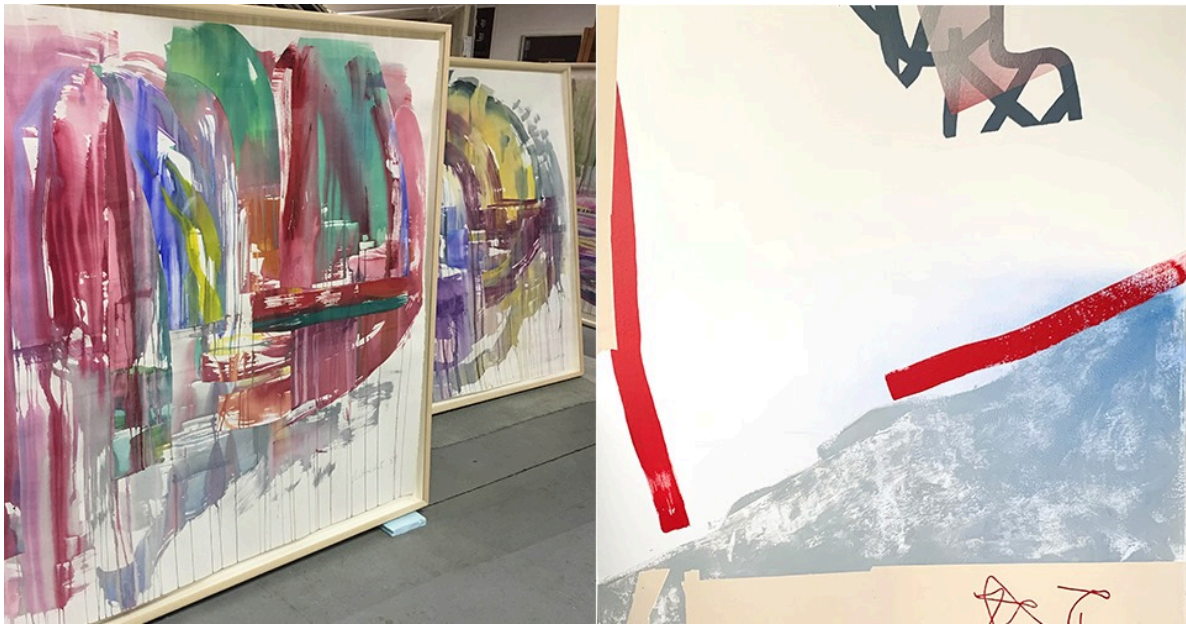
The Residency will culminate in a studio showing on May 15 with details to be announced closer to the time. (Photography by Melissa Duff)



BDVA graduate and Master of Design student **Brendon Leung's** exhibition (alongside Amanda Gruenwald, Eemyun Kang and Chris Corson-Scott) opened yesterday, Sunday 1 March, 4-6pm (preview) at Trish Clark's new gallery space in Grey Lynn. More [here](#).

**Danae Ripley** (MCP student) and **Yvonne Abercrombie** (BDVA and Master of Design grad) are exhibiting at the Wallace Arts Trust in the group show *Conditioner* from 18 February – 3 May. *Conditioner* is a view of contemporary practice by six emergent female artists, working in painting, drawing and installation. These artists explore what is intrinsically personal, pertinent concerns or notions of oneself. Their paintings are dualistic, with a view inward to oneself and out to the world beyond. More [here](#).

BDVA and Master of Creative Practice (MCP) grad, **Tira Walsh's** solo exhibition runs from 6 March – 9 April with an opening this Thursday, 5 March at Two Rooms Gallery, Newton, Auckland alongside Gretchen Albrecht. Find out more on the event page [here](#).



2019 Unitec design graduand, **Peggy-Jane Keddy**, is profiled in Design Assembly as one of New Zealand's top graduates entering the design industry. She spoke positively about her experience at Unitec. *"I chose to study at Unitec as I went in unsure of which part of design I wanted to master. Doing the bachelor of creative enterprise course they offered allowed me to test my waters and start to narrow down after being offered all options. I found that I figured this out pretty quickly. I didn't want to choose one category and commit to something I wasn't passionate about. I arrived at Unitec with little design experience and ended up leaving with a solid foundation of basic skills that with hard work now I can expand on myself."* Read the full story [here](#).





New Zealand Pasifika play, *Wild Dogs Under My Skirt*, the award-winning play by Samoan poet Tusiata Avia and directed by Anapela Polata'ivao plays a limited six-week engagement April 16 - May 24 at SoHo Playhouse in New York, US. The official opening is Thursday, April 30. Featuring a cast that includes Unitec grads, **Stacey Leilua**, **Joanna Mika** and **Ilaisaane Green**. More [here](#).

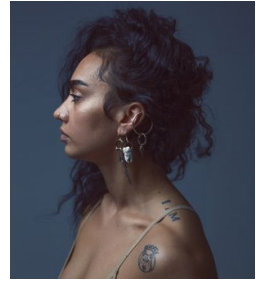


Unitec dance grad **Sofia McIntyre** was interviewed by Radio NZ for her show *Faceless Hair Cry* that runs in Auckland Fringe from 3-7 March at The Basement Theatre. The show is a romantic duet danced solo by Sofia and with compelling soundscape created by Unitec Screen Arts grad, **Paloma Schneideman**. Read more [here](#).

The **New Zealand Arts Festival** included work by Unitec dance grad **Aloalii Tapu** and Friends, *Goodbye Naughton*, performed in Wellington's Te Rauparaha Arena on 26 February. Read the glowing [review](#).



Artist, world-builder and Unitec dance grad (2011) **Jahra Wasasala** was one of the guest speakers in *Talanoa Mau* - a historic coming together of artists, leaders, doers and thinkers from around the world and Aotearoa/New Zealand to give voice to new or unheard ideas, and stimulate critical discussion on what it means to be human in today's world, held during the NZ Festival of the Arts in Wellington on 24-25 February. Read more [here](#).



The **Auckland Arts Festival 2020** is approaching next week and there are a number of Unitec grads performing across many productions in this year's programme. Our third year cohort of Production Design & Management students are also on work placements during the festival from 11-29 March. Here's a summary of Unitec talent to watch out for:

#### **UPU – 5-15 March – Q Rangatira**

Directed by Unitec grad **Fasitua Amosa**

Silo Theatre's first production for 2020 brings the wealth and power of Pacific literature to roaring theatrical life.

Curated by award-winning poet Grace Taylor. More [here](#).



#### **BLACK TIES – 11-15 March – Aotea Centre**

Join Unitec acting grad **Tainui Tukiwaho** for the biggest, brownest wedding ever – a hilarious, heart-warming theatre experience from award-winning ILBIJERRI Theatre Company and Te Rēhia Theatre. Tukiwaho also wrote/directed this production. More [here](#).

#### **VERSES – 18-29 March – Auckland wide**

To kick off its 25th Anniversary year, **Black Grace** celebrates with its hometown through a 10-centre tour of Tāmaki Makaurau with the next instalment of Verses. Founding Artistic Director and dance grad **Neil Ieremia** curates a collection of dance works, inspired by words, lyrics, lines and verse, set to an eclectic mix of his favourite pieces of music to create *Verses* performed by a cast including a number of dance grads. More [here](#).





### **BABY MUTANTS – 17 March – Spiegeltent from Four Points by Sheraton Auckland**

In his intimate hotel-room show, Biladurang, Joel Bray explores the remarkable tension of growing up as a gay Aboriginal boy in a white Pentecostal household and feeling like a 'mutant'. Join Unitec grad, **Tanu Gago** as he shares his own experiences of forging new paths and finding his tribe. More [here](#).

### **BLACK LOVER – 11-29 March – Q Loft**

Unitec grad **Rachael Walker** is the set & costume designer for *Black Lover*, which brings to life a great New Zealander and explores how two men stand with courage against terror in a nation experiencing deep racial divides. More [here](#).

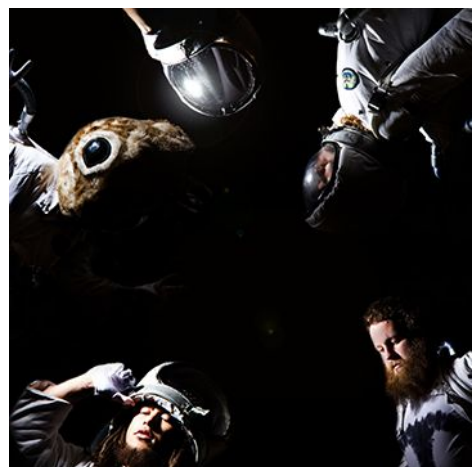


### **THE CURRY HOUSE KID – 22 March – Academy Cinemas**

Akram Khan returns home to his memories of growing up on Brick Lane with his Bangladeshi parents, and to the violence and racism that shaped his everyday life – all of it culminating in a ruminative, hypnotic dance piece in an abandoned warehouse nearby. The screening is followed by a panel discussion. Chaired by comedian and Unitec acting grad (2012), **James Roque**. More [here](#).

### **@PEACE AND THE PLUTONIAN NOISE SYMPHONY – 20 March - Spiegeltent from Four Points by Sheraton Auckland**

@Peace and the Plutonian Noise Symphony was a critically acclaimed modern masterpiece that broke boundaries, but also broke the group up. The album, founded on the fear of finality, was ironically their last. Now they are reuniting to bring to Auckland Arts Festival a 2020 reinterpretation of the Taite Prize-nominated opus in its entirety, accompanied by special musical guests with lighting by Unitec grad **Brad Gledhill**. More [here](#).





## **COMING UP**

### **March**

3	Whanau/Fanau Evening – Gold Lecture Theatre, Te Puna @4pm-5:30pm
11-29	Auckland Arts Festival 2020
13	Year 3 Acting Scenes – 006-2057 @1pm & @6pm
18-21	ASB Polyfest (Unitec Diversity Stage)
27	Year 2 PASA Noho Marae
31	Unitec Autumn Graduation (and 1 April)

ENDS/

Check out more news on our social media channels, [Unitec's Art & Design Facebook page](#) or [Unitec's Performing & Screen Arts Facebook page](#).

For all other social media updates on Unitec's School of Creative Industries visit our [official facebook page](#) and also our Instagram and Twitter channels @unitec\_creative