

## **Unitec School of Creative Industries - Weekly Newsletter: 15 June 2020**

### **NEWS**

2019 Unitec acting grad **Kauri Williams** (pictured) has scored himself a part in Maori Television's bilingual series *Ahikāroa* which follows the trials and tribulations of urban rangatahi. He has been filming series two of *Ahikāroa* for the last few months and plays Whatukura McGregor, a Maori police officer/iwi liaison. The TV series has some strong Unitec connections featuring a number of Maori and Pacific grads: Acting grad **Tomai Ihaia** was cast in Series 1 while grads **Tainui Tukiwaho** (co-writer) and **Joan James** (Costume Assistant) were also involved. Unitec grads **Kiel McNaughton** and **Hanelle Harris** are co-directors while Harris is also on the storyliner team with fellow grad and NZ comedian/actor, **Kura Forrester**. Screen Arts grads **Nikora Edwards** and **Gabriel Muller** are both sound recordists. [More here.](#)



Each year, an Auckland-based artist is commissioned to create a new body of work for exhibition during the Auckland Festival of Photography. As part of the Annual Commission 10th year anniversary, Unitec Bachelor of Creative Enterprise grad (2019) **Saynab Muse** provides a unique perspective to the cultural landscape of photography, with her Muslim heritage, love of photography and talent at it as a means to express in a hearing world. "My project is about being a feminist and the Muslim religion, detailing my identity that turned into a project to share with others." Read more [here](#):



The Pah Homestead: 9 June-26 July / 8pm 27 May | 1 June | 12 June  
72 Hillsborough Rd  
<http://photographyfestival.org.nz>

Over the last month Unitec Year 2 and Year 3 acting students have had the chance to work online with highly respected actor, director and coach **Miranda Harcourt** and have had some truly world class learning. The third years were lucky enough to add to this in an online forum with Miranda's daughter, **Thomasin McKenzie**, a young actress who is making a big impact across the world in films like *Jo Jo Rabbit*, *Leave No Trace* and the upcoming *Last Night in Soho*. It was an amazing and unique opportunity for our students to be inspired by someone their own age about her acting process and rich experience in the film industry and Thomasin was extremely generous with her time and knowledge.



To live, we need oxygen. That is the precise reason why George Floyd's words 'I can't breathe' have become the mantra of the Black Lives Matter movement. For Māori contemporary dancer, choreographer, teacher, facilitator, writer and Unitec dance grad **Jack Gray**, breath is a radical act. Gray spent over 6 years in the United States before his visiting scholar visa was impacted by Donald Trump's presidency. Using his artform as a weapon and an agent of change has led him around the globe - to bring the world together. [Read more.](#)



*Ladybug* is the incredible first digital work by Unitec dance grads, **Miriam Eskildsen** and **Veronica Lyu** in collaboration with current Year 3 Unitec student **Oli Mathiesen**. Unitec dance grad **Fa'asu Afoa Purcell** was Makeup and hair artist and production assistant. You can watch the film [here](#) on the Tempo Dance Festival website from 19-23 June.  
- See our *Events Calendar* below for other *Tempo* events involving Unitec grads.

## **NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The **Doc Edge Online Film Festival** is on and runs through to July 5. 83 great documentaries on offer! There are two excellent photography films that may be of interest to arts/ Photography students. The Asia Pacific premiere of "[That Click](#)". It's the story of Hollywood Photographer, Douglas Kirkland, now in his late 80s. And "[Picture of His Life](#)", about wildlife Photographer Amos Nachoum who, at 65, decides it's not too late in his life to swim with Polar Bears. More [here](#).

It is with great sadness that I announce the death of my mentor, **Kristin Linklater**, who died at age 84 at her home in Housegarth, Quoyloo, Orkney in the early hours of Friday June 5th. Kristin was an extraordinary, inspirational, world renowned Voice

Teacher and Author, who worked with generations of performers, artists, teachers, and people from all walks of life from across the globe to Free their Natural Voice. I first met Kristin's work when I studied acting in South Australia in the late



Linklater with actor Bill Murray in 2019

Australia in the late 1990's, and had the great privilege of training with her in the UK in 2011-12 to become designated in her method. I went to Orkney last year with three other designated teachers to assist her to run her Teacher Training, and will forever cherish the memories of that incredible opportunity to watch a master of art at work. Kristin's legacy will continue to uplift and inspire many generations to come. I am privileged to have trained under her excellent tutelage and to have called her my mentor. I owe her a great debt of gratitude, and will continue to strive for excellence in my practice, and for my students, in tribute to her. Vale Kristin. May Flights of Angels sing thee to thy rest.

Alexandra Whitham  
Acting Voice Lecturer, Unitec

From [The Times \(Friday June 12th 2020\)](#)

## **Kristin Linklater Obituary**

Remarkable voice coach whose transformational methods left a profound effect on some of the biggest names of stage and screen.



For more than 50 years Linklater inspired actors, singers, preachers, lawyers: anyone who needed to speak clearly and with confidence. They were encouraged to discover the potential of their body, and often the hidden depths of their personality. The voice, she said, was a human instrument, waiting to be liberated. Her book *Freeing the Natural Voice* became a bible in the theatre world, and its companion volume *Freeing Shakespeare's Voice* has influenced actors across the world to speak the bard's lines freely.

For actors such as Bill Murray, Donald Sutherland (a lifelong friend), Sigourney Weaver, Patrick Stewart, Mary Tyler Moore and many others, Linklater was a life coach as well as a teacher of voice. Linklater was a regular speaker at the World Economic Forum in Davos. She helped train actors in China and Taiwan, and she taught at the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Central School in London. Just a week before her death she delivered the keynote speech, online, to a drama conference in Shanghai. In a Rome theatre last year she had an audience of 600 standing to do her exercises. Perhaps most remarkably, after teaching for 50 years in America, where she had been professor of drama at Columbia University in New York, she returned at the age of 77 to her native Orkney, bought a crumbling farmhouse at Housegarth, and established a voice teaching centre, raising £200,000 to build a modern studio and accommodation.

At the time of her death she had welcomed 1,200 students and trained 239 teachers.

Interviewed for the local paper, she said: "I don't understand the word retirement. I'm going to teach until I drop." She leaves her son, and three grandchildren; one of them, named Iris in memory of Iris Warren, was born the day after her death.

## **EVENTS CALENDAR:**

11-28 June	<b>SAW-SEE_SEE-SAW</b> Sanc Gallery Queen St
18-21 June	<b>Embodied</b> ( <i>Tempo Dance Festival</i> ) Issie Cassidy More <a href="#">here</a> .
19-23 June	<b>Ladybug</b> ( <i>Tempo Dance Festival</i> ) by Miriam Eskildsen and Veronica Lyu in collaboration with Oli Mathiesen. More <a href="#">here</a> .
27-28 June	<b>Film Acting &amp; Audition Workshop 2020</b> With Vicky Yiannoutsos & Andrea Kelland. Contact: <a href="mailto:artkelland@gmail.com">artkelland@gmail.com</a> or 027 233 4333
29-30 June	<b>Beautiful Anger</b> ( <i>Tempo Dance Festival</i> ) Anu Khapung. More <a href="#">here</a> .
1-4 July	<b>False Clouds</b> ( <i>Tempo Dance Festival</i> ) Solomon Mortimer. More <a href="#">here</a> .
7 July	<b>Screen Bites Workshop</b> Building 12
14-16 July	<b>Still Solo</b> ( <i>Tempo Dance Festival</i> ) by Oli Mathiesen. More <a href="#">here</a> .
15-16 July	<b>Introduction to Acting Workshop</b> Building 6
24 July-2 August	<b>New Zealand International Film Festival</b>
28 July-28 August	<b>Beyond the Index</b> curated by Allan McDonald Opening 5-7pm, 28 July, Gallery One, Building 76 Hours: 9-4pm Mon-Fri / Contact: 02108253385.

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