

## **Unitec School of Creative Industries - Weekly Newsletter: 31 Aug 2020**

### **NEWS**

A star in the making is actor and 2016 Unitec acting grad **Anna-Maree Thomas**, who has a lead role in new Kiwi psychological thriller series *The Sounds*, as off-the-rails Zoe McGregor, coming soon to Neon.



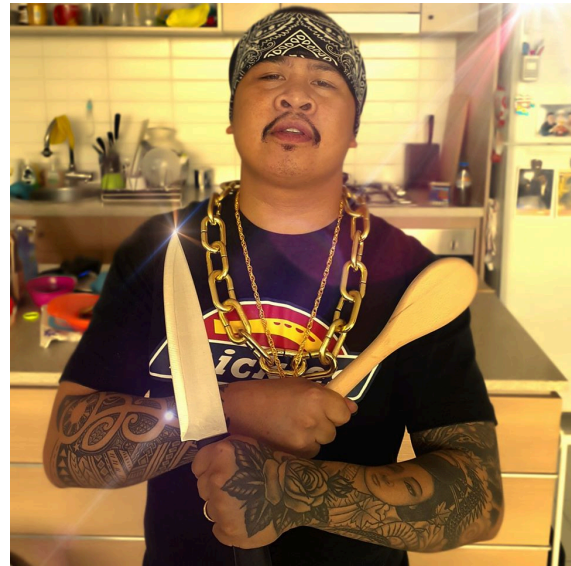
Filming *The Sounds* at the end of 2019, now feels like a surreal process for the young actress, whose life has since changed drastically with the arrival of Covid-19 to our shores. She had moved to Sydney at the beginning of this year to establish an acting base, but had to come home quickly when the borders closed. Read more [here](#).

For close to twenty years, Unitec acting grad **Tainui Tukiwaho** has been a prolific maker in Aotearoa's creative arts sector, perhaps most notably in the world of theatre where he wears many hats: actor, writer, producer, director. But as of late, the hat he enjoys spending most of his time wearing is as Te Taha Wairua at Te Pou - Auckland's Māori home of theatre. Tukiwaho, a graduate of Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi's ART Venture



programme, founded Te Pou alongside a collective of other Māori theatre-makers back in April 2015 and it is his leadership that has seen Te Pou through the past five years and supported multiple Māori artists to make their mark on the national theatre scene. Read more [here](#).

While COVID-19 has put many careers on hold, Melbourne based Filipino and Unitec Screen Arts grad, **Lorenzo Laraño** has gone viral in his new career as a stand-up comedian. He took a leap of faith after working in retail for several years after graduating. After a number of gigs in Sydney and Melbourne, he had the opportunity for his biggest gig yet - at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival 2020. Sadly, the event was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic, but Lorenzo found a new avenue to expand his comedic craft online. One of Lorenzo's most successful videos, reaching over one million views online. See it [here](#).



The Unitec Dance programme has announced a change to their dress code, including moving away from traditional attire in ballet classes. Students are now free to choose what they wear to their ballet class (within a set of guidelines), rather than wearing the




pink or black tights and leotard commonly associated with practising ballet. The move, reflecting the value of Ngākau Māhaki - Respect, was made to support students to reflect their gender diversity and cultural identity through their clothes - a perfect example. Dance lecturer **Paul Young** said that the traditional gendered ballet uniform reflects a view of binary gender, doesn't adequately accommodate people of colour and can be uncomfortable for students who don't have a background in ballet. (PHOTO (L-R): Jess Crompton, Kereana Mosen and Oli Mathiesen)

## **NOTICES:**

Submissions are open for the second round of the Doc Edge and Rei Foundation Film Fund. Doc Edge and Rei Foundation seek to support the making of short documentaries (up to 40 minutes) for youth aged 11 to 17 years. Up to \$NZD 80,000 NZD (approx. \$USD 50,000) is available to support the production of up to four short documentaries over the next year. The funds will be distributed as progress payments based on milestones stipulated by Doc Edge. Applications are open until 4pm Monday 31 August 2020 (New Zealand time). Apply here: <https://docedge.nz/international/film-fund/>

## **EVENTS CALENDAR:**

### **SEPTEMBER**

- 10-12 **Year 3 Dance: coLAB 3** Unitec Theatre, @7:30pm  
In house event. PASA Staff/Students only.
- 19 **Unitec 'Virtual' Open Day**, Te Puna 9:30am-3pm  
  
[www.unitec.ac.nz/openday](http://www.unitec.ac.nz/openday)
- 23-26 **Year 2 Dance: coLAB 2** Dance Studios, @7:30pm  
(Only public if Auckland goes to Level One)  
S/Matinee - Fri 25/9 @12:30pm / Matinee - Sat 26/9 @2pm
- 24 **Year 2 Acting Plays** Unitec Theatre, 7pm  
(Only public if Auckland goes to Level One)  
**12 Angry Men** by Reginald Rose 24-25 Sep @7pm / 25 Sep @11am  
**The Freedom of the City** by Brian Friel 1-2 Oct @7pm / 2 Oct @11am
- 28 *Mid Semester break* (until 11 Oct)
- 28 **Acting Auditions** until October 9  
Auckland, North Shore, Manukau, Christchurch, Wellington, Whangarei

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](#)