

Unitec School of Creative Industries - Weekly Newsletter: 30 Nov 2020

NEWS

Graduating **Screen Arts students** got the red-carpet treatment on Saturday night as they watched their six grad films on the big screen for the first time at the 2020 Grad Showcase Screening at

Hollywood Cinema, Avondale. Inspiring words from guest speaker, director/producer

Peter Burger and

head of school

Vanessa Byrnes

set the scene for an

amazing night

attended by close to



300 guests. The Screen Arts team were also acknowledged for their hard work in a challenging year. The grad films will now enter the film festival circuit where Unitec has had great success. 2019 grad film *Childhood Room* was shortlisted for Best Short at this year's NZ International Film Festival.

NBC's new TV series, *Young Rock*, based on the formative years of Hollywood star **Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson** features an international cast including three Unitec acting grads in the



main cast;

Stacey Leilua

(as The Rock's

mum Ata), **John**

Tui and **Fasitua**

Amosa (pictured

left, on right).



The series is currently being filmed on location in Brisbane, Queensland in Australia with a 2021 release. More [here](#).

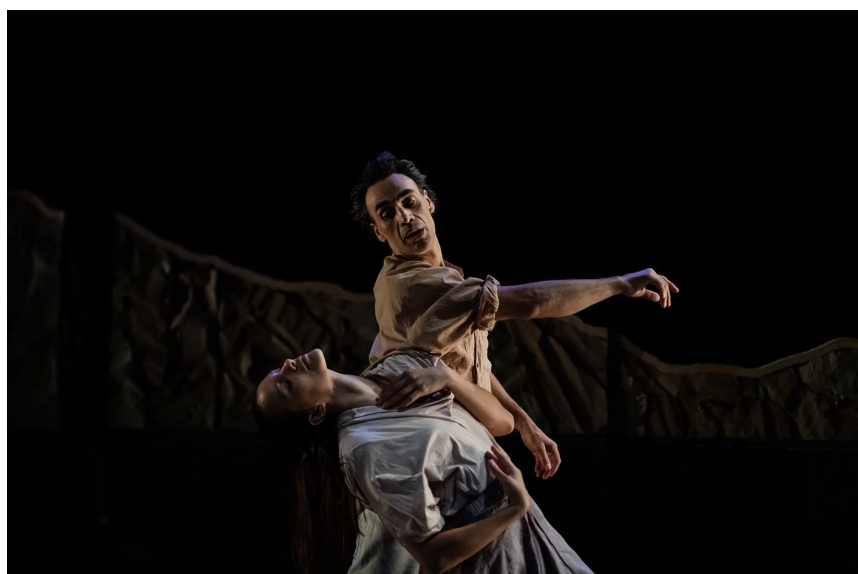
Congratulations to this year's recipients of student awards in Unitec Design & Contemporary Arts. Also, a special mention to contemporary arts discipline lead, **Emma Smith** who is a finalist in this year's Unitec Excellence Awards.

2020 DCA AWARD WINNERS:

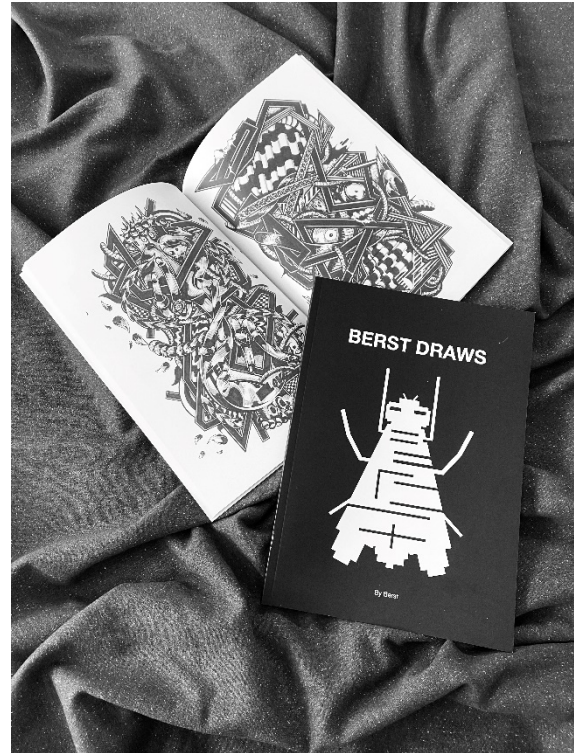
- Award for Excellence in Contemporary Art: 3D Practice - **Jimmy Ma'ia'i**
- Award for Excellence in Contemporary Art: 2D Practice - **Claire Reti**
- Award for Excellence in Contemporary Art: Photography & Moving Image - **Kim Lu**
- Award for Excellence in Design: Graphic Design - **Tamaryn Roy**
- Award for Excellence in Design: Product Design - **Finn Plunket**
- Award for Excellence in Design: Interactive Design - **Felix Ye**



Unitec dance alumna **Sean MacDonald's** latest project, *Ngā Wai*, is a poetic work inspired by the sacred waters of Wāimarama, Sean's ancestral home. Created for Atamira Dance Company, it premiered at Auckland's Q Theatre, last week from November 26-28. The work also featured Unitec alumni **Jack Gray, Bianca Hyslop, Aloalii Tapu**, and **Tupua Tigafua**. Read more [here](#).



Lecturer **Bobby Hung** has a book launch for a new 92-page illustration publication he created through the Auckland Libraries with the support of the Research Dissemination Funds. This publication presents a culmination of 80 analogue illustrations created between 2014-2020 by Hung who recently completed his PhD. His thesis was *Hitting the street: The legitimization of street art in visual arts education in New Zealand*. He explores four key themes that include contemporary visual culture, mythologies and identity, social activism, and graffiti writing. Spanning over six years, each series represent different periods of his life. The launch will be held at the Auckland Central Library on Wednesday, 2 December 6:30pm-7:30pm. Register [here](#) if you wish to attend.



Unitec Dance curriculum leader, **Charles Koroneho** was featured in the NZ Herald's Canvas section as part of Experimental Dance Week Aotearoa which runs from 1-5 December at Auckland's Herald Theatre. EDWA celebrates the inclusive craft of alternative dance in New Zealand and features eclectic performances from 18 live artists (including alumni **Amber Liberté, Faasu Afoa-Purcell, Kelly Nash, Joanne Hobern, Jessie McCall, Caitlin Davey, and Val Smith**), plus workshops and open korero, curated by Unitec dance alumna **Alexa Wilson**. Listen into Charles' interview on [95BFM](#) (1hr 28mins)



EVENTS CALENDAR:

DECEMBER

- 3 Unitec Excellence Awards, Te Puna
- 4-5 Big Screen Symposium, ASB Waterfront Theatre
- 11 International Agents Day, Red Lecture Theatre

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 Instagram & Twitter channels **@unitec_creative***