

## **Unitec School of Creative Industries / Weekly Newsletter: 29 March 2021**

### **MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL**

Kia ora koutou,

Great news this past week as the Unitec Board met on Thursday 25 March and signed off the final renovation plans and budget for Building 108. This is a substantial investment, and the new teaching spaces which will include DCA and Screen Arts will be an exciting addition to our campus, plus provide a home base for the School. Unitec will now send our plans to Te Pūkenga and the Secretary of Education for final sign-off. Special thanks to Nick Sheppard and ELT members for advocating so clearly for our School in this project.



Four of the ELT also attended the opening of the exhibition 'Farewell to Fingers' last Thursday, which brings together the diverse practices of three of our Master of Creative Practice ākonga: Cassey Locke, Tyrone Te Waa and Michaela van der Laan. Get along to the exhibition if you can – it's in Gallery One in B76 until 22 April. Thanks to the DCA team for bringing together this work in such a beautiful way.

Farewell this week to Carsten Kudra who has been at Unitec in different ways since 2008. Thank you once again Carsten for making a positive difference to our teams, to the School in its various forms, and to the variegated and very individual student journeys across the years you have spent at Unitec.

And a very warm welcome to Aloalii Tapu who joined us last week as a fulltime lecturer in the Dance programme. Aloalii Tapu - aka Li'i - is a Samoan Kiwi director and dancer from Otara. Currently based in Auckland, he also works in Germany with Company Christoph Winkler. Alongside Tori Manley-Tapu, Li'i co-directs the arts company Ta'alili who make theatre, design, film, and dance works with their friends and family. Since graduating from Unitec in 2014, Li'i has enjoyed a prolific dance career locally and internationally. In 2016 he was awarded the Der Faust award in the "Best Dancer" category, which is considered one the highest honours in German theatre. In recent years he has been researching movement images and ideas through his workshops "Lofty Release".

It's also been great to see the Auckland Festival coming to a fruitful conclusion, despite the obvious very challenging COVID-circumstances. We are very lucky to have so many graduates working in this Festival.

Remember that Easter Tuesday is a holiday for our Unitec whanau, so I hope you're making plans for a restful Easter break.

Ngā mihi maioha  
Dr Vanessa Byrnes

## **NEWS**

2020 Bachelor of Creative Enterprise (BCE) grad, **Jacob Hamilton** is featured as one of eight selected photobooks from 20 arts institutions across Australia and NZ for *The Best Antipodean Student Photo Books 2020*. Supported by Design & Contemporary Arts lecturers, **Allan McDonald** and **Yvonne Shaw**, Jacob's photobook *Second Son* explores the landscape from his position as a New Zealander of Maori, European and Cook Island descent. More [here](#).



Congratulations to our Performing and Screen Arts alumni who were winners at the Auckland Community Theatre Awards 2021:

### **BEST STAGE MANAGEMENT 2020**

**Chiara Niccolini**, Craig Rouse - Deathtrap / Dolphin Theatre

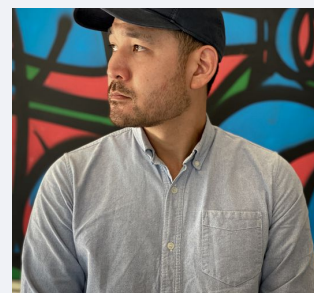
### **BEST COSTUME DESIGN 2020**

**Aria Harrison-Sparke** -  
As You Like It / Shoreside Theatre

Auckland Community Theatre Trust is an organisation representing nine community theatre groups in Auckland, New Zealand. As well as providing support and links between groups, ACTT run an annual community theatre competition.



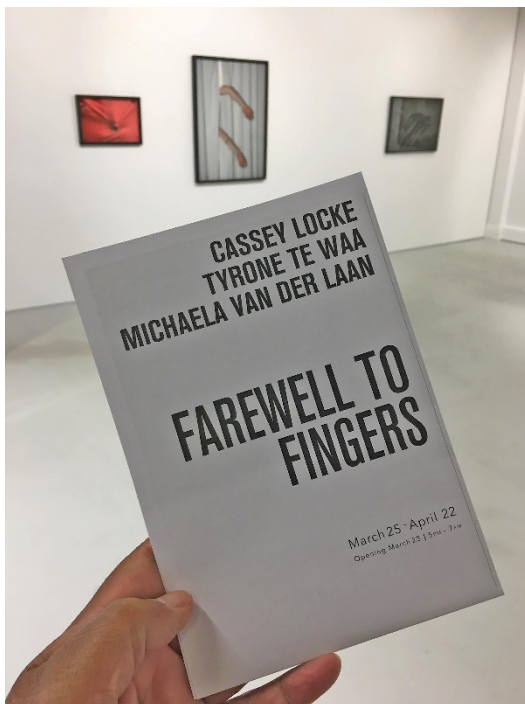
## **STAFF PROFILE**



Unitec art and design lecturer **Bobby Hung** is a Chinese artist, researcher, and teacher who has been at Unitec since 2011 in various roles and is currently working as a Discipline Leader within the School of Creative Industries. With over 40,000 followers on his Instagram account, Bobby has a high profile within the international street art community. He is a featured artist in 'The Most Dedicated' Street Art exhibition currently running at the Dowse Art Museum in Wellington from 27 Mar - 22 Aug 2021. Find out more about the exhibition [here](#).



The 'Farewell to Fingers' art exhibition opened last Thursday, 25 March in Gallery One, Building 76, attended by students and staff from the School of Creative Industries, members of Unitec's ELT, including CEO Gus Gilmore, plus friends and family. This group exhibition brings together the diverse practices of **Cassey Locke**, **Tyrone Te Waa** and **Michaela van der LAAN**, who were recipients of Unitec's Creative Industries BCE excellence awards in Contemporary Art in 2019 and are currently undertaking their Master of Creative Practice. The exhibition will run until 22 April.





Our first year Performing and Screen Arts students are being introduced to the wider Unitec whanau and our Living Te Noho Kotahitanga values through the *Kianga Talanoa* sessions that run every Monday during their Professional Development Class. These sessions are facilitated by Learning Advisors **Darlene Cameron** and Screen Arts alumna **Venusi Taumoepeau**. The initial “kanohi ki te kanohi” session was held last week in Building 12. Staff from within PASA and across Unitec join the Talanoa each week.



2004 Unitec acting alumnae **Michelle Blundell** (pictured on right, seated) has been cast in Brian Friel's masterful *Faith Healer* directed by Unitec guest tutor/director, **Paul Gittins**. The play will be performed at the old Methodist church hall that is now Pitt St Theatre, Auckland CBD from 6-24 April. Three vivid characters tell of loss, love and struggle as they travel the tiny villages of Scotland and Wales where Frank Hardy, Faith Healer, 'for one night only', may or may not perform miracles. Get your tickets now from [iTICKET](#).



## **EVENTS CALENDAR:**

### **APRIL**

2	<i>Good Friday</i>
5	<i>Easter Monday</i>
6	<i>Easter Tuesday / Unitec holiday</i>
13	Unitec Autumn Graduation, Aotea Centre
15-21	<a href="#"><u>World Creativity &amp; Innovation Week</u></a>
19	<i>Mid-Semester Break</i>
21	WORKSHOP: Screen Bites B12
26	<i>ANZAC Day observed</i>
27-28	WORKSHOP: Design Beautiful User Interfaces for Mobile Apps B76
27-28	WORKSHOP: Drawing Intensive B76
27-28	WORKSHOP: Risograph printing & binding B76
27-29	WORKSHOP: Storytellers Club (Act, Film, Dance) offsite
28-30	WORKSHOP: Drawing for Character B76
29	WORKSHOP: 3D Visualisation for Gaming Environments B76
29	WORKSHOP: Business for Creatives B76

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](#)