



Weekly Newsletter: 19 April 2021

NEWS

Unitec grad **Kiel McNaughton** directs TVNZ's latest Kiwi drama *Vegas* (starring: Katie Wolfe, Xavier Horan, Rena Owen, Dean O'Gorman, Te Kohe Tuhaka, Miriama Smith) which debuts on TVNZ2 tonight, Monday, at 8.30pm). Filmed entirely in Rotorua, the \$6.4m budgeted, six-part series is based on Ray Berard's 2015 novel *Inside the Black Horse*.



A potent cocktail of a tale involving debts, drugs, gangs and two disparate brothers, it revolves around the build up to and fallout from the life-changing events of a single night. *Vegas* will also be available on TVNZ OnDemand. More [here](#).



Creative Industries lecturer, Dr **Bobby Hung**, also known as Berst, first started painting graffiti as a teenager and was given a garden wall by his mother, to keep him from tagging on the streets. That was in the late 90s in Auckland. Starting this month until 2 August, *The Most Dedicated - An Aotearoa Graffiti Story 2021* - is an immersive exhibition that Berst is part of, showcasing 20 years of Aotearoa's graffiti through the lens of one of the most prolific creative collectives out of Auckland. Read more [here](#).

STAFF PROFILE



Pedro Ilgenfritz

Senior lecturer Pedro Ramos Ilgenfritz da Silva, 48, is a Brazilian-born theatre practitioner, researcher and teacher, who celebrated 15 years working at Unitec this month.

He teaches both practical and theoretical papers at Unitec and is in charge of movement training for actors. He also teaches theatre history and theories of theatre. "I think the learning experience should give two things to the students: language and insight. That is what I strive in my teaching."

Pedro is proud to have been awarded lecturer of the year twice. In 2015 he started his PhD studies at University of Auckland which he hopes to finish this year.

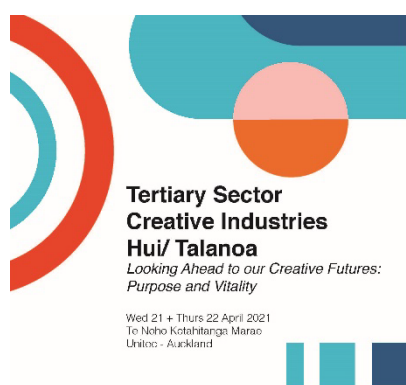
Pedro's main highlights are theatre works created with the students; *The Flying Jug* (2008), *Alfonsina* (2009), *One by One* (2011 & 2013), *2063* (2015) and *Leilani* (2016).

Pedro is married to Megan Smith and they have an eight-year-old daughter, Rosa. Currently residing in Hobsonville Point, Pedro loves to surf at the West Coast beaches.



Pedro with cast/Y3 Acting students, *2063* (2015)

Young Rock, NBC's big-budget comedy show about Hollywood actor and former wrestling star, Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson's Samoan upbringing has viewers excited about new talent **Stacey Leilua**, a Unitec acting graduate. San Francisco Chronicle critic makes special mention of her, "While everyone in *Young Rock* is pretty perfectly cast, her role, the least showy, is the most compelling surprise". When Stacey was asked to audition for *Young Rock*, she thought, "I can't do that". The Kiwi-Samoan actress recently returned from three weeks of performing in New York and wanted to spend time at home with her daughter, who was about to start school when she was asked to audition for the role of Ata, mother of Dwayne Johnson. Read more [here](#).



The impact of COVID on the arts and creative industries in New Zealand and the opportunities brought about by the reform of vocational education (ROVE) has led to a one-and-a-half-day Hui/Talanoa of tertiary education leaders in Auckland this week. The **Tertiary Sector Creative Industries Hui/Talanoa** will be hosted at Unitec's Te Noho Kotahitanga Marae from 21-22 April. Educators from New Zealand's leading tertiary education institutions will be in attendance with a number of industry guests and key stakeholders among the lineup of speakers.

EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL

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| 19 | <i>Mid-Semester Break</i> |
| 21-22 | Tertiary Sector Creative Industries Hui/ Talanoa, TNK Marae |
| 21 | WORKSHOP: Screen Bites B12 |
| 26 | <i>ANZAC Day observed</i> |
| 27-28 | WORKSHOP: Design Beautiful User Interfaces 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](#)