

NEWS

Unitec School of Creative Industries is celebrating recent success on the local and international film festival circuit. 2020 grad films *Hysteria* (wr/di: **Amelia Jacobson**) and *Gin O'Clock* (wr/di: **Tilly Molloy**) have both won Excellence Awards at this year's [WRPN Women's International Film Festival](#) (USA) while *Pizza Girl* (wr/di: **Jesse Gibson**) and *Shadow* (wr/di: Jack Knightbridge) received Exceptional Merit Awards. There was more success with *Pizza Girl* chosen for the [Wairoa Maori Film Festival](#) on 3-7 June.



Congratulations to Auckland artist and Unitec Contemporary Art lecturer, **Gina Ferguson** who won the top prize in the 2021 Fieldays No.8 Wire National Art Award in Hamilton last Thursday. The



\$7000 prize was awarded for her work *Wear 'n' tear* and its "stunning visual impact and inventive use of gorse, soap and wire." Judge, Virginia King: "Wear 'n' tear resonated with me on so many levels - the artist's thought-provoking concept and creative transformation of No.8 wire left me with a sense of intrigue," she said. The annual competition challenges artists to turn

an iconic Kiwi farming product into art. Read more [here](#), in [stuff.co.nz](#) and in Our Hamilton [here](#).

The first national hui for Creative Industries tertiary educators took place at Unitec's Te Noho Kotahitangi marae last week for a multi-discipline discussion on navigating changes in the sector and a post-COVID future. More than 70 delegates from 24 vocational training institutes, ITPS and industry

organisations met to discuss how to better instigate and develop research to map the creative education ecosystem and workforce needs.

Looking ahead to Our Creative Industries Futures: Purpose and Vitality Hui was initiated by **Dr Vanessa Byrnes**, Unitec's Head of School – Creative



Industries, and co-facilitated by Prof. Federico Freschi from Otago Polytechnic. "This is just the beginning of an ongoing discussion, but we hope it is the start of a collaborative framework for the industry. We finished agreeing there is strength in numbers, that we are better as a collaborative industry, and keen to involve all creative educators," says Dr Byrnes. More [here](#).

Unitec dance alumnus and current Pacific Dance NZ artistic director/founder **Sefa Enari** and former Unitec acting lecturer and BPSA co-founder **Michele Hine** were both acknowledged for their achievements at an investiture ceremony at Government House in Auckland last week. Both were made Members of the New Zealand Order of Merit: Enari for services to Pacific Dance, and Hine for services to performing arts education. We extend our warm congratulations to them both.



Master of Design candidate **Reece King** has his final exhibition *Apentimento* and examination coming up in May and you are cordially invited. Reece is supervised by Unitec Creative Industries lecturers **Richard Fahey** and **Emma Smith** (discipline lead, contemporary art) and will be examined by James Cousins (ELAM) and Unitec Academic Programme Manager, **Samuel Holloway**. Convenor is **Dr Leon Tan**. The exhibition opening takes place 3-5pm, Saturday 1 May, 2021 at [Anna Miles Gallery](#) with the examination at 1:30-2:30pm, Thursday 6 May at Anna Miles Gallery and [Sanc Gallery](#). Please come along to give Reece the benefit of your support.



Unitec dance lecturer and alumnus (2014) **Aloi Tapu** and dance alumnae, **Tori Manley-Tapu** have produced *Etena* - six short films, sculpture, original music scores and writing through their arts company Ta'alili. The works imagine 'returning to paradise' alongside 'dystopia'. It projects what could be left in a post-apocalyptic Earth. As if growing and simultaneously melting, *Etena* re-imagines a crumbled existence. Guest artists include Unitec alumni **Jahra Wasasala**, **Faith Schuster** and **Tupua Tigafua**. With music by Unitec grad **Eden Mulholland**. The exhibition season runs from 19 April - 21 May at Mangere Arts Centre. More [here](#).

Unitec acting grad (2018) **Kiri Naik** will appear on stage in *The Wairau Affray*, a play about the ill-fated attempt by Nelson colonists to confront Te Rauparaha and a party of his men at Tuamarina in 1843, in a dispute over ownership of the Wairau. It was the first major armed clash between Maori and Pakeha in New Zealand. Written by Justin Eade, Directed by Giles Burton. Supported by Ngati Toa Rangatira ki Wairau. The full play will premiere in the Wairau. ASB Theatre, Marlborough from June 24 to 26. Tickets [here](#).





As the Auckland commute takes ever longer, a dedicated Unitec team have reached the final stages of a smart carpooling app. Already an award-winner due to its innovative design, the app is now being prepared for a trial study by Unitec staff and students. This long-running project has been led by **Cris de Groot**, Senior Academic Leader, Creative Industries. Initial concepts for the app were created by design students and further developed in cross-department collaborations with the School of Community Studies and Computing and Information Technology. 2020 Bachelor of Computing Systems grads **Ashley Yan, Joseph Jackson and Michael Manning** (pictured) share their experiences working on the project.

Kiwi-Filipino comedian and 2012 Unitec acting alumnus, **James Roque** (pictured far left) has joined the line-up of guessers on New Zealand's new version of the global franchise, *The Masked Singer NZ*, joining Sharyn Casey, Rhys Darby and musician Ladi6. The series premieres on May 9 on TV Three.



EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL

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](#)