

WOVEN

Q THEATRE LOFT 27 MARCH



WOVEN

Immerse yourself in the enchanting tapestry of *Woven*, a mesmerising multidisciplinary masterpiece by Taisha Tari, co-directed by Whetu Silver in collaboration with Komako Silver (Taonga Pūoro practitioner), Zion Jones (Dancer), Danielle Renee (Poet) and Hayden Kuhlze (Music composer).

Woven seamlessly intertwines the expressions of four extraordinary artists, sharing Pūrakau (ancient stories) of old in a contemporary expression of ritual performance through waiata, movement, Taonga Pūoro (elemental instruments) and spoken word poetry. A world where aroha, ancestor, culture and cosmology are laid before you, an offering to the devotion to our Matriarchal whakapapa (genealogy).

At the center of this work is Taisha Tari, the weaver, harmoniously uniting these stories and threads of culture, language, whānau and whenua into a collective korowai to unify the audience in an immersive experience of tradition and belonging

Woven beckons you into the captivating world of Te Ao Māori, the natural world, inviting you to explore and celebrate the delicacy of cultural narratives and shared humanity in the human experience.

27 March 2024 | Loft, Q Theatre

60 min, no interval. This production contains haze. Please note the show will be filmed.





CREATIVES & PERFORMERS

Creative Producer, Lead Composer,

Kaiwaiata

Taisha Tari

Director, Production Manager,

Dramaturg

Whetu Silver

Producer

Eddie Te Paa

Taonga Pūoro Practitioner,

Content Designer &

AV Designer

Komako-Aroha Silver

Dancer

Zion Jones

Produced by



Poet

Danielle Renee

Composer, Piano

Hayden Kuhlze

Supported by



Lighting Designer

Alec Forbes

Costume Designer

Xiao Mei

Development supported by



Lighting Operator

Jane Hakaraia

CREATOR'S NOTE

Kia ora koutou, nau mai haere mai ki *Woven*.

I am delighted to have you with us tonight inside the Q Theatre whare, to share in this part of *Woven's* journey. I have been humbled to work with so many incredible creatives along the journey of this work that leads us all to share space this evening. People like my co-director and inspired dramaturg Whetu Silver, Taonga Pūoro practitioner Komako Silver, mesmerising mover and dancer Zion Jones, who have all woven seamlessly together with the transformative words from poet Danielle Renee and more musical input from Hayden Kutztze.

Woven is more than just a performance—it is a labour of love, a celebration of culture, and a journey of connection. Deeply rooted in Māori heritage, *Woven* is an expression of that connection to culture, land, and people. It's a tapestry of stories, woven together with music, dance, spoken word, and the haunting sounds of Taonga Pūoro.

You can expect to be transported to a world where ancient tales meet contemporary expression, and as the audience you will join in as part of the fabric of modern life as you are intertwined with the thread of tradition.

Through *Woven*, I invite you to explore the richness of Māori culture and tradition, to delve into the beauty of our shared humanity, and to immerse yourselves in the magic of storytelling.

We are incredibly excited to share this journey with you, and I hope that *Woven* will leave you feeling inspired, uplifted, and connected. Thank you again for joining us on this journey.

Noho ora mai,
Taisha Tari



BIOGRAPHIES



Taisha Tari

Creative Producer, Lead Composer,
Kaiwaiata

As a young girl growing up in Napier, the one thing that made the world make sense was music. Creating music for me is a connection to wairua, which is carried in melody and lyrics that connect me to the heart where my tūpuna live on. It is powerful medicine; it has the ability to heal and pierce through your heart like an arrow and affect you for a lifetime.

Taisha has been involved in many areas of music, from playing large concerts like *Christmas in the Park* and *Symphony in the Park*, touring with OMC on three world tours, singing for seven years with the all-female group *The LadyKillers*, releasing music, and winning Best Song with Karanga and Best Female Singer.

She has been the Ambassador for Māori Music Awards for the last 13 years.

Taisha also has a deep passion for supporting and developing rangatahi in music with her program Awhi Music. Her future plans are to continue to grow and learn, to allow her voice and passions to take her on journeys that haven't been explored thus far.

BIOGRAPHIES



Whetu Silver

*Ngāti Pakahi ki Whangaroa, Ngāti Kahu,
Te Tahawai, Ngāpuhi*
Director, Production Manager,
Dramaturg

Whetu-Iti Doreen Silver is a multidisciplinary artist, practitioner and mother that comes from a strong matriarchal lineage.

She has worked extensively in the arts and event industry as a activator, facilitator, and creative collaborator for almost 20 years. Central to her life's work is listening deeply to the guidance of Ngā Atua, tūpuna.

Whetu has made significant contributions to various kaupapa as a key creative figure. These include *The Haka Party Incident*, Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas*, *HINE*, *Mahuika! Te Mana o Hinehau*, *My Seven Uncles*, *All Good*, and Māori Television's *Te Iwa o Matariki* digital series.

Being brought on as *Woven's* dramaturg involves delving deep into the work, discerning its subtleties, and revealing moments of tension and tenderness to craft an immersive experience.

BIOGRAPHIES



Komako-Aroha Silver

Taonga Pūoro Practitioner
Content Designer & AV Designer

Komako-Aroha uses Taonga Pūoro not only with the intention of weaving music but more importantly offering healing oro. Within this work we are weaving the stories of different whenua through oro, music and finding the invisible thread that weaves through us all.

Taonga pūoro are rare instruments and tools that need to be seen, felt and heard by our wider Aotearoa whānau/hapori and global family at large. They offer the voices of our ancient pūrakau and through the healing properties of different Taonga their resonance heals the hearts of the listeners and settles the pūmanawa during times where we can feel disconnected, lonely and experience stress. Taonga Pūoro offers healing frequencies that bring oranga and hauora and as part of this work we hope to bring more attention to these wonderful creations from Te Taiao.

I am honored to be a part of this creative team and am available for all scheduled rehearsals and performances for Woven.

BIOGRAPHIES



Zion Jones

Dancer

I'm a sixteen year old dancer, performer, and choreographer.

I started training as a gymnast at the age of five and transitioned to the dance world at the age of nine. I have trained in ballet, jazz, and also have done a few years of tap dancing all at Valerie Lisette's School of Dance. I am also training with TipTronic Choreography's Senior Pit Crew for 2023 and 2024.

In Woven, it's my role to embody Taisha's artistry and become the visual interpretation of her waiata through movement and dance. I see my body as a way to tell a story and convey a deeper meaning in the waiata that is seen with the eyes.

I am so grateful to have the opportunity to perform alongside my mum, and to have had the guidance and mentorship from Taisha and Whetū as a young performer in this project.

BIOGRAPHIES



Danielle Renee
Spoken Word Artist

Delving into the assimilation of kupu and poetry is the work with writer/poet Danielle.

I believe deeply in the power of words, recognising their potential to ignite truth, authenticity, and change when spoken with intention—transforming words into a form of art, setting them free from mere thought, allowing them to breathe life into the minds and souls of those who have yet to find their voice.

Through the medicine of poetry expressed in spoken form, I wish to unveil themes that many might shy away from and provide insights into the intricate spaces where pain meets love, channeling emotions into movement and offering listeners a moment to consider, to be present.

I am honored to be a part of this work alongside my whānau. In this endeavor, I composed four spoken word pieces to weave into the fabric of the performance, providing narrative anchors.

BIOGRAPHIES

Hayden Kutztze
Composer, Piano

Hayden Kutztze is most-known for co-writing and performing in *Shorebird Quest* in 2018, which drew a large beachside audience. He has composed for indigenous Television and operates a piano school, with a rich history of collaborations with diverse artists.

Incorporating Taonga Puoro with my piano adds rich soundscapes. Recording the piano simplifies logistics, ensures consistent quality regardless of acoustics, and allows for post-production adjustments to align with our narrative and choreography. It offers flexibility for various performance elements and elevates sound quality in a controlled studio setting.

I'm excited to work with Taisha, creating two dance compositions and a new waiata to bring her vision to life. I also recorded, mixed, and mastered all the music from the first iteration of Woven, transitioning it onto the piano, in my home studio.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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doing her thang!

Katie Deare at Sun Salute Yoga Studio

Sarah, Kate and the rest of the Q Theatre team for their tautoko

Rototuna High School students for weaving our panels

Corbin Kuitze for some of his beautiful imagery

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