

12th Festival
of Pacific Arts

22 May - 26 June

GUAM
2016



GAFSA

A Family Called Samoa

Programme

A layered art experience
Speak. Sing. See. Sway. Strut.



www.gafasamoa.com

History. Christianity. Colonialism. Exile. Influenza. Uprising. Trade. Migration.

Genealogy. Family lineages. Connections. Celebrations. Links in a community.

A family called Samoa

A layered art experience.
Walking forward into the past. Gafo.

In the 19th and 20th centuries German, British and American interests competed for footholds in the South Pacific. In 1899, after a second civil war Samoa was divided. From 1900 to 1914 Samoa was known as German Samoa and what is now known as American Samoa was awarded to the US.

The UK was given other interests, but took control of Samoa through New Zealand during the First World War. In 1962 Samoa became an independent nation.

This work premiered in London 2012, written by Sani Muliaumaseali'i to celebrate 50 years of Samoan Independence. It was the only celebration of its kind in the United Kingdom.



About Us

We are London's first Samoan Arts Collective. GAFA (pronounced Nga-fah) is a Samoan word meaning genealogy. Our work is primarily focused on Samoan art practice & culture reflecting our ancestral roots. Our connections. We seek truth, innovation & enquiry. We are a cross cultural and cross disciplinary group of London based artists. We are performers, musicians & writers. We are filmmakers & designers: Professionals & novices collaborating to create a unique art view.

Future Projects

MAY 2016

'A family called Samoa'

We represent Samoa at the Festival Pacific Arts FOPA Guam. A real honour!

JUNE - AUGUST

Kava Girls UK Gay Pride Tour

Various Dates in London, Manchester, Brighton & Newcastle

SEPTEMBER

Opera Sustains the World

An afternoon of orchestra and opera.
Battersea Park Sept 18th

2015

STOPHIT

Sport and Opera against Domestic abuse
Battersea Park Millenium Arena

R'Otello - The Rugby Opera

Verdi, Puccini & Bizet meet the all blacks in this ground breaking mash up of real life tragedy and lyricism.
Caius House Battersea, Wandsworth Symphony Orchestra

2014

Kava Girls

An original play with songs
Edinburgh Fringe Festival

Pacific Voices London

Chelsea Old Town Hall, London

Culture for Sale

Shigeyuki Kihara
Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum, Cologne, Germany

London School of Samoan Language & Aoga mo le Gagaga Samoa (AGS)

Established in April

Please check our website for full details of all GAFA Arts Collective events.

History. Christianity. Colonialism. Exile. Influenza. Uprising. Trade. Migration.

GAPA: Pièces

1. Sweeping

By Sani Muliaumaseali'i.

Sweeping through time & space. Through legend & history. Nafanua the warrior goddess has prophesized change. Right & wrong intersect and show duplicity with callous ease.

Full Company.

2. Odyssey 1, 2 and 3 SEE

A film by Paul Yandall in three parts, returned to throughout the evening. This work creatively examines the experience of I'iga Pisa a leader of the Mau a pule independence movement who was exiled to Saipan & escaped by paopao/canoe.

Poem by Sani Muliaumaseali'i. Narrated by Paul Yandall. Samoan translation by I'iga Olivia Muliaumaseali'i.

3. Coloniser speaks

By Stella Duffy.

This chronicle, told from the point of view of a German colonizer, explores in a highly personal manner the experience of early Europeans settling in Samoa. Robert Ciprian Loza.

4. German Nafanua SING

Song by Sani Muliaumaseali'i.

In an ironic and portentous game Samoa is crowned as Germania: a satirical pastiche referencing Dadaism & the absurd.

Full Company.

5. Rugby SPEAK

By Sani Muliaumaseali'i.

When the features of one culture are subsumed or venerated by that of another questions of origin, ownership & self arise. Rohan Rekord, Sharlene Nair.

6. Ladies Who Lunch SPEAK

By Stella Duffy.

The colonial ladies are welcomed by one

of their own, who introduces them to the joys of Samoa, and also to Ave Maria, the fa'afafine. And then, Ave Maria speaks. Fa'afafine: In the manner of a woman Sara Taukolonga, Rohan Rekord.

7. Missionary SPEAK

By Stella Duffy.

This account from the point of view of an early missionary delves into the firm faith that brought many early proselytizers – most from the UK – to these far away islands in a divine calling to bring the 'native' Samoans to God. Theda Lehmann.

8. Sunday (Mother, Daughter) SPEAK

By Sani Muliaumaseali'i.

Samoans have been adept at appropriating outside influences while maintaining fa'asamoa, or the Samoan way. This work explores the contradictions of the Samoan people's enthusiastic adoption of Christianity and the role of the faifeau – or pastor – which is among the most respected professions in Samoan society today.

Nina Thilas Mohs.

9. SS Talune SWAY

By Sani Muliaumaseali'i.

A young boy's dream portends the devastation brought by the arrival of the SS Talune, whose sick passengers were allowed to disembark by New Zealand officials in Samoa. In the form of a modified mauluulu - a traditional Samoan song with dance movements. Nina Thilas Mohs, Full company & Samoan Delegation.

10. Patois Rap & Sah-Sah

By Sani Muliaumaseali'i.

This work explores the impact of migration and intermarriage, and the authenticity of modern Samoan urban culture. MC - Robert Ciprian & Full company.



Rotello: DJ kills Carmen ©2015



Lady Preacher



Robert and the girls



Lady Preacher



Rugby



Nafanua Entrance



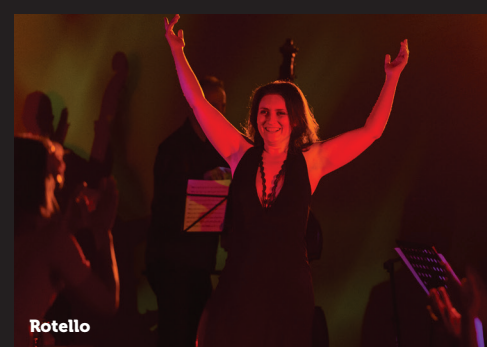
Stories



Kava Girls



Kava Girls



Rotello

Thank you!

To our partners, to our families, to our friends: OUR GAFA Thank you all for your support and love on GAFA, and in life.



Peter Rice
Luana Asiata
Robert Trew
Shireen Nathoo
Dimson Lodge
Dance attic
Lesley Cox
Carl Rosa Opera
Company
Battersea Back Clinic
Dr Christel Fensterseifer
Masina Malepeai Frost
Gabrielle Rush
Naomi Branston
Natalie Raybould
Karl Burrows
Karin Mochan,
Phil Wharton

David Young
Clare Beros
Tania Beasley
Monica Galetti
Lyall Hakaria
Robyn Opie
Diana Looser
Susan Rentould
Andrew Brown
Dr Lotte Latukefu
Leon Donnelly
Karin Williams
Jeff Clarke
Stella Duffy
Peone Fuimaono
Kathryn Bolitho
Jo Walsh
Lianne Unasa



Talune



Rotello



Rotello: Tosca



Rotello



Rosanna

To the wonderful and amazing Gafa Arts Collective. Fa'afetai, fa'afetai, fa'afetai. It has been pure joy creating with you all. Gafa: A family called Samoa has only been possible through your incredible commitment, trust and love.

Fa'afetai lava ma ia manu'a.

GAPA Arts Collective (GAC)

We have come together as a cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary group of London based artists, writers and musicians collaborating to share our skills and experiences.

Siliga Sani Muliaumasealii

A layered art explorer, Siliga studied singing at Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Australia, where he gained his BMus and Post Graduate Diploma. He has sung opera all over the world having toured with the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden performed with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra in Canada under Kent Nagano. In recent years Sani has taken up writing for the stage, has written a play for the Royal Court in London 'The Third Country' and his musical 'Kava Girls' was 'Pick of the Edinburgh Fringe' in 2014 and will enjoy a UK tour in the summer of 2016. His work 'R'Otello the rugby opera' saw a full symphony orchestra and an international cast. His inaugural piece 'A family called Samoa' was featured at the Origins Festival 2013 and will represent Samoa at the Festival of Pacific Arts in Guam in May 2016. Sani has directed, produced and curated all his work.

Stella Duffy

Stella Duffy has written thirteen novels, forty-five short stories, and ten plays. She has directed at the Riverside, Pleasance, Soho, Oval House and the Gilded Balloon. She is an Associate Artist with Improbable and Associate Director with Shaky Isles.

Sistar S'pacific

Born in NZ, Rosanna's Samoan heritage has fuelled her artistic practice. She is an innovator of the contemporary Pasifika art scene and long-standing member of art collective the *Pacific Sisters*. *Sistar S'pacific* aka Rosanna Raymond embodies the cutting edge.

Luana Asiata

Born in NZ and of Samoan descent, Luana has led an exciting career as a versatile and innovative graphic/web

designer having worked in Sydney, Auckland and currently in London. She studied at Elam School of Fine Arts and has swapped her paintbrush for a mouse and has never looked back.

Nina Thilas Mohs

Nina has dedicated her life to dance and performance. Today, she works in London both as a lecturer and as a ballet teacher. Her professional credits include the performances: Vertigo Variation with TOC Company; Blood on the Cat's Neck by Michael Armstrong; The Importance of Being Earnest directed by Andy Lucas; and Up From The Waste by Nancy Meckler.

Rohan Reckord

Rohan made his debut with the GAC as Tasio, 'R'Otello, the rugby opera', he appeared as Tuna, in the 'Third Country'. 'A family called Samoa' is his third appearance with the GAC. You can find out more about Rohan on facebook at Rokame.

Sharlene Nair

Sharlene is a founding member of the GAC and appears regularly with us. Since graduating from the University of Kent, she has put her love of singing into practice and taken part in various productions.

Theda Amenda-Lehmann

Theda studied music and voice in London. She specialises in operettas and has sung in the UK & Germany, from the Royal Albert Hall to the local Bowling Club.

Sara Taukologua

London born artist Sara of Tongan and Latvian parentage, makes a second appearance with the GAC, she debuted in rugby opera R'Otello. "This is an amazing creative undertaking; a

thrilling experience to connect with my Polynesian roots and to see the rich arts and culture in this special Pacific Arts Festival."

Dominic Warwick

Freelance Lighting Designer Dominic has lit 'A Family Called Samoa', 'R'Otello', and 'Kava Girls'. He can't wait for the next GAPA production.

Lianne Unasa

Of Samoan/English descent, Lianne has produced a dance-theatre show 'A 1001 Nights' (2007), co-created artists' website *bedroomgenius.com* (2009) and completed an independent feature film 'Love & Money' (2012) as Executive Producer, Assistant Director and Film Editor.

Jacob Corn

Talented stage manager, designer and theatre maker Jacob is often seen researching stories told by indigenous people and can be found taking notes, sketching and drawing inspiration from the creative people he works with.

Carl Rosa Opera

A unique international touring opera company, dedicated to making quality light opera accessible to a wide audience. The company tours for more than 24 weeks across the UK – there ethos has been to inspire, entertain and educate as many people as possible through artistic excellence.

Robert Ciprian Loza

Robert has been with the GAC for one year and in this time he has co-written and performed on the GAC entry to Eurovision 2016 song contest, stage managed the Kava Girls UK tour and is currently developing his writing for the stage.

We would like to thank the following organisations for their support

