

‘Three performers. Three lives. One role.’



‘COVER GIRLS’



‘KAVA GIRLS’

Gafa Arts Collective (GAC)

written & directed by Sani Muliaumaseali'i



'BLESS YOUR MOUTH'

Whether you want to **Sizzle** it like Salma, **Demure** it like a Debra or have a **Wonderful life** like Sinalei - the **KG boutique lipstick range** will give you the divinity you've been craving.

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Gafa

ARTS COLLECTIVE

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.

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

2016 PROJECTS

MAY 2016

'A family called Samoa'

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

JUNE - AUGUST 2016

Kava Girls UK GAY PRIDE TOUR

Various Dates LONDON,
MANCHESTER, BRIGHTON & NEWCASTLE

SEPTEMBER 2016

Opera sustains the World

Battersea Park Sept 18th –

An afternoon of orchestra & opera.

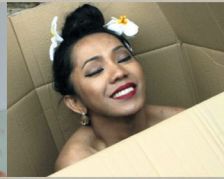
Please check our website for full details of all GAFA ARTS COLLECTIVE events.

PLEASE SUPPORT US

THE GafAgelu – *Gafa Angel* – Patrons programme

The Gafagelu Patron will receive various benefits according to their preferred level of giving. If you would like to become a patron, visit our website, www.gafasamoa.com and join this special group of people, who are committed to the future of the innovative Gafa Arts Collective (GAC).

Fa'afetai Lava, and thank you



FOREWORD

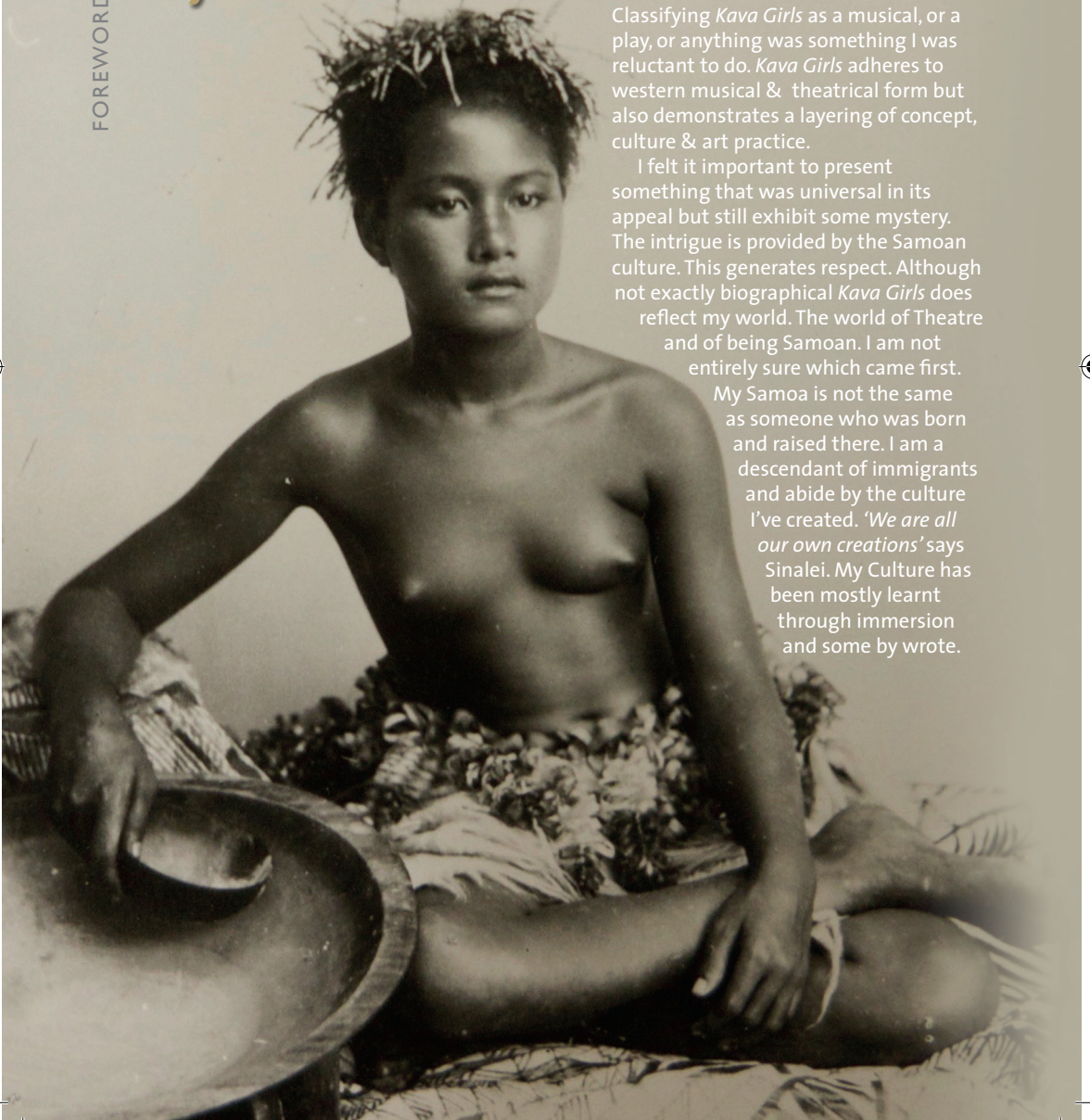
Upulomua

MIXING THE KAVA

Classifying *Kava Girls* as a musical, or a play, or anything was something I was reluctant to do. *Kava Girls* adheres to western musical & theatrical form but also demonstrates a layering of concept, culture & art practice.

I felt it important to present something that was universal in its appeal but still exhibit some mystery. The intrigue is provided by the Samoan culture. This generates respect. Although not exactly biographical *Kava Girls* does reflect my world. The world of Theatre and of being Samoan. I am not entirely sure which came first.

My Samoa is not the same as someone who was born and raised there. I am a descendant of immigrants and abide by the culture I've created. 'We are all our own creations' says Sinalei. My Culture has been mostly learnt through immersion and some by wrote.





I am a well qualified to be Samoan, though often it is one of the roles I cover. Sinalei is a Fa'afafine: neither male nor female, but both. She covers both sexes but never really 'goes on – she is however forever Fa'afafine. Forever Samoan.

The Ava ceremony (or Kava as it is more famously known) is something the Fa'afafine can never actually perform. This is the metaphor upon which *Kava Girls* rests. The other two characters are more straight forward given they are the west incarnate – they swirl around the Sinalei character gently asserting the cultural framework within which this Samoan exists. A smooth concoction of culture is possible but often a disaster of post colonial inference prevails resulting in an incongruous cultural netherworld.

Kava Girls examines ownership: of self, of the worlds we create, of the choices we make and the consequences thus rued. We witness how far from our essence we can stray to survive and examines our values and the price we pay for success.

Sani Muliaumaseali'i
Creative Director & Co founder

GAFA
ARTS COLLECTIVE
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PROGRAMME

SCENE 1

Voices 1
the Kava Girls

SCENE 2

It's My Turn
Song – It's My Turn
the Kava Girls

SCENE 3

Sinalei phones home
Sinalei

SCENE 4

Montage Salma

SCENE 5

Lez Mays
the Kava Girls

SCENE 6

Montage Debra

SCENE 7

Skype interview
Song – Perfect Love
Debra, Lawrence

SCENE 8

Salma rant
Song – Dumlaf
Salma

SCENE 9

Voices 2
the Kava Girls

SCENE 10

Mama's Pie
Sinalei

SCENE 11

Montage Sinalei

SCENE 12

Prince Charming
the Kava Girls

SCENE 13

Voices 3
the Kava Girls

SCENE 14

Acoustic Salma
Song – Wonderful Life
Salma, Sinalei

SCENE 15

Hell Rain
Song – Imagine
Debra

SCENE 16

Voices 4
Song – Emergency
the Kava Girls

SCENE 17

The Breaks
the Kava Girls

SCENE 18

A. Chee-Hoo Truth
Montage
B. The Contract
Song – The Way of the World
the Kava Girls

SCENE 19

Cover Me
Debra, Larry
Song – Cover Me
the Kava Girls



CAST AND CREATIVES



NINOTCHKA TINGLEFF
playing
Debra Taylor

Ninotchka is thrilled to return to the stage as Debra Taylor. For Ninotchka, theatre life began at the NY Public Theatre under Joseph Papp's command. This early exposure to the creative creatures there fueled her imagination and creativity, leading to an eventual move to London as a singer & actress on the side. *Kava Girls* marks her return to the stage.



SANI MULIAUMASEALI'I
playing
Sinalei Schwalger

Sani, has worked in opera, music theatre, film, television & radio the world over. A Tenor, Sani studied singing at Griffith University QCM Australia, where he gained his B.Mus & Post Graduate Diploma. Primarily a performer, Sani has allowed himself the honour to express his creativity through different mediums. As a writer, composer, director & choreographer his work features his Samoan heritage. *Kava Girls* marks his first full length play with songs.. Since writing *Kava Girls*, Sani has been writing for the Royal Court Theatre, London.



MELISSA VESZI
playing
Salma Austin

Accepted to the prestigious Grant MacEwan Theatre Arts Program, where she studied drama, & musical theatre & graduated with honours. Melissa has traveled Canada performing *Rosie* in *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Belle* in *Beauty and The Beast*. She understudied the role of Deena Jones in *Dreamgirls* and performed title role of Marie Christine in *Marie Christine*. Film and Television credits include the upcoming film *I.T.* with Pierce Brosnan and television series *50 Ways To Kill Your Lover* on Investigation Discovery

Network. Melissa is also a songwriter and her EP "Dreaming Is Believing" is out on iTunes and other online outlets under her recording artist stage name HunnyB..

CHRIS TAYLOR
Pianist / Composer

Chris has performed extensively in the UK and around the world as a chamber musician accompanist and soloist. He is in demand as a pianist and has worked with many renowned musicians. He received a five star review at Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2011 for his show 'Muse Chanteuse'.

Faafetai & thank you

Our aiga, Peter Rice, Robert Ciprian, Robert Trew, Shireen Nathoo, Luana Asiata, Clearpoint Management, Battersea Back Clinic, Roslyn Mahe, The Bedford: Scott, Stevie, Dimson Lodge, Geoffrey Cox, Peter Lanigan, Uffizzi Hair Salon, Marion Muliaumaseali'i, Clearpoint, The Battersea Back Clinic, Dance Attic Studios, GAFA Arts Collective (GAC)



SANI MULIAMASEALI I
Layered Art Exponent

Sani, has worked in opera, music theatre, film, television & radio the world over. A Tenor, Sani studied singing at Griffith University QCM Australia, where he gained his B.Mus & Post Graduate Diploma. Primarily a performer, Sani has allowed himself the honour to express his creativity through different mediums. As a writer, composer, director & choreographer his work features his Samoan heritage. *Kava Girls* marks his first full length play with songs.. Since writing *Kava Girls*, Sani has been writing for the Royal Court Theatre, London.

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STELLA DUFFY

Writing Mentor

Stella Duffy is a writer & theatre-maker. She is co-director of the *Fun Palaces* campaign for wider participation in all forms of arts & culture, with a pilot national project on 4/5 October 2014. Associate director with Shaky Isles, & a member of impro comedy company *Spontaneous Combustion* since 1988. She has also written several novels, forty-five short stories, ten plays, & many articles & reviews. <http://stelladuffy.wordpress.com/about/>

ROSANNA RAYMOND

Adornments & LAEI Artist & GAC Associate Director

An innovator of the contemporary Pasifika art scene & as a long-standing member of the art collective the Pacific Sisters, Sistar S'pacific aka Rosanna Raymond embodies the cutting edge.

Born in New Zealand, Rosanna's Samoan heritage has fuelled her artistic practice.

A Tusitala (Teller of Tales) at heart, her art practice takes a variety of forms; installation works, spoken word pieces & body adornment.

DOMINIC WARWICK

Lighting Designer

Dominic has worked on nearly every type of entertainment area as a lighting designer. A graduate of the Guildford School of Acting he has worked freelance for several major production companies.

Westend: *Cats, Miss Saigon, Starlight Express, Oliver & Phantom of the Opera*. Dominic currently teaches Theatre Production at the Paddington Academy.

KEVIN JIANDORAN
Sound Designer

Kevin is an audio engineer studying at SAE in London. He specializes in recording & live sound, working on projects such as *Synergy Street* and *Joseph* at Her Majesty's Theatre. He was involved with the sound design for *GAFSA: A Family Called Samoa* and recorded the music for *Kava Girls*.

Stage Manager Team Logic

Robert Ciprian

Film footage

Paul Randall, Olivia Muliamaaseali'i

Recorded music

Andy Philip, *Lead Guitar, Band Leader, Arranger*
Torquil Munro, *Keyboard*
Gregg Hagger, *Bass*
Dave Bryant, *Drums*
Recorded at the Blue studios, Dalston, London

Voiceover

Eddie Muliamaaseali'i



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