



Te Rēhia Theatre Company | Aotearoa/New Zealand  
ILBIJERRI Theatre Company | Australia

# BLACK TIES

## Creative team

**Written by** John Harvey and Tainui Tukiwaho

**Directed by** Rachael Maza and Tainui Tukiwaho

**Set Design** Jacob Nash

**Composer and Musical Direction** Brendon Boney

**Lighting Design** Jane Hakaraia

**AV Design** James Henry

**Sound Design** Laughton Kora

**Costume Design** Te Ura Hoskins

## Producers

Nina Bonacci

Laila Thaker

Amber Curreen

*Image: Garth Oriander*

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Tell us what you think of the show

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## Cast

**Uncle Mick** Jack Charles

**Kane Baker** Mark Coles Smith

**Sylvia Tapuwera** Lana Garland

**Tama-Girl** Tawhirangi Macpherson

**Ruth Baker** Lisa Maza

**Hera Tapuwera** Tuakoi Ohia

**Shannon** Brady Peeti

**Robert Tapuwera** Tainui Tukiwaho

**Alethea Baker** Dalara Williams

**Jermaine** Dion Williams

## Band

**Tony** Brendan Boney

**Sarsaparilla** Mayella Dewis

**Blackie** Laughton Kora

Wed 4 - Sat 7 Mar, 8pm

Sat 7 Mar, 1.30pm

Shed 6

2hrs 45mins (incl. interval)

## Artist Talk

Pre-show, Thu 5 Mar, 7pm

Shed 6

Facilitated by Tanea Heke

Partnered by: Thanks to:

**QMS**

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Festival** OF THE ARTS

21 Feb – 15 Mar 2020

# About the Show

I te kitenga tuatahitanga a te toki rangatōpū a Hera rāua ko te mātanga rakahinonga nō te Iwi Moemoeā a Kane i a rāua anō i tētahi wāhanga Mōhiotanga Ahurea, ka wewehe tangetange rāua i a rāua. He awhero, he arotahi rāua ki ā rāua umanga, ā, ināianei kua maheretia katoatia e Kane rāua ko Hera te painga atu mō te wā e heke mai ana. Heoi anō arā tētahi āhuatanga e kore e taea te whakahaere ... ko ō rāua whānau!

Ka whakaihiihi te kāhui nui rawa o ngā Whāea kēkē, rātou ko ngā Mātua kēkē, ko ngā kaihana nō ngā taha e rua o Te Tai o Rehua mō te mārena nui rawa, parāone rawa, taketake kua kitea, ā, ka tau mai te māramatanga. Ka tau tere mai. Mā tēnei kōrero aroha o te ao e whakaemi i ngā ahurea kaha e rua? Māna rānei e whakapakaru katoa te ao o Hera rāua ko Kane? Nā tētahi rōpū pākaha, kātuarehe o ngā kaimahi toi Māori, Iwi Moemoeā, me ngā Torres Strait Islanders, ko *BLACK TIES* tētahi wheako whakaari whakaruruku he pukukata, he mānawa hoki, ā, ko koe te manuhiri matua i te rangi whakahirahira.

Me tētahi pēne mataora e whakatangi ana i te katoa o ō waiata pāti makau me ngā waiata mārena ka rangona noatia, ka wehe atu koe me te mōhio mā te aroha te katoa o ngā tāngata e whakakotahi - mō te painga atu, mō te kino atu rānei. Nau mai, piki mai, mauria mai tō bow tie!

When Māori corporate hotshot Hera and Aboriginal consultancy entrepreneur Kane locked eyes at a Cultural Awareness session, it was love at first sight. Ambitious and career focused, Kane and Hera now have their perfect future all mapped out. But there is one thing they can't control ... their families!

As the biggest mob of Aunties, Uncles and cousins from both sides of the ditch get worked up for the biggest, brownest wedding ever, reality is sinking in. Fast. Will this international love story bring two strong cultures together? Or will it blow Hera and Kane's world apart? Created by a bold and brilliant team of Māori, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, *BLACK TIES* is a hilarious and heart-warming immersive theatre experience where you're the guest of honour on the big day.

With a live band pumping out all your party favourites and wedding classics, you'll leave sure that the power of love can unite all people - for better or worse. Nau mai, piki mai, grab your bow tie!

*BLACK TIES* was commissioned by AsiaTOPA, a joint initiative of the Sidney Myer Fund and Arts Centre Melbourne, and has been assisted by the Australian Government's Major Festivals Initiative, managed by the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals Inc., Sydney Festival, Perth Festival, New Zealand Festival of the Arts, Auckland Festival, AsiaTOPA Festival and Brisbane Festival. *BLACK TIES* is also supported by Creative New Zealand. ILBIJERRI Theatre Company is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and by Creative Victoria and City of Melbourne.

# The Companies

## ILBIJERRI Theatre Company

ILBIJERRI Theatre Company is Australia's longest established First Nations theatre company. ILBIJERRI creates, presents and tours powerful and engaging theatre creatively controlled by First Nations artists that gives voice to culture.

## Te Rēhia Theatre Company

Established in 2012, Te Rēhia Theatre is a proudly Māori theatre company, championing Māori playwrights, tikanga Māori arts practice and the presentation of diverse stories.

# Thanks and Acknowledgements

Original concept developed by: Kamarra Bell Wykes, Albert Belz, Amber Curreen, John Harvey, Rachael Maza and Tainui Tukiwaho.

Special thanks to the Turnbull Foundation for their support, and to the following collaborators who contributed to the creative developments for *BLACK TIES*: Nelson Baker, Suri Bin Saad, Mark Coles Smith, Erina Daniels, Kristel Kickett, Miriama McDowell, Jennifer Medway, Ngaire Pigram, Jarod Rawiri, Melodie Reynolds, Rickylee Russell-Waipuka, Iain Sinclair, Regan Taylor, Maria Walker & Tyler Wilson-Kokiri.

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ILBIJERRI Theatre Company and Te Rēhia Theatre Company acknowledge and pay respect to the Country that we travel through and share stories on. We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Traditional Owners, Elders, Ancestors, and young leaders. We acknowledge, with full respect, the strength of First Nations people and communities, continuing to practise culture, and connection to Country. We acknowledge, with full respect, the power and excellence of First Nations people and communities fighting to protect and look after Country, Community, Language and Lore, in the face of ongoing colonial interruptions and cultural genocide. Always was, always will be, sacred Indigenous land.