

Image: John McDermott



Ōkāreka Dance Company | Aotearoa/New Zealand
in collaboration with Exhale Dance Tribe | United States

Hōkioi me te Vwōhali

From spirit eagles land

Creative team

Conception and Choreography Taiaroa Royal

Choreography Missy Hubbard

Choreographer/Dancer Andrew Hubbard

Cultural Advisor Tūi Ranapiri-Ransfield

Producer Tanya Muagututi'a

Sound Design Maree Sheehan

Lighting Design/Production Manager Vanda Karolczak

Costume Design Linda Lepou

Assistant Composer (Teina) Keri Pewhairangi

Assistant Choreographer (Teina) Bianca Hyslop

Dancers

Exhale Dance Tribe

Ashley Klein

Jackie Engelkamp

Ali Rose

Sarah Rolfsen

Maddy Cundiff

Ōkāreka Dance Company

Jesse Wikiriwhi

Kent Date

Cuba Haslam

Leighton Rangi

Cory-Toalei Roycroft

Erin Meek (Secondment, NZSD)

Thu 12 - Sat 14 Mar, 8pm

Sat 14 Mar, 1.30pm

Soundings Theatre, Te Papa

1hr 10mins

Artist Talk

Pre-show, Sat 14 Mar, 12.30pm

Soundings Theatre. Facilitated by Arihia Latham

Please note: This production contains sudden loud sounds. Some lighting could have strobe effect.

Commissioned by New Zealand Festival of the Arts. Supported by Creative New Zealand and Foundation North.

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**New Zealand
Festival** OF THE ARTS

21 Feb – 15 Mar 2020

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Tell us what you think of the show

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The History of Hōkioi me te Vwōhali

Taiaroa Royal

It all started in 2008 when Ōkāreka Dance Company was invited to perform at a benefit concert for cancer in Cincinnati, Ohio. Also performing in that concert was Exhale Dance Tribe of which Missy and Andrew Hubbard are the Artistic Directors and Choreographers. I instantly fell in love with their company, and found a huge connection to both Missy and Andrew.

Over the following years I endeavoured to find ways to bring Missy, Andrew and their company to New Zealand to perform. But it was difficult and costly. So I thought of a Plan B – to collaborate on a work together. But I had no idea what. When I returned to Cincinnati in 2012, Missy told me of her connections with the Cherokee (Duyuktv) people. That's when I realised that it was our ancestors bringing us together!

While touring the 2014 Ōkāreka season of *Mana Wahine* in Dunedin, I was told by my Ngai Tāhu whānau the story of the Hōkioi, the largest eagle that ever existed. I knew that the indigenous people of America have many animal spirits, and that the eagle was one of them. The Duyuktv name for the Golden eagle is Vwōhali (pronounced *A-wor-harley*).

The Duyuktv People explained to me that the Hōkioi is considered the tuakana (older sibling) of the Vwōhali, the teina (younger sibling), and that they are considered Messengers to the Gods by both cultures. So this became the kaupapa for the collaboration, and one inspiration for the work.

The Companies

Ōkāreka Dance Company

Formed in 2007 by Taane Mete and Taiaroa Royal, Ōkāreka was established to fuse contemporary dance with indigenous Māori themes and other genres to create authentic, diverse works. Ōkāreka holds its provenance close to its heart. Through choreography, set design and costume, the company strives to tell bold, spiritual stories that are of and from New Zealand. Through careful collaboration the company seeks to extend its creativity and its influence by engaging experienced artists from around the globe – the sole driver – to create evocative, beautiful dance works that tell a story. Ōkāreka is a company guided by Māori beliefs. These beliefs are brought to its work and its audiences.

Exhale Dance Tribe

Exhale Dance Tribe is a contemporary jazz troupe comprised of Cincinnati-based performing artists and dance educators. Founded in 2001 by Andrew Hubbard and Missy Hubbard, Exhale celebrates the full range of modern and rhythm-based dance and features diverse and versatile performers. Their programmes, performances and original choreographies speak to the region's need for expressionistic and multi-lingual dance rooted in rhythmic language and storytelling.

Biographies



Taiaroa Royal

Choreographer Te Arawa, Kai Tahu, Ngāti Rauwaka, Uenukukopako

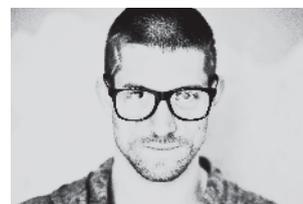
Taiaroa trained at the New Zealand School of Dance, graduating in 1984. He has performed with Limbs Dance Company, Royal New Zealand Ballet, Douglas Wright, Michael Parmenter's Commotion Dance Company, Black Grace and Atamira Dance Company. In 2010, Tai was awarded the Te Tohu Toi Ke – Making A Difference Award for his contribution to Māori Contemporary Dance. He is the first dancer and the fifth recipient of this award. In 2011 Tai accepted the Koowhiti Lifetime Achievement Award highlighting him as an outstanding Māori Dancer and Choreographer. Tai formed Ōkāreka Dance Company with Taane Mete in 2007, and became the sole Artistic Director in 2019.



Missy Hubbard

Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Exhale Dance Tribe

Missy is a tremendous talent who has danced on Broadway and choreographed and performed for Broadway National touring companies, the music industry, TV, film and a variety of other professional arts industries. Her impressive Broadway credits include *CATS* and *Jesus Christ Superstar Anniversary Tour*. Together with Andrew she was nominated for a Princess Grace Award for their choreography with Cincinnati Ballet.



Andrew Hubbard

Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Exhale Dance Tribe

Andrew is an exceptional Broadway dancer and choreographer whose talent has graced theatre, TV, the music industry, corporate and commercial work. His creative ability and raw talent transcended his own movement into a passion for training and teaching others. His performance credits include Broadway's *CATS*, Broadway's *Footloose* and Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular. He was nominated together with Missy for a Princess Grace Award in 2011.