

TE AHUREI
TOI O TĀMAKI

AUCKLAND
ARTS FESTIVAL



Waiwhakaata

Reflections in the Water

WAIWHAKAATA PERFORMANCE - AOTEAROA



Streaming Online Sat 26 – Sun 27 March 2022

Tēnei te wī! Tēnei te wā!
Tēnei te puna tapu taurōri
E pupū ana mai i Waiwhakaata
I Pīrongia-te-arōaro-o-Kahu

Here are we in this time and space
Here a blessed wellspring binds us together
the ‘Waters of Reflection’
On the scented presence of Kahu

Herea ana ki reira
Ko te wehi, ko te tapu, ko te mana
Ko te ihi kei runga

Bound within
Are wehi, tapu, and mana
An ihi of authority overall

E Tama Rehua
Kia kaukauria e koe
Tō puna hūmāire
Kia purea koe e ngā hau angiangi
O runga o Hihikiwi
Ki te Mātakitaki i ngā patupaiarehe
O ngā aupikitanga o Paewhenua
Ki te huinga o ngā wai
Kia oreore, kia maikutukutu, kia maikataka-ta

Rehua!
Bathe in your ancestral spring
At peace
Savouring the welcoming breezes
Of Hihikiwi
Of Mātakitaki, gazing at the patupaiarehe
On the slopes of Paewhenua
At the confluence of the rivers
To shake, to shudder, to shiver.

Ka whanatu koe
Ki ngā tongikura
Ki ngā pukenga
Ki ngā wānanga
Ki ngā tauria

You progress
To the wise aphorisms
The repositories of knowledge
The centres of mystic reflection
The models they provide.

Maiea! Maiea te tupua!
Maiea! Maiea te tawhito!
I haere mai koe i whea?
I haere mai koe i Tūwhakaotinuuku –
I haere mai koe i Tūwhakaotirangi
Ko tōu manawa e –
Kō ngō mātou manawa e!

Appease the supernatural
Mollify the ancient
Where did you come from?
You come from the completion of the Earth
You come from the completion of the Heavens
Your heart –
Our hearts, beating as one!

Whano! Whanake!
Haere mai te toki!
Haumi ē!
Hui ē!
Taiki ē!

Follow your destiny!
The mightiest adze RISES UP
And shapes your waka!
Putting everything together!
So be it!

“It’s great to have been supported by Creative New Zealand
and Auckland Arts Festival toward this mahi.”

– Eddie Elliot

A message from Auckland Arts Festival

He hōnore nui ki a mātou o AAF 2022 ki
te tautoko i tēnei kaikanikani rangatahi,
a Eddie Elliott me tōna kāhui auaha i ā
rātou mahi rangatira nei.

AAF is pleased to be able to support
emerging artists through commissioning
of work, providing a platform for that
work to be shared with audiences, be it
on a stage or online and to enable the
work to be seen throughout Aotearoa
and beyond.

In the words of Kiingi Taawhiao,
“*Tupu te toi, ora te toi, whanake te toi,
nō Hawaiki te toi.*”

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Words from CNZ Arts Practice Director, Kereama Te Ua

We’re excited to see *Waiwhakaata –
Reflections in the Water*, it’s been a
long journey. It’s been great to watch
Eddie develop this work, starting from
his research and development phase in
2019 all the way through to the premiere
this March.

It’s great to see a strong Ngā Toi Māori
work being showcased in this platform,
given we’re working under limited
conditions with COVID-19. It’s important
that our people are the narrators of our
own stories, and we’re thrilled to support
Eddie and Cian – as they’re both the
future of performance art in Aotearoa –
and we look forward to their progressive
developments.

Performed and filmed at Q Theatre

1hr 5mins no interval

Contains strong language, violence and strobe lighting

SYNOPSIS



Welcome to *Waiwhakaata* – *Reflections in the Water*

A return to ancestral origins and legacy. Mystical and magical beings. One man's journey of self-rediscovery.

Having lost touch with his Māori heritage, caught up in the rat race of urban humanity and drifting further from his roots, Rehua takes us on his personal journey towards healing and redemption. A life-altering decision changes the pathway, guiding his return to the whenua and waterways of his forbears. Steeped in history, emotion, and an inherent connection with patupaiarehe, the ancestors guide Rehua as his identity resurfaces while learning to integrate his past with his present self.

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the battle at Mātakitaki Pā, a significant event in the history of Ngāti Maniapoto, which is explored and commemorated in this work.

A message from Mātauranga Māori Advisor Dr Tom Roa:

*Kāore! Ko te rongo i te hau angiangi o
runga o Pūāwhe,*

*Whakarehurehu noa te taha tika o
Waiwhakaata*

Te kawenga o te whakaoratanga

I te kiri Māori kua roa nei te māuiui,

Tihei mauri ora!

*Behold! The breeze gently blowing
across Puawhe (an old name for
Pirongia), as the mist over the banks of
Waiwhakaata lifts, bringing a healing
to this Māori soul, long suffering.*

Tihei mauri ora!



Eddie Elliott
Choreographer/Creator

I believe this work was meant to be made by the people, for the people, and gifted to the people who have space for growth and an ongoing desire to reconnect with their whakapapa. I know that I am at the start of that journey, which will be a life-long exploration of history, connection, and bloodlines. Everyone is at different stages of that same journey, and that's the best part.

In Māori storytelling and especially with stories of place and time, it is important that the voices telling these stories belong to those with whakapapa connections to that space. All voice-over actors have genealogical ties to *Waiwhakaata*.

Mā te haere ngātahi e takahia ai te tōroa o te ara. By traveling together a long journey is achieved.



Cian Parker
Co-Writer/Dramaturg

It has been a pleasure working on *Waiwhakaata*. It is such an insightful opportunity to watch this beautiful piece come together over the different development stages. Exploring the amalgamation of dance and theatre, to tell the story of *Waiwhakaata*, has been fascinating and exciting. I am so lucky that Eddie invited me along on the journey of making this stunning show. Enjoy!



CREDITS

Director & Choreographer

Eddie Elliott

Choreography Collaborators/Characters

Brydie Colquhoun – *Whata*
Chrissy Kokiri – *Tūtekapua*
Sean MacDonald – *Pou*
Carl Tolentino – *Older Rehua*
Isope Akau'ola – *Pepe*
Faith Schuster – *Puhi*
Toa Paranihi

Actor

Lezharn Avia-Elliott – *Younger Rehua*

Understudy

Madison Tumataroa

Voice-over/Characters

Niwa Milroy – *Tūtekapua & Pepe*
Rodney Whanga – *Pou*
Te Aurere Firmin – *Puhi*
Tamara Elliott – *Whata*
Te Rongopai Murray – *Older Rehua*
Alistair Deverick – *The Cuzzy Bro*
Lezharn Avia-Elliott – *Younger Rehua*

Singers

Te Aurere Murray-Haios
Sioe Murray-Haios

Taonga Puoro Artist

James Webster

Dialogue/Writers

Niwa Milroy
Cian Parker

Dramaturgy

Cian Parker

Composers

Alistair Deverick
László Reynolds

Mātauranga Māori Advisor

Associate Professor
Tom Roa

Producer

Lance Loughlin

Lighting Designer & Production Manager

Jo Kilgour

Set Designer & Costume Designer

Dan Williams

Costume Assistant

Penelope Pratt

Stage Manager

Abbie Rogers

Videographers

Caroline Bindon
Jared Jones
Blinky Elliott

Photographers

Jinki Cambroner
John Rata

Chaperones

Jezay Elliott
Charlie Elliott

Ti Rākau Trainer

Jeremy Murray

Video Production

Lotech Media

Video Editor

Simon Barker

Video Director

Rob McLaughlin

Sound Operator & Sound Mix

Priscilla Frame

Sound Design & Voice-over Artist

Alistair Deverick

Lighting Operator

Spencer Earwaker

Systems Technician

Zach Howells

Music

'Let's Get It On'
by Marvin Gaye

*Courtesy of Universal Music
New Zealand Limited*

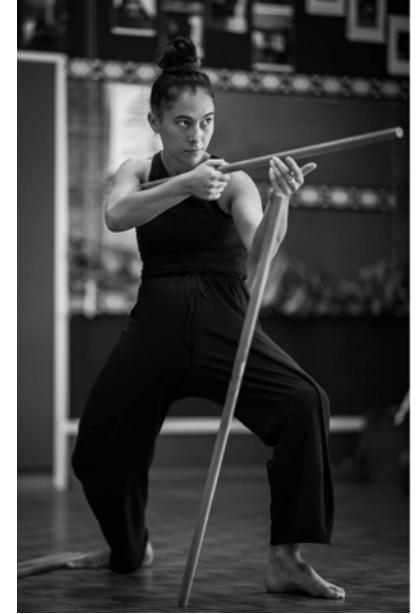
'Churr Cuzzy'
by László Reynolds

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The team of Waiwhakaata Performance are especially grateful for all the significant support the friends and whānau across Aotearoa have given to help nurture this work so that the stories of Waiwhakaata are told through the power of art.

A big thank you to Q Theatre and their production team!

We would like to thank Creative New Zealand; Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki / Auckland Arts Festival; Waikato-Tainui, Maniapoto Māori Trust Board; University of Waikato; Wellesley Studios; Le Moana; James Cook High School; The Studio – Lower Hutt; Pūrekireki Marae; The New Zealand Dance Company; Jonathan Bielski; Dolina Wehipeihana; Marama Lloyd; Nanny Kim; Tupua Tigafua; Judy Semenoff; Eddie Elliott Senior; Te Aurere Firmin; Rodney Whanga; Mason Parker; Ngavaevae Daniel; Andre Elliott; and Ngahiriwa Rauhina.



MARCH
2022

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