

Ōkareka
DANCE
COMPANY



Sharu Loves Hats

in collaboration with



EMPIRE
STUDIOS



**FOUNDATION
NORTH**
*Te Kaitiaki Pūtea ō
Tāmaki ō Tai Tokerau*

present

Hōkioi/Vwōhali

IDEA

In 2008, Ōkareka Dance Company were invited by Dr Lisa West Smith (Curator), to perform at the Live Strong Benefit Concert for Cancer in Cincinnati, Ohio. It was here that Ōkareka Dance Company met the Artistic Directors and Owners of Exhale Dance Tribe, Missy Lay-Zimmer and Andrew Hubbard.

2012 This sparked an idea for a collaboration between the two dance companies. The subject for this was unknown at this time.

Following this, in 2014, Tai and his company travelled to Te Wai Pounamu (South Island of NZ) touring Mana Wahine production. While Tai was there, he learned about the Hōkioi (Haast Eagle). The largest eagle to have ever existed. It came from the original homeland of Hawaii-kinui and remained in Aotearoa pre 1,400's. Māori people believed it was a spiritual messenger bird taking messages to the spiritual realms and bringing messages back to the people. Hōkioi, a predator, and referred to as, a terror of the skies on this land. No longer alive, Hōkioi became extinct in 1,400's alongside the Moa.

Immediately Tai was inspired, that New Zealand's extinct eagle would be a brilliant reason to collaborate with Exhale and their Bald eagle of America. Weaving intimately concepts of tuakana, teina, (older and younger sibling), Hōkioi from Te Ao Wairua (spirit world) and Vwōhali (golden eagle from this physical world) and

the new found friendships and relationships that would continue into the future. This would include two very strong indigenous cultures working alongside each other from two completely different spectrums of the globe. The common element, eagles of yesteryear and eagles of today, calling for this collaboration to soar, to take flight.

It would be led by the older sibling Hōkioi. 2017 Ōkareka Dance Company of three people travelled to Cincinnati to workshop the inaugural first development. This included Tai, Tūi and Maree. This was successful and the foundation for a new work was established with excitement with Exhale Dance Tribe.

November 2018, Ōkareka returned to Cincinnati taking two dancers to work alongside six Exhale dancers. This tour included an arranged trip by Andrea Tutt, to North Carolina to meet with the Anikituhwa Warriors and the Duyuktv People. This meeting took place at The Museum of Cherokee. It was efficacious! Tūi was gifted a Golden Eagle feather from the Chief Sonny Ledford. Tūi and Tai spent intimate time with Sonny learning wisdom and knowledge about Vwōhali (also known as Uwōhali), their Golden Eagle. It is from this meeting that 'Hōkioi me te Vwōhali' found its inspiration and need to soar. Both eagles would have the opportunity to share their stories, show their magnetism and the world could once again hear their mellifluous voices. In May – June 2019, Ōkareka returned to North Carolina with Maree Sheehan (Music Sound Designer and Composer for Ōkareka). Over a tight scheduled three days, Ōkareka and Exhale were privileged and honoured to work intimately with the

Duyuktv people from various clans, collecting music, sounds, voices, chanting, singing, native instrumental sounds played by the participants. Woven in to the tapestry of sound scape was Tūi chanting with local John Grant Jnr, also performing karanga and pao, infused into the recorded live sounds. This included the percussion sounds performed by Tai, Maree Sheehan with the use of poi, poi piu, rākau, kōhatu and purerehua. We were privileged to share this recording space with the generosity and enthusiasm of the locals, bringing their traditional musical instruments, sounds, voices, chanting, singing and speaking voices, in order for us to utilise in this production.

2019, we are now in the third development of this precious work. Rehearsals for six days at Empire Studios, Grey Lynn, has created a piece for this afternoon. The partnerships of both companies and their dancers has demonstrated the height of an amazing collaboration. The dancers have individually and in their group work this week, created some of the magic that will be performed this afternoon. Choreographed by Tai Royal, Missy Lay-Zimmer, Andrew Hubbard, and Bianca Hyslop (Assistant Choreographer) will be presented today. Infused into the sound scape is Maree Sheehan, Keri Pewhairangi, Tūi Matira Ranapiri-Ransfield and the Duyuktv peoples' collections of compositions.

This also marks Ōkareka Dance Company's inaugural collaboration with Sharu Delilkan (Sharu Loves Hats) as Creative Producer for the work.

May these eagles soar today through their descendants. May their voices be heard and may their power be brought to life through the ethos of all the dancers performing today. May Hōkioi of yesteryear be remembered always and may the flight of Vwōhali, the Golden Eagle of the Duyuktv take its maiden flight on the soils of Aotearoa New Zealand.

We express our heart felt gratitude to Claire Baxter-Cardy for Empire Studios, your generosity and hospitality will be cherished.

"Vwōhali the duality between (wo)man and bird, as the polarity between our two continents... the essence is rooted in the earth but boundary less in infinite skies.Eagle can be anything/everything from the courage to take a leap of faith... to our lungs inhaling life and exhaling dance." - Author: Andrew Hubbard 2017.

"He Hōkioi i runga
He Hōkioi i runga
He Hōkioi i runga, hū

Kei te āputa koe, nā, o te rangi,
e noho ana te hoa moenga,
nō whatitiri matakataka.
Hei aha tērā e tararua mārire, ōna hikumaro?
Rua maro tonu, ana hakikau
E huhu ū nei, i runga te rangi,
Hōkioi, Hōkioi i runga hū!"

CAST AND CREW

Tai Royal	:	Artistic Director/Choreographer
Missy Lay-Zimmer	:	Choreographer
Andrew Hubbard	:	Choreographer and Dancer
Sharu Delilkan	:	Creative Producer
Maree Sheehan	:	Sound Designer and Composer
Tūi Matira Ranapiri-Ransfield	:	Mātanga Mātauranga Māori
Bianca Hyslop	:	Assistant Choreographer
Keri Pewhairangi	:	Assistant Composer
Vanda Karolczak	:	Lighting Designer
Cuba Haslam	:	Dancer
Kent Date	:	Dancer
Leighton Rangi	:	Dancer
Cory-toalei Pearl Roycroft	:	Dancer
Gemma-Jayde Naidoo	:	Dancer
Erin Meek	:	Dancer
Ashley Klein	:	Dancer
Ali Morgan Rose	:	Dancer
Jackie Engelkamp	:	Dancer
Sarah Rolfsen	:	Dancer
Maddy Cundiff	:	Dancer
Kenza Chatar	:	Videographer
Medhi Balamissa	:	Videographer
Dominika Marcisz	:	Graphic Designer

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To all our friends and whānau that have tolerated us throughout this intense process we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Without your support we wouldn't have managed to achieve any of this. And to those that we have inadvertently omitted please accept our sincere apologies – rest assured your unflinching support is much appreciated!