

okareka.com

**Okareka** DANCE  
COMPANY

PRESENTS

# TAMAMA

NEW ZEALAND CONTEMPORARY DANCE

CONTACT

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## OVERVIEW

Four of the strongest voices in NZ Dance combine their talents to bring a powerful and evocative dance performance to the stage.

Presented as a five act autobiographical dance journey; Tama Ma is powerfully performed by Taane Mete and Taiaroa Royal; the distinguished Douglas Wright choreographs Act Two while the extraordinary talents of Michael Parmenter shape Act Four. Mark Summerville and Heather Lee also collaborated on Tama Ma; they directed and produced PITO, a short film that forms Act One of the performance.

Tama Ma tells the story of two men who travel from boyhood, to manhood, and the real life tale of love, life, joy and sorrow. The five part act moves from a short dance film projected on stage to a drag queen's journey to femininity and the return back to masculinity. A young boy's connection to his Whanau (family) and Iwi (tribe) and a mature man's ideas of identity are also deeply explored.

Tama Ma premiered in Auckland at the Tempo Dance Festival October 2008, and went on to a four centre national tour in 2009, with phenomenal audience feedback and critical acclaim.

***"Tama Ma is a sensational new dance work which is inspiring, simple and honest as well as a bit raunchy and clever."***

John Daly-Peoples, *National Business Review*

***"Tama Ma, the hit dance show by Taane Mete and Taiaroa Royal, is a must see event! It is rare to see such complicity and love expressed on stage; their partnership is extraordinary."***

Lynne Pringle, *theatreview.co.nz*

***"We do not often see choreography that is so deeply drawn from a core of Māori culture and personal experience... This is profoundly important theatre"***

Jennifer Shennan, *Dominion Post*



## SYNOPSIS

### ACT 1 PITO

The part of the baby's umbilical cord closest to the baby's body. Twins joined together awaken after a long hibernation. 8min 16mm short dance film projected on stage without live performance.

**Dancers:** Taane Mete & Taiaroa Royal  
**Choreographers:** Taiaroa Royal and Taane Mete in collaboration with Mark Summerville  
**Film Director:** Mark Summerville  
**Film Producer:** Heather Lee  
**Film Consultant:** Douglas Wright  
**Composers:** Eden Mulholland and Lindah Lepou

### ACT 2 TAMA MA

A metamorphosis.

**Dancers:** Taane Mete & Taiaroa Royal  
**Choreographer:** Douglas Wright  
**Music Composition:** David Guerin realises piano recording from composer Provokiev

### ACT 3 RANGATAHI

Childhood memories.

**Dancers:** Taane Mete or Taiaroa Royal  
**Choreographers:** Taiaroa Royal & Taane Mete  
**Composer:** Eden Mulholland

### ACT 4 HAND TO HAND

**Dancers:** Taane Mete or Taiaroa Royal  
**Choreographer:** Michael Parmenter  
**Composer:** Eden Mulholland

### ACT 5 WHANAUNGATANGA

A homage to their fathers, both whom have passed away. An invitation to their tupuna to join them in dance. This final act is a tribute to the late Mahinarangi Tocker.

**Dancers:** Taane Mete or Taiaroa Royal  
**Choreographers:** Taiaroa Royal & Taane Mete  
**Composer:** Eden Mulholland with the beautiful voice of Mahinarangi Tocker

## CREATIVE TEAM

**Choreographers:** Douglas Wright, Michael Parmenter, Taiaroa Royal, Taane Mete  
**Film Director:** Mark Summerville  
**Film Producer:** Heather Lee  
**Film Consultant:** Douglas Wright  
**Set Designer:** John Verryt  
**Costume Designer:** Elizabeth Whiting

**Lighting Designer:** Jeremy Fern  
**Musical Director / Composer:** Eden Mulholland  
**Composer (Act 1 drag):** Lindah Lepou & Lasalo Elia  
**Pianist (Act 2):** David Guerin  
**Vocal Recording (Act 5):** Mahinarangi Tocker  
Kaumatua Ngamaru Raerino

# OKAREKA DANCE COMPANY

Okareka Dance Company (pronounced or - kar - rek - ar), formed in 2007 by leading New Zealand dancers Taiaroa Royal and Taane Mete, fuses contemporary dance with other genres and Maori themes to create authentic, diverse works.

A vibrant New Zealand company, Okareka combines rich Maori heritage and contemporary expertise to create unique and moving dance compositions to inspire and provoke audiences worldwide.

Okareka is new, but draws on a wealth of experience, working with renowned New Zealand performers and choreographers.

The company's first major work, Tama Ma, opened to critical acclaim and a sell-out season in the 2008 Tempo Dance Festival in Auckland, NZ, and toured the major centres in New Zealand in 2009, achieving outstanding reviews and wowing audiences with its grace, humour, drama and world-class dance.

Internationally, Okareka has toured Hand to Hand (Act 4 from Tama Ma) to Cincinnati USA in April 2008, Hand to Hand (Act 4) and Pito (Act 1 film from Tama Ma) to Beijing in November 2009, Tama Ma to Adelaide in Feb

2010 (APAM Spotlight Performance), Tama Ma to Perth in November 2010 (with Strut Dance), and Tama Ma to Brisbane in March 2011 (Brisbane Powerhouse).

Okareka Dance Company premiered its second major work, Hga Hau E Wha – The Four Elements, in August 2011 in Wellington, to amazing audience and critical acclaim.

Okareka is guided by Maori beliefs in Whanau (Family), Mana (Honour) and Matataki (Challenge) and holds its provenance close to its heart. Okareka tells bold, spiritual stories that are of, and from, New Zealand. Through careful collaboration the company seeks to extend its creativity and influence by engaging experienced choreographers, musicians, film producers and performers to create evocative, beautiful dance works that tell strong stories.





# ARTISTS BIOGRAPHIES

## **TAIAROA ROYAL**

DIRECTOR & PRINCIPLE

### **Te Arawa, Kai Tahu, Ngati Rauwaka, Uenukukopako**

Taiaroa trained at the New Zealand School of Dance and has since performed with major dance companies both at home and abroad, including The Royal New Zealand Ballet, Douglas Wright and Black Grace.

Tai has successfully choreographed many high profile events across Australasia including the Montana World of Wearable Arts Awards in Wellington, The Festival of Dreaming in Sydney, Auckland's Concert in the Park and Queen of the Whole Universe. Tai has also spent time teaching at the UNITEC School of Performing and Screen Arts, The New Zealand School of Dance and a number of private dance schools.

Tai cites his performance in 2006 with 'Maui – One Man Against the Gods', directed by Tanemahuta Gray, as one of his favourites. "Maui gave me the opportunity to return to my spiritual roots and search through my own genealogy. It gave me strength and insight to look for a new phase for my career. In many ways it was the birth place for Okareka".

## **TAANE METE**

DIRECTOR & PRINCIPLE

### **Ngati Kahungunu me Ngati Koroki**

Taane Mete graduated with honours from the New Zealand School of Dance in 1988 and is considered one of this country's most outstanding and versatile dancers. His 22 years of experience has seen him perform with companies such as Footnote, Douglas Wright, Taiao Dance Company, Fusion Dance Theatre, Michael Parmenter (Commotion Company), The Royal New Zealand Ballet, and Human Garden Dance Company. Taane was also founding member and a senior dancer for Black Grace Dance Company.

Taane also works as a choreographer and dance tutor at UNITEC Performing Arts and has choreographed sections for many events including New Zealand Fashion Week and the opening of the Vector Arena in Auckland. Taane also featured in the short film 'Hurtle' by Shona McCullagh (Human Garden), and Peter Jackson's 'King Kong'. 2007 saw the establishment of Taane's joint company with Taiaroa Royal, Okareka Dance Company Ltd.



**DOUGLAS WRIGHT**  
CHOREOGRAPHER

Douglas Wright was born in Tuakau, South Auckland, in 1956. After dancing with Limbs of Auckland, the Paul Taylor Dance Company of New York and DV8 Physical Theatre in London he returned to New Zealand in 1987 to form his own company. The Douglas Wright Dance Company toured extensively throughout New Zealand, Australia, New York and Europe. Douglas's works of dance-theatre include Buried Venus (1997), Arc (1999), Halo (2000), Inland (2002) and Black Milk (2006).

**MICHAEL PARMENTER**  
CHOREOGRAPHER

Michael Parmenter started dancing in Dunedin in 1977. He studied and danced with Erick Hawkins in New York and Min Tanaka in Japan. Over the past twenty-five years he has created a wide range of dance-works, from innovative solo and duo shows to full-length pieces for the opera-house stage. He has choreographed many of these for his own Commotion Company, in addition to numerous works for the Royal New Zealand Ballet and Footnote Dance.

**MARK SUMMERVILLE**  
FILM DIRECTOR

Mark Summerville graduated from the University of Auckland Elam School of Fine Arts in 1990. He directed his first short film Singing Seas in 1986 and over the last twenty years has amassed a body of work including documentary, short films, music videos and exhibition work. Mark is a founding owner of Zoomslide Film Company and is presently working on a feature length documentary on the making of Tama Ma to be screened on Maori Television and in festivals worldwide.





# PERFORMANCE HISTORY

## 2008

**19 April 2008:** Cincinnati, USA: Premiere of Hand to Hand (Act 4) at the Lance Armstrong Foundation benefit concert in support of cancer research The Living Dance Project

**9-14 October 2008:** Auckland (Premiere season Tama Ma): Tempo Dance Festival, Concert Chamber Auckland Town Hall

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## 2009

**17-20 June 2009:** Hamilton NZ: WEL Energy Trust Academy for Performing Arts Playhouse

**24-28 June 2009:** Auckland NZ: Maidment Theatre

**7-10 July 2009:** Wellington NZ: Soundings Theatre, Te Papa

**6 October 2009:** Christchurch NZ: Body Festival of Dance, James Hay Theatre

**31 Oct-5 Nov 2009:** Beijing, China: Perform Pito (Act 1 film) and Hand to Hand (Act 4) at the International Symposium on Chinese and Pacific Music

## 2010

**22-26 February 2010:** Adelaide, Australia: Perform selected scenes at the Australian Performing Arts Market 2010 (APAM).

**13-14 May 2010:** Lake Taupo NZ: Erupt Arts Festival

**17-18 May 2010:** Hastings NZ, Hawkes Bay Opera House

**7-8 May 2010:** Nelson NZ, Theatre Royal

**23-28 November 2010:** Perth Australia, (Strut Dance) Dolphin Theatre

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## 2011

**29 March-2 April 2011:** Brisbane Australia, Brisbane Powerhouse







# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

## SHOW DURATION

- 65 minutes with no interval
- Note: Maximum of one performance per day, 6 per week

## VENUE REQUIREMENTS

- Suits proscenium arch or black-box theatre, end-on configured, 250 - 1000 seats
- Stage size (minimum): 10m wide, 9m deep plus wings and upstage cross-over, shallow rake accepted
- Pros arch height 6 – 10m
- Grid height: 7m minimum

## STAGING

- Stage must be sprung wooden floor suitable for dance
- Black Tarkett or Marley dance floor required for entire visible stage area
- Standard masking of black legs forming wings, black borders (Black box)
- One set of black stage tabs is required approx 8.5m upstage leaving approx 1.5m cross-over before the back wall. Operation of these tabs to be Stage Left. Split centre, draw (or traveller) curtain on track.
- A flying batten is required approx 400mm downstage of the tabs
- A flying batten or other rigging position (incl. grid or dead-hang) is required approx 400mm upstage of the tabs.

## SET

To be supplied by Okareka Dance Co:

- 4m x 2.5m screen on wheeled truck/steel frame
- Full height full width gauze in two halves
- White hanging cloth
- Black hanging cloth
- Rigging sash and pulleys

To be supplied by the venue/presenter:

- 1 length 4.5m alloy scaffolding pipe
- 6-8 sand bags (8-15kg)
- Black Tarkett or Marley dance floor required for entire visible stage area

## LIGHTING (PLANS WILL BE SENT)

To be supplied by the venue/presenter:

- Strand 520i or compatible lighting console (show plot exists on Strand disc)
- 96 10A dimmers
- 9x 10 Inch Fresnel or PC lamps
- 30x 8 Inch Fresnel or PC lamps
- 20x Pacific 12<>28° Zoom profile spot (Selecon Pacific preferred)
- 31x Pacific 23<>50° Zoom profile spot (Selecon Pacific preferred)
- 8 x Boom poles with outriggers for 4 lamps each
- 15 x A Size gobo holders (for 23-50 zoom spots)

## AV

To be supplied by the venue/presenter:

- 6K DLP projector (situated upstage centre on a road case)
- Blu-Ray DVD player (can be situated within reach of the projector)
- Projector needs to feed stereo audio to PA (set beside projector)

## SOUND

To be supplied by the venue/presenter:

- Standard FOH PA suitable for the venue with subs
- 2x CD players
- Side of stage monitor (stage) speakers
- Stereo audio connection from the Blu-Ray player
- If the venue has 5.1 surround sound capabilities we can make use of these.

## OTHER

- Hazer required (oil cracker preferred)
- Minimum 2 dressing rooms with benches, adequate make-up lighting, mirrors, toilets, basins, showers, heating. Production (tour manager) office required with internet access point/Wi-Fi and telephone.
- Bottled water and fresh fruit to be supplied for artists and crew.
- The dancers need access to a rehearsal space/dance studio for 3-5 hours each day.

## PACK IN

- Minimum 2 days with open on evening of second day (only if a fly house)

### Schedule:

#### Day 1:

- Morning: LX Rig, Set build, Video set-up, sound set-up, floor laid
- Afternoon: LX Focus,
- Evening: LX Plot

#### Day 2:

- Morning: Technical time on stage, floor taped
- Afternoon: Tech/Dress
- Evening: Performance

### Local crew required:

- 1 Assistant Stage Manager for set-up, rehearsals and performances
- 4 technicians for LX Rig and set installation – approx 4 hours
- 3 technicians for LX Focus – approx 5 hours
- 1 technician for video and sound set-up – approx 2 hours

## PACK OUT

- On the closing night – approx 3 hours

### Local crew required:

- 2 technicians to assist with pack out, plus extra if a lighting de-rig required.

## COMPANY

- Touring Party: 6 on the road – 2 dancers, 1 tour/production manager, 1 rehearsal director (and sound operator), 1 stage manager, 1 technical manager/lighting operator

### Local crew required:

- 1 Assistant Stage Manager for set-up, rehearsals and performances

## TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

To be supplied by the venue/presenter:

- Travel by vehicle within 4 hours drive of Auckland, plane elsewhere, for 6 persons including all transfers
- Accommodation single room hotel or motel accommodation for 6 persons
- Per diems (NZ\$75 min) for 6 persons including travel days
- Costumes, make-up cases and luggage travel with performers and may incur excess baggage fees

## FREIGHT

- Total 4 road cases, 1m<sup>3</sup>, 160kg
- 1 wooden travel crate of 2500mm x 500mm x 580mm, 110kg with set encl.
- 1 prop night-store heater 800 x 400 x 600mm, 12kg
- 1 box bits and bobs 800 x 400 x 400mm 15kg
- 1 tool case 600 x 400 x 400 20kg
- Costumes, make-up cases and luggage travel with performers and may incur excess baggage fees
- All freight costs are at the expense of the venue/presenter.
- Freight can travel by air, truck or an Okareka company member can drive it in a hired cargo van if within the North Island.

## GENERAL

- 10 Complimentary tickets for opening night and 6 per performance thereafter are required by the company

## COST OF SHOW

- Please contact us for costing information.
- Minimum booking of 2 performances.



# REVIEWS

***“The sheer scope of the production is almost incapacitating. Across the work’s five acts, one will find fragments of humour, beauty, reminiscence, tragedy, and competition spread throughout images as lovingly familiar as a child warming oneself by an electric heater and as darkly ambiguous as criminals conferring in shadow.***

***Each component is a masterpiece of immersion, composer Eden Mullholland and lighting designer Jeremy Fern excelling at creating different experiences for each act.”***

**TIME OFF (Brisbane, Australia)**

*reviewed By Matt O’Neill*

***“The dance work was very unified and solid for the two performers commitment to the singularity of their purpose and here in lies its success largely – lots of emotional and spiritual investment that is important to share culturally and emotionally and is rare to see coming from indigenous men. This work received an encore curtain call to pay testimony to its cultural importance and artistic merit.”***

**ARTSHUB (Perth, Australia)**

*reviewed By Gillian Clark*



***“These two men are exceptional interpretive dancers. They take risks. They push themselves hard and make it seem effortless. They weave stories with their bodies and the heart and the soul shows through in every movement. They dance together with an intimacy that can at times be almost overpowering.”***

**NELSON MAIL**

*Reviewed by Gail Tresidder*

***“There is rarely an opportunity to witness the artistry of two mature dancers as transparently honest and passionate as these men.***

***From the opening mihi to the closing act, Royal and Mete courageously revealed their personal journeys and their struggles with gender and masculinity.”***

**WAIKATO TIMES**

*Reviewed by Karen Barbour*

***“Tama Ma is an extraordinary work produced by Okareka Dance Company and performed by two of our most renowned contemporary dancers Taiaroa Royal and Taane Mete...”***

***I am excited for Tama Ma as Okareka takes this work to a new brilliance this year. Their standard of work is of such quality, that this tour is only the beginning of its international potential.”***

**THEATRE VIEW**

*Reviewed by Terri Crawford*

***A sustained standing ovation greeted dancers Taiaroa Royal and Taane Mete at the closing of Tama Ma on opening night.***

***The applause honoured the breadth and depth of their richly satisfying performance, their extraordinary artistry, and the excellence of all aspects of this highly collaborative project. “***

**NEW ZEALAND HERALD**

*Reviewed by Raewyn Whyte*

# Okareka

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