

'Three performers. Three lives. One role.'



WORLD
PREMIERE

'COVER GIRLS'

GAFA
ARTS COLLECTIVE

'KAVA GIRLS'

Gafa Arts Collective (GAC)

written & directed by Sani Muliaumaseali'i

Spotlites

@ The Merchants' Hall
Venue 278, 22 Hanover St
www.spotlites.co.uk



10 – 25 August 2014

4:05pm (not 18th) £6.50 (£5.00)

£4 Previews 10–12 Aug (45 mins)

0131 220 5911



**4TH – 5TH
OCTOBER 2014**

FOR ARTS AND SCIENCES, KIDS AND GROWN-UPS

Fun Palaces 2014 is a free, nationwide celebration of arts, culture and sciences on 4th–5th October 2014. Marking the 100th birthday of Joan Littlewood, one of the Twentieth Century's most significant cultural innovators, **Fun Palaces** brings to life the vision she created with Cedric Price for spaces linking arts and sciences, entertainment and education. This campaign for culture at the heart of all of human life will see pop-up events all over the UK. The democratisation of the arts and access for all at its heart.

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JOAN LITTLEWOOD AND CEDRIC PRICE ON THEIR VISION FOR THE FUN PALACE, 1961

Visit one near you – or make your own! All welcome.

www.funpalaces.co.uk

PLAYING AND LEARNING, YOU AND ME

GAFA

ARTS COLLECTIVE

We are London's first Samoan Arts Collective. GAFA (pronounced *Nga-fah*) is a Samoan word meaning genealogy. Our work is primarily focused on Samoan art practice & culture reflecting our ancestral roots. Our connections. We seek truth, innovation & enquiry. We are a cross cultural and cross disciplinary group of London based artists. We are performers, musicians & writers. We are filmmakers & designers: Professionals & novices collaborating to create a unique art view.

2014

Kava Girls

An original play with songs, Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Pacific Voices London, Chelsea Old Town Hall, London

Culture for Sale, Shigeyuki Kihara –Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum, Cologne, Germany

London School of Samoan Language & Aoga mo le Gagaga Samoa (AGS) established in April

2013

Gafa A family called Samoa, Origins Festival of first Nations – Testbed1, Battersea, London

2012

The layered art experience: Gafa A family called Samoa, Premiere – Testbed1, Battersea, London

2011

Gafa Arts Collective (GAC) Founded in London

FUTURE PROJECTS

2015

R' Otello

We are aiming to raise £30,000 for our winter season Opera Otello, Verdi. We're presently inspiring support from major artists & companies for this. Our London Pacific Otello is bound to cause a Ruckus!

PLEASE SUPPORT US

THE GafAgelu – *Gafa Angel* – Patrons programme

The Gafagelu Patron will receive various benefits according to their preferred level of giving. If you would like to become a patron, visit our website, www.gafasamoa.com and join this special group of people, who are committed to the future of the innovative Gafa Arts Collective (GAC).

Fa'afetai Lava, and thank you



FOREWORD

Upulomua

MIXING THE KAVA

Classifying *Kava Girls* as a musical, or a play, or anything was something I was reluctant to do. *Kava Girls* adheres to western musical & theatrical form but also demonstrates a layering of concept, culture & art practice.

I felt it important to present something that was universal in its appeal but still exhibit some mystery. The intrigue is provided by the Samoan culture. This generates respect. Although not exactly biographical *Kava Girls* does reflect my world. The world of Theatre and of being Samoan. I am not entirely sure which came first.

My Samoa is not the same as someone who was born and raised there. I am a descendant of immigrants and abide by the culture I've created. 'We are all our own creations' says Sinalei. My Culture has been mostly learnt through immersion and some by wrote.



PROGRAMME

SCENE 1

Voices 1
the Kava Girls

SCENE 2

It's My Turn
Song – It's My Turn
the Kava Girls

SCENE 3

Sinalei phones home
Sinalei

SCENE 4

Montage Salma

SCENE 5

Lez Mays
the Kava Girls

SCENE 6

Montage Debra

SCENE 7

Skype interview
Song – Perfect Love
Debra, Lawrence

SCENE 8

Salma rant
Song – Dumlaf
Salma

SCENE 9

Voices 2
the Kava Girls

SCENE 10

Mama's Pie
Sinalei

SCENE 11

Montage Sinalei

SCENE 12

Prince Charming
the Kava Girls

SCENE 13

Voices 3
the Kava Girls

SCENE 14

Acoustic Salma
Song – Wonderful Life
Salma, Sinalei

SCENE 15

Hell Rain
Song – Imagine
Debra

SCENE 16

Voices 4
Song – Emergency
the Kava Girls

SCENE 17

The Breaks
the Kava Girls

SCENE 18

A. Chee-Hoo Truth
Montage
B. The Contract
Song – The Way of the World
the Kava Girls

SCENE 19

Cover Me
Debra, Larry
Song – Cover Me
the Kava Girls

I am a well qualified to be Samoan, though often it is one of the roles I cover. Sinalei is a Fa'afafine: neither male nor female, but both. She covers both sexes but never really 'goes on – she is however forever Fa'afafine. Forever Samoan.

The Ava ceremony (or Kava as it is more famously known) is something the Fa'afafine can never actually perform. This is the metaphor upon which *Kava Girls* rests. The other two characters are more straight forward given they are the west incarnate – they swirl around the Sinalei character gently asserting the cultural framework within which this Samoan exists. A smooth concoction of culture is possible but often a disaster of post colonial inference prevails resulting in an incongruous cultural netherworld.

Kava Girls examines ownership: of self, of the worlds we create, of the choices we make and the consequences thus rued. We witness how far from our essence we can stray to survive and examines our values and the price we pay for success.

Sani Muliaumaseali'i
Creative Director & Co founder

GAFA
ARTS COLLECTIVE

www.gafasamoa.com



CAST AND CREATIVES



**NINOTCHKA
TINGLEFF**
playing
Debra Taylor

For Ninotchka, theatre life began at the NY Public Theatre under Joseph Papp's command. This early exposure to the creative creatures there fueled her imagination and creativity, leading to an eventual move to London as a singer & actress on the side. *Kava Girls* marks her return to the stage.



**DILYA
UWAGBOE**
playing
Salma Austin

For British/Nigerian singer/songwriter Dilya, *Kava Girls* is her acting debut, although she is no stranger to the stage. Since leaving Point Blank Vocal College, whose alumni boasts Leona Lewis & Alexandra Burke, she has been performing her debut album *Find Me An Angel* across Europe & the US.



A.J. LEROY
playing
Sinalei Schwalger

A.J. LeRoy is a singer, actor & musician who trained at Liverpool's Elliott-Clarke Theatre School & The Institute of Contemporary Music Performance in London. He has worked within theatre & music, & has performed as a soloist in venues across the country including Liverpool's Echo Arena & The Barbican Centre.



**OLIVIA
MUIAMASEALI**
Assitant director
playing Salma Austin
(Aug 23-25)

Samoan Olivia is an actor, producer, award winning director & filmmaker. Credits: Documentary "Wil i am" of Black Eyed Peas, Director, Executive director & founder of 'One Pacific Productions. 'Repeat performance' TV Film, Dale & David Bradley producers, 'Good hands' TVNZ, Actor & screen writer Screentime Communicado. *Kava Girls* marks Olivias British stage debut.



**KATHRYN
BOULTHO**
Accompanist

Kathryn studied at the QCM Griffith University Australia. She has vast experience in Opera, Music theatre & in Recital as a pianist. Credits Repetiteur: Opera Queensland, National Opera Studio, English National Opera, (UK) Theater Freiburg, Landestheater Coburg, in September she joins the Theater für Nieder-sachsen. *Kava Girls* is her third project with the GAC.

Photos © GAFA Arts Collective 2014

Faafetai & thank you

Our aiga Peter Rice, Shireen Nathoo, Julius Maxwell To'o, Charlotte Everett, Natasha Thompson, Lowri James, Ana Brothers, Rachel King, Roslyn Mahe, Sharlene Nair, Michele Bridgman, and the GAFA Arts Collective (GAC)

Fa'afetai to all our supporters

The Poor School
The Polka Theatre
The Little Angel Theatre



SANI MULIAUMASEALI I **Layered Art Exponent**

Sani, has worked in opera, music theatre, film, television & radio the world over. A Tenor, Sani studied singing at Griffith University QCM Australia, where he gained his B.Mus & Post Graduate Diploma. Primarily a performer, Sani has allowed himself the honour to express his creativity through different mediums. As a writer, composer, director & choreographer his work features his Samoan heritage. *Kava Girls* marks his first full length play with songs.

<http://www.sanimalo.co.uk>.

STELLA DUFFY

Writing Mentor

Stella Duffy is a writer & theatre-maker. She is co-director of the *Fun Palaces* campaign for wider participation in all forms of arts & culture, with a pilot national project on 4/5 October 2014. Associate director with Shaky Isles, & a member of impro comedy company *Spontaneous Combustion* since 1988. She has also written several novels, forty-five short stories, ten plays, & many articles & reviews.
<http://stelladuffy.wordpress.com/about/>

ROSANNA RAYMOND

Adornments & LAEI Artist & GAC Associate Director

An innovator of the contemporary Pasifika art scene & as a long-standing member of the art collective the Pacific Sisters, Sistar S'pacific aka Rosanna Raymond embodies the cutting edge.

Born in New Zealand, Rosanna's Samoan heritage has fuelled her artistic practice.

A Tusitala (Teller of Tales) at heart, her art practice takes a variety of forms; installation works, spoken word pieces & body adornment.

NINA THRAS MOHS

Choreographer

Nina is an actress & dancer. Recent credits include the Simon Pegg movie *The World's End*. She is also a ballet teacher/coach & a Master Teacher in Floor-Barre Technique® & a university lecturer at Kingston University London. Nina was made Ballet Mistress for Ballet Black at the Royal Opera House.

DOMINIC WARWICK

Lighting Designer

Dominic has worked on nearly every type of entertainment area as a lighting designer. A graduate of the Guildford School of Acting he has worked freelance for several major production companies. *Westend: Cats, Miss Saigon, Starlight Express, Oliver & Phantom of the Opera*. Dominic currently teaches Theatre Production at the Paddington Academy.

KEVIN JIANDRAN

Sound Designer

Kevin is an audio engineer studying at SAE in London. He specializes in recording & live sound, working on projects such as *Synergy Street* and *Joseph at Her Majesty's Theatre*. He was involved with the sound design for *GAFA: A Family Called Samoa* and recorded the music for *Kava Girls*.

Stage Manager

Katie Davies

ASM

Daniella Wood

Film footage

Paul Yandall, Olivia Muliaumaseali'i

Recorded music

Andy Philip, Lead Guitar, Band Leader, Arranger
Torquil Munro, Keyboard
Gregg Hagger, Bass
Dave Bryant, Drums
Recorded at the Blue studios, Dalston, London

Photos

Salvador Brown

Voiceover

Eddie Muliaumaseali'i



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Oz and the Space Pirates



Merlin's Dragon



Puss in Boots



The Enormous Turnip



Magic Porridge Pot



Drama Workshops for 5-12s



Agitación Senil



Am I



Bottle Mail from Okinawa



Jekyll + Hyde



Takboom



What Lies Beneath Our Feet



Bonded by Blood



Kava Girls



The Pirates of Penzance



The Wind Road Boys



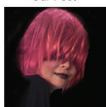
Belles Amies!



Chansons Françaises



China Box Arts Project



Romi



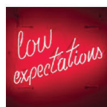
A Work of Art



Baron Sternlook's Big Naughty Improv Musical



Invisible Woman: Maxine Jones



Low Expectations: The Unpublishable Materials



Nancy Clench: Down Right Dirty



Renz Novani: Spellbinder - Magic & Mystory



The Tommy Cooper Show



15% of The Seagull



An Audience with Shuri



Backstage



Belfast Boy



Case Number



Critical! (A Sociopath's Guide to Influencing Edfringe Reviewers)



Doing Time With Number 5



A Drinker



Evil



The Human Voice



Kitty in the Lane



L'Annunciazione - The Annunciation



Leave Me



Life With Crayons



Loose Soul



Love Thy Neighbour



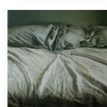
Oleanna



Our Jackie



Punk Rock



Sleeping with Beauty



Superfluous



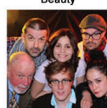
Tick Tock



Tis Pity



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what do you mean



Woman

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