

**27.09**

Thursday

**@7.30pm**

**Testbed1**

33 Parkgate Rd  
SW11 4NP



# Gafa

A Family Called Samoa

## Programme

*An evening of entertainment...*

*Speak. Sing. See. Sway. Strut.*

[www.gafasamoa.com](http://www.gafasamoa.com)



History. Christianity. Colonialism. Exile. Influence. Uprising. Trade. Migration.

Genealogy. Family lineages. Connections. Celebrations. Links in a community.

# A family called Samoa

*A layered art experience.  
Walking forward into the past. GAFA.*

*In the 19th and 20th centuries German, British and American interests competed for footholds in the South Pacific. In 1899, after a second civil war Samoa was divided. From 1900 to 1914 Samoa was known as German Samoa and what is now known as American Samoa was awarded to the US.*

*The UK was given other interests, but took control of Samoa through New Zealand during the First World War. In 1962 Samoa became an independent nation.*

*This year, 2012 marks the 50th anniversary of independence.*



## About Us

We come together as a cross cultural & cross disciplinary group of London based artists, writers and musicians collaborating to share our skills and experiences.

We assemble in the spirit of exploration & experimentation to acknowledge and craft the many sides of a story. In the process we are challenged and inspired, but more over we uncover hidden talents and extend those already honed.

## What is GAFA?

GAFA (pronounced Nga-fah) is a Samoan word meaning genealogy.

In his address to the nation of Samoa at the 50 anniversary of Samoan independence, Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese said 'O Samoa e le'o se malo, O Samoa ole uso ma le aiga' 'Samoa is not ruled by government, Samoa is a family'.

GAFA looks at the fortunes of this family observing its place in a world often not of its making. The European Colonial madness of the 19th/Early 20th Century, saw Samoa

ruled by Germany, then New Zealand under Great Britain and finally after much struggle achieved independence in 1962. There has been fallout such as cultural injury and social fracture, yet despite this, the agaga or the soul of the family remains intact.

GAFA A family called Samoa is about this soul. Based on history and legend our Layered Art experience employs spoken word, film, music, movement and installation to observe the family of Samoa as it merges and re-emerges from colonial interference.

Incarcerated by the German administration on a distant island, a Samoan Chief makes his daring escape by canoe. A leader of the Mau a Pule independence movement, his epic odyssey home to Samoa, becomes our odyssey too, as we traverse the post-colonial experience of identity, connection and emancipation.

Tales of contemporary Samoans are borne of this narrative, and as we walk forward into the past, we uncover the intersecting lines of filial, culture and experience and that is common to all cultures.



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# Gafa: Pieces

## 1. Arrival - Papalagi

When the European ships were first sighted on the Samoan horizon, they looked like they were breaking through the heavens. The breakers of the heavens have landed. Friend or Foe?

## 2. Sweeping SWAY

By Sani Muliaumaseali'i.

Sweeping through time & space. Through legend & history. Nafanua the warrior goddess has prophesized change. Right & wrong intersect and show duplicity with callous ease.

Lianne Unasa & Gafa Arts Collective GAC.

## 3. Odyssey 1, 2 and 3 SEE

A film by Paul Yandall in three parts, returned to throughout the evening. This work creatively examines the experience of I'iga Pisa a leader of the Mau a pule independence movement who was exiled to Saipan & escaped by paopao/ canoe.

Poem by Sani Muliaumaseali'i. Narrated by Paul Yandall. Samoan translation by I'iga Olivia Muliaumaseali'i.

## 4. Coloniser SPEAK

By Stella Duffy.

This chronicle, told from the point of view of a German colonizer, explores in a highly personal manner the experience of early Europeans settling in Samoa.

Ales Kosejk.

## 5. GermaNafanua SING

Song by Sani Muliaumaseali'i.

In an ironic and portentous game Nafanua is crowned as Germania: a satirical

pastiche referencing Dadaism & the absurd. Stella Duffy, Connie Tancredi Brice, Louise

Callinan & GAC. Musicians: Sani Muliaumaseali'i & Mary O'Connor.

## 6. Missionary SPEAK

By Stella Duffy.

This account from the point of view of an early missionary delves into the firm faith that brought many early proselytizers – most from the UK – to these far away islands in a divine calling to bring the 'native' Samoans to God.

Stella Duffy.

## 7. Sunday (Mother, Daughter) SPEAK

By Sani Muliaumaseali'i.

Samoans have been adept at appropriating outside influences while maintaining fa'asamoa, or the Samoan way. This work explores the contradictions of the Samoan people's enthusiastic adoption of Christianity and the role of the faifeau – or pastor – which is among the most respected professions in Samoan society today.

Aivale Cole and Sharlene Nair.

## 8. Church voices and Preacher Man SPEAK

By GAC.

Having adopted Christianity with zest, the Church remains an ironic forum where culture is both created and reinforced. While the preacher preaches, the Ladies Who Pray give voice to their church words, and their own inner voices also speak, perhaps a little more honestly.

Gafa Collective.

## 9. Ladies Who Lunch SPEAK

By Stella Duffy.

The colonial ladies are welcomed by one of their own, who introduces them to the joys of Samoa, and also to Ave Maria, the fa'afafine. And then, Ave Maria speaks. Fa'afafine: In the manner of a woman

Sani Muliaumaseali'i, Stella Duffy & GAC.

## 10. SS Talune SWAY

By Sani Muliaumaseali'i.

A young boy's dream portends the devastation brought by the arrival of the SS Talune, whose sick passengers were allowed to disembark by New Zealand officials in Samoa. In the form of a modified mauluulu - a traditional Samoan song with dance movements.

Aivale Cole, Michele Timmins, Kensington singers & GAC.

## 11. Patois Rap & Sah-Sah

By Sani Muliaumaseali'i.

This work explores the impact of migration and intermarriage, and the authenticity of modern Samoan urban culture.

MC Connie Tancredi Brice, Fuataimi Aivale Cole & GAC.

## 12. Meet me in Hawaiiiki SPEAK

By Rosanna Raymond.

This poem challenges all aspects of the artist's genealogical and geographical makeup using Hawaiiiki - the ancestral home and last resting place for Polynesians to question the legitimacy of her own Pacific Island presence and the celebration of the crown in Aotearoa/NZ today.

## 12a Meet you in Hawaiiiki

Visual version of the poem by Rosanna Raymond.

6 x AO posters Photography Kerry Brown Digital Manipulation Delete U. Rosanna Raymond.

## 13. Pulotu Pollution SPEAK

By Rosanna Raymond.

A living installation, this piece reflects how the artist communicates and inhabits the past, the present and the future through the body allowing all to converge and share the same time and space.

Rosanna Raymond & GAC.

## 14. Lota Nu'u SING & Tauluga SWAY. Lota Nu'u

Led by Louise Callinan & Aivale Cole.

Everyone is encouraged to join in the singing of chorus: 'Samoana (Samoana) Ala mai (ala mai). Faia nei (Faia nei) le fa'afetai (le fa'afetai). i le pule ua maua, o lo'o nu'u ile vasa'

Taupou: Connie Tancredi Brice, Sharlene Nair, Lianne Unasa, Loretta Vui et al.



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# Installations

## 1. Tuiga SEE

By Rosanna Raymond.

The making of a traditional Samoan headdress.

## 2. Church Walkers STRUT

By Olaminas.

An observation. The artist extends an invitation to listen to the pauses in the everyday.

Jasmin Ford, Mary O'Connor, Michele Timmins.

## 3. Rugby SPEAK

By Olaminas.

When the features of one culture are subsumed or venerated by that of another questions of origin, ownership & self arise. Sian Petricevich, Sharlene Nair, Alex Kosejk & GAC.

## 4. Selu STRUT

By Sani Muliaumaseali'i.

The spirit Teresa is said to not like girls flagrantly combing their hair: warning 'Don't comb your hair at night'. GAC.

## 5. Past Walkers STRUT

Walking forward into the past acknowledging self as the sum of ancestral parts. GAC.

## 6. O Patria Mia SING

An aria from Verdi's Aida.

The Samoas love of singing has found voice in many westerns styles. Aivale Cole Soprano, Lyndall Dawson keyboard.

## 7. Ta'iga ole Sua SWAY

A traditional ceremony of respect for

esteemed visitors.

Samoa translation by Anastacia Amoa, Fa'atau Talapusi.

## 8. Samoa Joe SPEAK

By Sani Muliaumaseali'i.

This exchange considers the central role of the aiga – one's family or clan – to the social structure, culture and identity of Samoans.

Aivale Cole and Fa'atau Talapusi.

## 9. Pottery SEE

Written & performed by Ana Lavekau.

Samoa & Fijian historical & cultural ties: GAFA

## 10. Cousins SPEAK

By Aivale Cole.

This dialogue draws attention to the arbitrary distinctions and hierarchies that are often drawn within groups by those who comprise them.

Mary O'Connor and Ales Kosejk.

## 11. Afakasi SPEAK

By Kimarina Leach, Lianne Unasa and Loretta Vui.

This interchange examines the experience of being between cultures. In Samoan afakasi means 'half-caste', or mixed-race Samoan. The 'ie toga, or fine mat, is one of the most important and enduring objects in, and symbols of, Samoan culture. Lianne Unasa and Loretta Vui.

## 12. DMULAF STRUT

RetroNesian Frock and hand made adornments by Rosanna Raymond.

Reverting the gaze through adorning and celebrating the body. Audience members are encouraged to get their freak on too! Song by Sani Muliaumaseali'i. Vocals: Roslynn Mahe.

## 13. STATE(of my)'HOOD.

An artwork by Masina Malepeai Frost.

This work considers and questions the meaning of statehood and role of geography history, church, education, sport and coincidence in defining individual and shared culture and identities.

## 14. Portraits

By Salvador Brown.

The sum of generational parts - see installation for details.

## 15. Letting go

By Alicia Fantozzi.

Walking forward into the past – see installation for details.

## 16. The Dusky Ain't Dead She's Just Diversified

A photographic series based on a poem written by Rosanna Raymond.

Full Tusk Maiden and Back Hand Maiden, two of the seven characters featured in the poem. Revisiting, reclaiming and de/re-constructing the notion of the Dusky Maiden, diversifying and bringing her into the 21st Century.

Digital print on dibond Perspex. 841x1189(AO). Photography: Kerry Brown. A collaboration with Amanda Luise Barnes.

Programme notes Masina Malepeai Frost and GAC.

# Thank you!

To our partners, to our families, to our friends: OUR GAFA Thank you all for your support and love on GAFA, and in life.

Peter Rice	Ana Lavekau
I'iga Olivia	Richard Lee
Muliaumaseali'i	Paul Need
Robert Trew	Robert Moodycliffe
Jasmin Ford	Rob San
Anastacia Amoa	Jeremy Rowe
Luana Asiata	Tausala Talapusi
Kerry Brown	Vaitoa Toelupe
Connie Tancredi Brice	Magnus Myerscough
Andrew Corbet-Burche	Walker Dominic
Paul Clay	Warwick
Lyndall Dawson	Jane West
Emma Deakin	Paul Yandall
Stella Duffy	Polka theatre
Christel Fensterseifer	Italia Conti
Andrew Girvan	Cambridge University
Mark Hamilton	Museum of
Charles Hipps &	Archaeology and
Ilaria Frau Hipps	Anthropology
Nadia Javed	British Museum
Timothy Kaye	

To the wonderful and amazing Gafa Arts Collective. Fa'afetai, fa'afetai, fa'afetai. It has been pure joy creating with you all. Gafa: A family called Samoa has only been possible through your incredible commitment, trust and love.

Fa'afetai lava ma ia manuia.

# Contributors

*We have come together as a cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary group of London based artists, writers and musicians collaborating to share our skills and experiences.*

## **Sani Muliaumasealii**

### **Director**

Samoan Dramatic Tenor Sani studied singing at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Australia, where he gained his B.Mus and Post Graduate Diploma. He has appeared in opera and most forms of music theatre in many parts of the world.

## **Stella Duffy**

Stella Duffy has written thirteen novels, forty-five short stories, and ten plays. She has directed at the Riverside, Pleasance, Soho, Oval House and the Gilded Balloon. She is an Associate Artist with Improbable and Associate Director with Shaky Isles.

## **Louise Callinan**

International Mezzo soprano Louise Callinan was the first Australian to be accepted into the Young Artist Program at the Opera National de Paris. A winner of countless awards, Louise has sung with some of the world's leading orchestras including the BBC Symphony, Chicago Symphony & l'Orchestre National d'Île de France.

## **Sistar S'pacific**

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.

## **Luana Asiata**

Born in NZ and of Samoan descent, Luana has led an exciting career as a versatile and innovative graphic/web designer having worked in Sydney, Auckland and currently in London. She studied at Elam School of Fine Arts and has swapped her paintbrush for a mouse and has never looked back.

## **Aivale Cole**

London based Soprano Aivale Cole was born and raised in New Zealand.

She graduated from the Australian Opera Studio with Honours and was awarded the Dux Prize 2005. She completed a Bachelor in Performance Art degree at The National Academy of Singing and Dramatic Art (NASDA) in Christchurch, New Zealand and a Diploma in Performance Art (Opera) at the University of Auckland.

## **Connie Tancredi-Brice**

Hailing from Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, Connie Tancredi-Brice enjoys her career as a performer in new work and assistant producing. In addition to acting, Connie plays classical piano and is an expert pie maker.

## **Mary O'Connor**

Since graduating from Dartington College of Arts Mary has worked as a freelance silent film accompanist, violinist, composer and performer. Recent work as a actor includes Chorus in Stella Duffy's adaptation of Medea at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2011. Mary is also a teacher of Dalcroze Eurhythmics.

## **Sharlene Nair**

Sharlene joined GAFA mid way through and discovered during this project how many interesting parallels there are in different cultures that are separated by vast sea. Since graduating from the University of Kent, she has put her love for singing into practice taking part in various productions singing her little heart out.

## **Ana Lavekau**

Ana Lavekau who is originally from Fiji is the founder of Mekeart Tribe UK that promotes traditional and contemporary Fijian Meke (dance) in the UK. She is also a key member of the Big Dance London 2012 project.

## **Jodie Michaels**

Jodie Michaels trained at Arts Educational Schools in Musical Theatre. She has worked extensively in the UK and Europe since 1992.

Recent productions include 'Caroline or Change' NT and 'Taniwha Thames' Oval House, London. Others skills include songwriting and learning to play guitar.

## **Lianne Unasa**

Of Samoan/English descent, the last 5 years has seen Lianne use her spare time, from the 9-5, to produce a dance-theatre show 'A 1001 Nights' (2007), co-create artists' website [bedroomgenius.com](http://bedroomgenius.com) (2009) and complete an independent feature film 'Love & Money' (2012) as Executive Producer, Assistant Director and Film Editor.

## **Hannah Brine**

Hannah Brine also conducts the Selfridges Office Choir and Fosse Singers in Leicester. In 2011 she studied with the Association of British Choral Directors and she is currently studying composition and arranging at Goldsmiths. She has performed at the Barbican with Wynton Marsalis, Birmingham Symphony Hall and the NEC.

## **Kimarina Leach**

A NZ-born Scottish Samoan, Kim is passionate about education and cultural identity. Her efforts in exploring both have taken her travelling to wherever she can afford to go, living and teaching in NZ, the UK and the UAE, and to university a few times to try and piece it altogether.

## **Kensington Singers**

Kensington Singers is a young un-auditioned mixed voice community choir, which formed in January 2011 and has quickly established itself as West London's friendliest choir. As well as termly public concerts the choir has sung for the Chelsea Pensioners and the Royal Brompton Hospital. New members are always welcome and no previous experience is necessary.

Design by Luana Asiata

*We would like to thank the following organisations for their support*

