

**Kaha  
Kaha  
Kaha**

**July 7—9**



**Tripleboost**

he

kāhui

whetū

Whakaruruhau

a constellation of stars illuminating  
our pathway into the future



hei

tiaki i a

tātou

Whakaruruhau

protecting and safeguarding  
our mission



te takawaenga

i te ao

wairua

me

te ao

kikokiko

Whakaruruhau

mediating spiritual and physical  
realms of existence



Growing up immersed in Western science, the realisation that Māori cosmology was part of our unique cultural worldview was revelatory. My earliest inklings of Māori star knowledge occurred 20 years ago, coming across The Astronomical Knowledge of the Māori, Genuine and Empirical by ethnographer Elsdon Best published in 1922.

Matariki, the Māori name for the cluster of stars, is also referred to as the Pleiades. During winter, the constellation is visible before sunrise in the northeast. Its appearance marks the end of one year and the start of another. 24 June 2022 marked the first time the celebration was formally recognised in Aotearoa, making it the country's first Indigenous public holiday. That Māori could retain that traditional knowledge after centuries of looking at phenomena of the natural world was an unexpected joy. Gazing skyward, ki runga, and ritualising food sustenance earthwards, ki raro, conjures essential questions of how ancestral thinkers understood these cycles through ritual, empowering them as kaitiaki, guardians. What does this mean for us all today? Atamira has manifested rich experiences throughout a year of turmoil. As a nation,

we bore witness to our civil unrest, so Kaha is a vessel for safeguarding that which is most precious to us. We are tending with care to the creative and cultural development of the next generation of dance practitioners. We worked across multiple Covid-19 variant outbreaks and societal challenges to arrive at our current outlook filled with hope, resilience, and remembrance. During the process, we engaged in hautapu, a traditional ceremony to make an offering to Matariki. The sacred breath, releasing our emotions and waters, invoking the atua of winds and respiratory systems, Tawhirimatea, who gave life to the first woman, Hineahuone. In other lands, we felt the impact of women's procreative rights trampled, so a reminder to all: Me aro ki te hā o Hine-ahu-one (pay heed to the dignity of women). We have embraced Kaha as a platform to decolonise and strengthen ourselves. And are so proud of arriving at this new significant milestone — our first integrated Te Reo Māori dance performance.

Tihei Mauriora





Mihi — Gabrielle Thomas

In the Vault

## Tomo VR

### **Creative team**

Choreographer/Director: Gabrielle Thomas

Filmmaker: Ed Davis

Music: Peter Hobbs

Production Design: Vanda Karolczak

Performers: Sean MacDonald, Bianca

Hyslop, Abbie Rogers, Cory-Toalei Roycroft,

Madison Tumataroa

A mother in tapu  
She holds the whare tangata  
He tomokanga ia Tomohia  
In the womb of the world  
We become people  
Transformation

Individual headsets provide the perfect platform for an innovative choreographic and immersive interpretation of TOMO VR. With shifting architecture, TOMO tells the curious and often haunting tale of one of life's troubled passengers.

## Karanga

Whaikōrero  
Waiata  
Compositions by Kiri Key

In the Loft

## Still

### **Creative team**

Choreographer/Performer: Sean MacDonald

Music: Wingbeats Source III: Piano and Wings  
by Hidden Orchestra

A solo meandering through yesterday's curiosities. Of exuberance and melancholy, a clicking of snapshots. Taking a pun(t) on (re)moving through a musing connectivity of randomly logical bone & muscle poetics. Presentation and internal. The stillness of anxiousness. A body influenced by the sequencing of time, a dance.



In the Loft

## Kaha

### Creative team

Artistic Director: Jack Gray  
Co-Directors: Kelly Nash, Nancy Wijohn  
Te Reo Composer: Kiri Key  
Sound Designer: Rachel Shearer  
Costume Designer: Paul Stothers  
Makeup consultant: Sophy Phillips  
Lighting and Set Designer: Vanda Karolczak  
Performers: Caleb Heke, Sherrick Martin, Oli Mathiesen, Dana Moore-Mudgway, Abbie Rogers, Cory-Toalei Roycroft, Madison Tumataroa

## Whakapipi 33

What is buried within the spine, a stacking of 33 bones, memories of forgotten lands severed by time? This work transports us to the deepest parts of our being, connecting realms between this lifetime and the last.

### Creative team

Choreographer: Dana Moore-Mudgway  
Music: Rachel Shearer, Octopus by Eden Mulholland

## Mai Papatuanuku ki te Ao

He whero te toto, he whero te manawa, he whero ahau. What are the stories, and how can we tell these stories from the land? This dance draws upon the living and breathing of Papatuānuku; she who holds our whakapapa, our tipuna, and the creation of time itself.

### Creative team

Choreographer: Caleb Heke  
Music: Xavier Garneau-Roughan

## Tiaki Taonga

What are the connections we have to taonga, individually and collectively? This dance considers Te Ao Māori perspectives, delving into the personality of living taonga and the sacredness we place upon them.

### Creative team

Choreographer: Abbie Rogers  
Music: Xavier Garneau-Roughan, Rachel Shearer, Serge Treadgold

## Arero Ma

What if you take away the knowledge of my whakapapa, my pearl necklace, and my white tongue? This dance parodies colonisation through a singular character and stereotypical signals representing societal institutionalism.

### Creative team

Choreographer Oli Mathiesen  
Music: Rachel Shearer

## Te Pou

What layers exist between the centering dimensions of our creative identity and whakapapa? This work tunes into the frequencies of our tupuna and explores the relationship of human bodies having autonomy over their whole existence.

### Creative team

Choreographer: Sherrick Martin  
Music: Xavier Garneau-Roughan, Rachel Shearer, Te Kōpō by Kiki Pounamu



## Karanga

Haka  
Compositions by Kiri Key



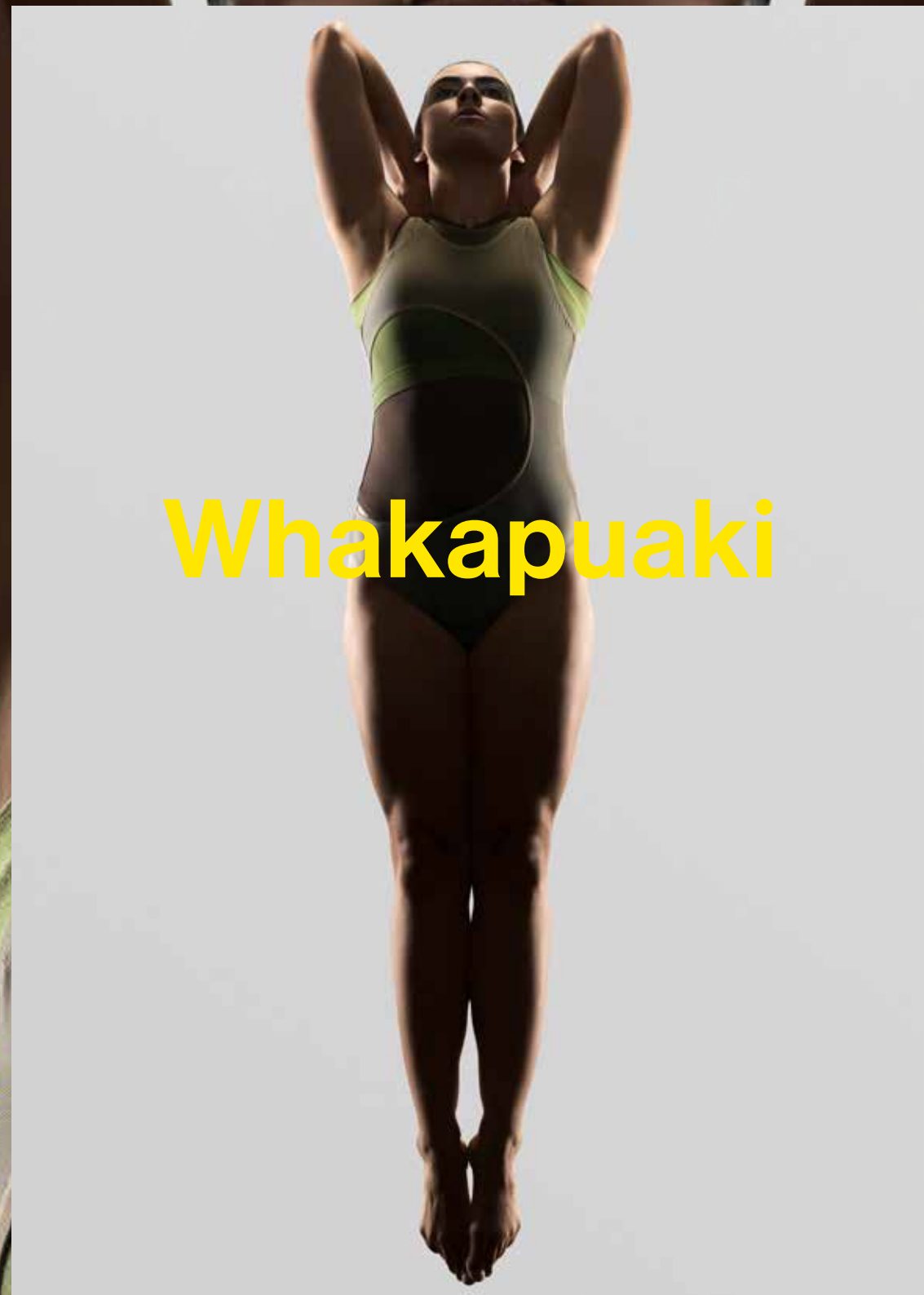




Kiri

Whakapuaki

Key



**He Taonga**

Prized treasure

**He aha raa te taonga?**

What is taonga?

**He aha raa te taonga ki a koe?**

What is taonga to you?

**He aha raa te taonga ki ahau?**

What is taonga to me?

**He aha raa te taonga ki a taatou katoa?**

What is taonga to us all?

**Te taa o ngaa, Te taonga**

The many imprints of taonga

**Me peehea ai te taonga e whai koorero ai?**

How does taonga find it's voice?

**Me peehea ai te wairua o te taonga ka hua mai?**

How does the spirit of taonga evolve?

**Maa wai raa te taonga e taurima?**

Who will care for our taonga?

**Maa te pono maa te tika**

Truth, justice, fairness, validity

**Me te aroha e.**

And love will

Abbie

Ngāi Tahu, Te Arawa

Rogers



**Te Pou**  
The Post (upright post of support)

**Te Pou o roto**  
The post within

**Ko te kawa o te kainga me te whakapapa**  
The ritual of our ancestral home and our genealogy

**Ko te iarere o ngaa tupuna**  
Ancestral frequency

**He karakia kia uu ai ki te whakapapa**  
Rituals that connect us to genealogy

**He karakia kia uu ai ki te kainga**  
Rituals that connect us to ancestral homes

**Ka Whakaara ake**  
To activate

**Ka Whakapono**  
To remember

**Ka Maumaharatia**  
Who we are

**Te Whakapapa**  
Stay connected

**Noho piri, noho tata**  
Stay close

**Haakina**  
Inward breath

**Aata whakaaro**  
Contemplate

**Haaputa**  
Outward breath

**Pokapuu**  
A direct route

**Haakina**  
Breath in

**Haaputa**  
Breath out

**Auee Te Matemateaone**  
Alas the intense yearning for home

**Hei haa hei**  
Indeed

**Te Tangata**  
The Human  
**Te Iwituraro**  
Spine

**Te puumaumaharatanga**  
The center of remembrance

**Te Hanganga tangata**  
The skeleton of man

**Te whatu tuuwhera**  
The open eye

**Ka rangona hohonutia e te tangata**  
Felt deeply by the person

**Te maumahara i ngaa tupuna**  
Remembering our ancestors

**Waa mua**  
Times past

**Waa muri**  
Times forward

**Waa o naianei**  
Now

**Ko te iwituraro**  
It is the spine

**Ko te koiwi**  
The bones

**Ko te tuara**  
The back

**Heke ki raro**  
Descends downwards

**Ko te puumaumaharatanga**  
The center of remembrance

**Me peehea ai taatou e tuku puuraakau?**

How do we share our stories?

**He koorero?**

Through Speech?

**He waiata?**

A song?

**He reo?**

Through language?

**He whakaaro?**

Through thought?

**He kanikani?**

A dance?

**He waananga?**

Through a whisper?

**He koohimuhimu?**

Through the raised voice?

**He uumere?**

Through Rangī?

**Ko Rangī?**

Through Papa?

**Ko Papa?**

Yes through People.

**Maa te tangata.**

We must listen to each other.

**Maa te whakarongo, teetahi ki teetahi.**

Listen to the whispers of Papatūānuku

**Me whakarongo ki ngāa kohimihimu o Papatūānuku**

Listen to the shouts of Ranginui

**Me whakarongo ki ngāa uumere o Ranginui.**

Our fight to be heard and to tell our stories our way is never ending

**Ka whawhai, ka whawhai mo ake tonu atu**

A fight with no end

**Te Tangata Koronihia**

The Colonised Human

**Tuuhura i te koronihiatanga**

Identify colonisation within

**Teenei tinana koronihia**

This colonised body

**Teenei hinengaro koronihia**

This colonised mind

**Teenei wairua koronihia**

This colonised spirit

**He tangata takataapui ahau**

I am Takataapui

**He tangata noa iho?**

Am I not just a person?

**He tangata whawhai i teenei ao hurihuri.**

A fighter in this forever changing world

**He tangata**

Tis People

**He tangata**

People

**He tangata**

People

## How to celebrate Matariki

Light a candle to remember those who have passed.

Gather with friends and whānau to reconnect.

Star gazing at night or early morning to be in the moment at this special time.

Cook a feast with whānau. Create a beautiful spread with rewena bread, kumara, puha and some delicious fried bread.

Get out and do some community or personal gardening.

Enjoy Māori art — films, shows, story-telling, waiata.

Learn the star names — Matariki, Pōhutukawa, Waiti, Waitā, Waipuna-ā-rangi, Tupuānuku, Tupuārangi, Ururangi, and Hiwa-i-te-rangi.

Write down a wish for the year ahead and tie it to something precious to you.

Make something — a kete, kite or poi.

Rest and self-care.

My Matariki wish is...





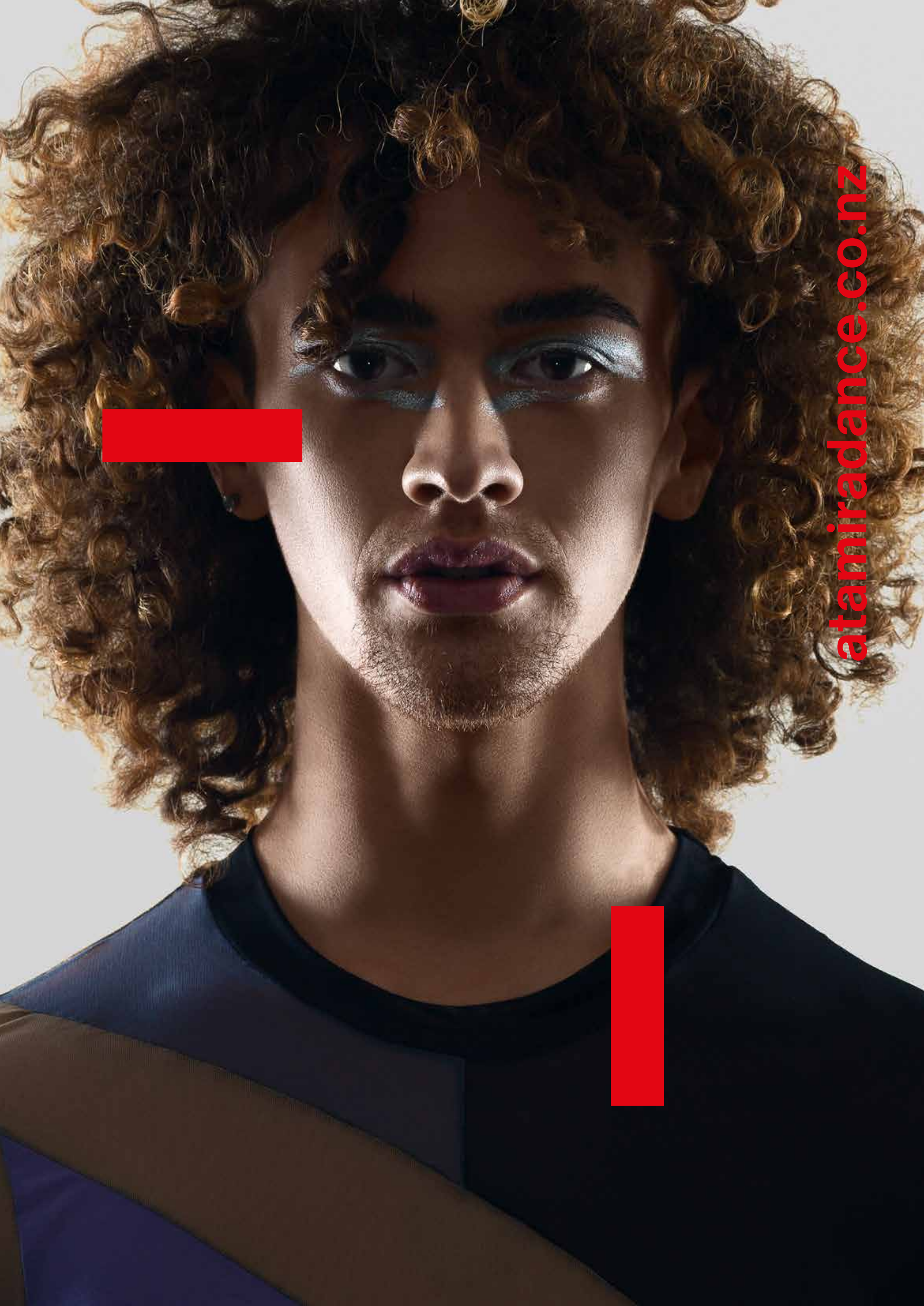
<b>Highlights</b>
<i>Te Wheke</i> , celebrating 21 years of creative artistry, premiered on 11 June 2021 at ASB Theatre. We integrated our teina, emerging artists with tuakana, established artists to evolve our continuum.
Auckland entered severe restrictions in mid-August as it began fighting a Delta outbreak.
During this 107-day lockdown, we engaged dancers by scheduling weekly online classes, choreographic research (online and in-person bubbles as allowed), and gatherings.
This process led to <i>Hou 2021</i> — the first Atamira online exhibition of choreographic concepts featuring Caleb Heke, Oli Mathiesen, Dana Moore-Mudgway, and Emma Cosgrave.
Initially pencilled to tour regionally as a live full length show at the start of the outbreak in 2020, Gabrielle Thomas began remounting a pivot version of <i>Tomo VR</i> with dancers in February — March 2022, filmed by Ed Davis at Tapac Theatre during the peak of Omicron.
We launched new seasonal <i>Wānanga</i> in Raumati (summer) led by Bianca Hyslop and Gabrielle Thomas and Ngāhuru (autumn) led by Sean MacDonald, introducing new dancers Sherrick Martin and Madison Tumataroa to our company culture and philosophy to prepare for our return to stage.
A second <i>Hou</i> online project led to new concepts and another online exhibition featuring Abbie Rogers, Sherrick Martin, Samara Rewiti, and Rose Tapsell.
<i>Kaha</i> was the name of a past Atamira show in 2012-13 that toured to Jacob's Pillow, San Francisco, Hawaii and the Festival of Pacific Arts in Honiara, Solomon Islands. We recalled this name to bring us back strongly together again. <i>Tripleboost</i> is a play on words connecting the three parts of the show but also referencing COVID-19.
The show came together over a 3 week intensive rehearsal process and production week during Matariki 2022, with a focus on Te Reo development and cultural upskilling.

<b>Interpreting the world of <i>Kaha</i></b>
In the subterranean realm (representing Rarohenga) of the Vault — there is water and plinths. Symbolically — a repeated tukutuku motif of mirror black diamonds on the floor — represents Waharua — commitment and courage.
In the foyer, our Matariki tukutuku panel in the lobby is where we welcome everyone back into the Atamira whare. The gold represents the light and aspiration, red as earth and connection, and black as space and unknown potential. Adorn yourself in a tee shirt and take a photo!
The Loft is a lightbox stage with a prominent diagonal channel entry for the dancers coming from the audience's POV and opening up into a two-sided viewing platform /main stage.
Two apex points are utilised as the key entry/exit by the performers. It serves an essential role in establishing the tikanga of this spatial configuration. This threshold is mirrored in the front door and back door of a whareniui.
This portal of entry and exit — an inverse diamond — symbolically is a birth channel (the vagina of Hine-Nui-te-Po, te ara namunamu ki taiao, as it is also the transcendence into death). This dramaturgy situates the performance in the realm of Te Ao Mārama, with transitions of tapu & noa.
The dancers enter the channel, and the audience sees their backs through procession and connection as an ope (a group of people moving together). It gives a perspective of being the walls of a whareniui or watching as the eyes of the atua.
The familiarity of a Western proscenium is unnecessary. This multi dimensional realm intervenes to be both manuhiri and tangata whenua. This softens the need to be in strict presentational mode and allows the entire space to be performative and alive.

<b>Atamira Production Team</b>	
Artistic Director	Jack Gray
Executive Producer	Marama Lloyd
Production Manager	Vanda Karolczak
Producer/Education Co-ordinator	Alana Basile
<b>Marketing</b>	
Marketing Co-ordinator	Abbie Rogers
Videographer	Matt Gillanders
Photographer	Jinki Cambrono, Andi Crown, Emma Cosgrave
Publicity	Elephant Publicity
<b>Theatre</b>	
LX/SX Board Operator	Michael Goodwin
<b>Dance</b>	
Strength and Conditioning	Erin Bowerman
Technique Tutors	Sean MacDonald Kelly Nash Nancy Wijohn
<b>Campaign</b>	
Creative direction	Osborne Shiwan
Photography	Toaki Okano
Hair	Benjamin James, Ryder Salon
Make-up	Lochie Stonehouse
Styling	Zeenat Wilkinson

<b>Atamira Board of Trustees</b>	
Chair	Dolina Wehipeihana Moana Nepia Puawai Cairns
<b>Funders</b>	
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<b>Ngā Mihi</b>	
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