



MOANA

The Rising of the Sea

Supporting Documents

THE Awards 2016

After the curtain fell abruptly in December 2013, the Byre Theatre reopened its doors to the public in late 2014 under a management agreement between the University of St Andrews, Fife Council and Creative Scotland. Amid doubts that the university could run a community theatre, an enthusiastic team had the vision to restore it to a reinvigorated cultural hub for north-east Fife.

This renewed effort to establish a reputation in the arts meant the need for the first large-scale production to be ground-breaking, innovative and wide-reaching was paramount. The project undertaken by the newly re-opened Byre Theatre was the multi-media, interdisciplinary spectacle 'Moana: The Rising of the Seas', an intense blend of contemporary choreography, traditional dance, poetry, music and song. It was the creation of the Pacific's foremost directors and performers - Oceania Dance Theatre and Pasifika Voices - based at the University of the South Pacific's Oceania Centre for the Arts, Culture and Pacific Studies. An EU-funded research collaboration on the social dimensions of climate change enabled the University of St Andrews' Centre for Pacific Studies and USP's Oceania Centre to host a 30-strong Moana troupe for a suite of performances, educational and dance workshops, and to accomplish three interconnected innovations:

1. launch a new University-led collaboration to re-open The Byre Theatre and embed it in the local community as a venue of high-quality artistic performances, research collaboration and public engagement;
2. borrow and learn from USP's Oceania Centre's highly successful model for combining research, visual and performing arts and community development; and
3. demonstrate research insights through the Moana show and accompanying pop-up Oceania exhibition to convey Pacific cosmology across all three floors of the Byre, a series of outreach events, school and dance workshops and a research symposium.

In combination, these innovations produced an intense holistic experience: the Byre was transformed into a Pacific island home for the performers - and by their own testament, this place and wrapping in Pacific cosmology enabled and elicited their most potent performances of their European tour, and powerfully demonstrated that to which the collaborative research and Moana point: the inseparability of people and land and the impossibility of climate migration from the places of which Pacific peoples are also made. These Pacific cosmological connections provided the experimental rationale for demonstrating connections between arts and research, between international collaborators, between 'Town and Gown', and between European and Pacific communities whose life choices are intimately connected.

The Byre event was unique on the tour in bringing together the Fijian and local performers, Pacific- and locally-based visual artists working in different media, researchers and policy-makers to share ideas in artistic practice and university-based research, creating a cohesive, all-encompassing encounter with the Pacific. Collaboration and exchange were key and Moana has far-reaching consequences beyond just the project organisers. Artistic practice was shared, a video of the event was produced and disseminated online. Engagement with Pacific-based social media users was strong, and international, cooperative links were forged that will impact on generations to come.

Research Symposium 'Restoring the Human to Climate Change in the Pacific'

Following a welcoming performance by the Moana troupe, researchers from St Andrews presented a report written for the EU that conveys Pacific and social scientific perspectives on climate change, and which critically engages current EU policy in the region. Researchers from USP and the wider EU-funded consortium presented associated research to an audience **including the Samoan Ambassador to the EU, and an official from H2020 at the European Commission**, and whose responses illustrate key impacts. In a context leading up to the COP21 climate conference, the Ambassador spoke of the publicity Moana was receiving back in the Pacific, of the critical importance of the awareness and value of Pacific cultures and the urgency of climate change issues, and of the coming Moana performance in the European Parliament, and of how this all underscored, highlighted and supported the invitation (initiated and facilitated by St Andrews) to the Samoan Head of State to give a keynote speech in Brussels in the following weeks.

For his part, the EC official responded that he had been blown away by the Moana performances, Oceania exhibition, outreach events and the research findings, and announced that **what he had seen in St Andrews provided the EC with a compelling rationale for a further H2020 research call on the Pacific (subsequently published later in 2015).**

The Ambassador also spoke as an ex-Dean at USP, and of the importance that such international recognition would have personally for the performers and institutionally for the Oceania Centre and Pacific arts more widely, and confidently predicted that the future impacts of Moana would become evident as the performers were empowered into leadership roles in the arts and beyond.

Following this keynote speech in Brussels, the Ambassador reiterated the **importance of Moana in fostering awareness and support for the Pacific and climate change, noting that it strengthened the Pacific's voice at a**

critically import time in the negotiations leading up to COP21. Indeed, the EU supported the Coalition of High Ambition which was initiated by Pacific leaders. We know that a film version of Moana was shown at the COP21 'Oceans Day' in the presence of Pacific leaders, and understand that it was heartily welcomed.

Dr Tony Crook said:

"Pacific peoples are the least responsible but are the first affected by global warming and sea-level rise. The consequences of climate change are a daily reality for Pacific peoples. When you're on a tiny, flat, half-submerged, atoll with the Pacific Ocean expanding just below your feet, it really brings home what our own carbon dependency and the consequences dramatised by MOANA are all about.

We know what to do about climate change - just not how to do it. Too often, climate change is treated as a matter of belief in science, an effect upon nature that requires a technical intervention. But for social scientists, climate change is a powerful social relationship that intimately connects the life choices of people whose lives are thought of as distant to each other - but as MOANA shows, Europeans have a close personal social connection with Pacific Islanders. Our respective life choices are inter-connected - and MOANA's making climate change personal in this way may provoke ideas on how this social relation can be more equitable. Research at the Centre for Pacific Studies aims at restoring the human to climate change in the Pacific.

MOANA is the Pacific Ocean - and also Pacific peoples. What we see powerfully dramatised in this theatre performance is the rising of MOANA - the cultures that we stand to lose rising up to meet the challenge of the rising ocean. We see Pacific peoples at their most vulnerable - and at their most resistant. And just as Pacific peoples **are** the ocean, they **are** the land too - they can't be separated, but that's what global warming threatens to do."

Research symposium flyer

Restoring the human to climate change in the Pacific

An ECOPAS Pacific Connections event to accompany MOANA: The Rising of the Sea

The Byre Theatre Studio, 2-5pm, June 12th 2015
Beginning with Oceania Exhibition

Free Event - All welcome

MOANA: The Rising of the Sea was produced with the support of the European Union and in dialogue with Pacific Island countries. Moana uses traditional dance and music to dramatise a modern story about the contemporary Pacific in which the effects of climate change are now a part of daily life.

Climate change is the most severe challenge faced today by the Pacific Islands region. Sea level rise, droughts and new patterns of extreme weather, ocean acidification and related processes combine with other forms of environmental change to pose threats to the future viability of local lifestyles and national economies that rely on the biodiversity of coastal environments and inland rain forests.

Understanding the nature and consequences of these changes, for better policy and development planning requires knowledge about the cultural and social dimensions of climate change.

This event looks at the ways in which researchers at the University of St Andrews and the University of the South Pacific are working in different ways towards restoring the human to climate change in the Pacific.

Speakers:

- Dr Tony Crook, Director, Centre for Pacific Studies, University of St Andrews
- Dr Craig Lind, Research Fellow, Centre for Pacific Studies, University of St Andrews
- Dr Jeell Veitayaki, School of Marine Studies, University of the South Pacific
- Professor James Leach, CREDO, University of Aix Marseille
- Mr Peter Espiritu, OCAAPCS, Oceania Dance Theatre, University of the South Pacific
- Mr Igeleze Ete, OCAAPCS, Pasifika Voices, University of the South Pacific
- Mr Philippe Kerandren, European Commission, DG Research & Innovation
- Hic Excellency, Ambassador, Dr Pt. Olelei Lutenu, Independent State of Samoa

CENTER FOR PACIFIC STUDIES

Performing moana in Saint Andrews was one of our best performances ever. To me personally, seeing all the support that St Andrews gave made me emotional because I realize that we small island nations also matter to big places like St Andrews who were willing to help us voice out our cries to the rest of the world on how climate change is affecting our small island countries in the Pacific. -Gali Vulaciri

General advertising poster for Moana

Oceania Dance Theatre and Pasifika Voices

June 10th, 11th, 12th 7:30pm

the byre theatre OF ST ANDREWS

School Performances
10th @ 10:30am, 11th @ 11:00am, 12th @ 10:30am

Early Bird Offer £10 up to 25th May

Full Price £12 Children/Schools £8

01334 475000

www.byretheatre.com

Twitter Feed
https://twitter.com/byretheatre

Facebook Feed
www.facebook.com/byretheatre

Pacific Islands
On the Frontline of Climate Change

MOANA

The Rising of the Sea

One day the waters won't recede - We have nowhere else to go

Presented by Kiriaki

Logos: ECOPAS, National Museum, etc.

Impact of Moana's St Andrews collaboration on Pacific islanders and dissemination of Pacific cultural works

Moana can be seen as part of a wider contemporary Pacific movement to show the world a better way of living with the Earth, by showing us how to navigate towards the 'island of hope'. As much as traditional Pacific voyaging canoes are currently criss-crossing the oceans, blockading coal ports and campaigning for climate justice, the counterpart social movement seeks practical ways of conveying the connections, values and relations in Pacific cosmologies that we can learn from. Knowing that we would be hosting the Moana visitors, St Andrews researchers were able to draw upon their own research to transform The Byre Theatre into a Pacific island and curated a pop-up Oceania exhibition over three floors - undersea, land and sky - to convey different cosmological realms, and illustrate Pacific perspectives from across Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia.

The Byre Theatre became home for a week, with the Moana troupe rehearsing, performing, relaxing and engaging with visitors and the exhibition - and enthusiastically sharing it all back home through social media. The directors spoke of how relaxed and grounded the performers were, and of how they were raising their performances in response to the island setting created for them, and in reciprocity for the evident care, knowledge and interest that had been shown them through by making the Byre into a Pacific island. The performers spoke about, and showed in many different ways, the impact of recognition of Pacific culture by an international audience - particularly so given Britain's colonial history in Fiji, Samoa and wider Pacific - and of the profound importance of knowing that other people cared about their Pacific islands and culture.

The directors also spoke of the importance of the experience for the performers, and what it will mean to them, their families, islands and countries - but also about the opportunities for projects and collaborations will open up as a consequence. Indeed, they said that the St Andrews experience would even reorientate everyone's sense of their own and the Pacific's place in the world.

'You made us an island here. Each night the Byre Theatre was just like any place in the Pacific, with people meeting, talking, singing and drinking together. The bar was filled with Fijians and Samoans, some from our USP group, but so many people who we didn't know: some who'd come from nearby Leuchars, from Edinburgh, from Stoke and from London. Whilst some of these people had family and kinship connections, many of them learned about Moana from the papers, radio and TV - and then just came! There was even a Fijian who'd flown over from Germany and was buying everyone drinks each night - he was just so proud of these young people, and told me he now felt so much more at home in Europe. I met several ex-pats who'd lived in Fiji, and one who I had to turn my back on and tell them to get out - she'd stayed on an island close to my own, and that's how we jokingly greet each other! For the Moana group to see that the Pacific was also here, was also present, was also Europe - that just blew their minds and they couldn't stop talking about it. This was the real art and spirit of Moana - it made us all so happy, and created an enduring attachment to St Andrews.' Dr Joeli Veitayaki, Marine Science, USP.

Moana has further cemented long-standing relations between St Andrews and the resident Pacific community in Edinburgh, and also created new relations with several Fijian families newly posted to our neighbouring Leuchars military base.

CPS researcher Dr Jara Hulkenberg conducted her doctoral fieldwork in the Fijian community at the British Army's Redford Barracks in Edinburgh. Having subsequently married into this community, Jara now teaches Pacific Studies in the Oceania Centre at USP in Suva.

120 Pacific islanders from across the UK travelled to Redford to host the Moana crew following their performances at The Byre Theatre and National Museum of Scotland. The resident Pacific community had gone to great lengths in spontaneously preparing a massive family gathering, a kava ceremony and huge feast on traditional mats. The Moana crew improvised drumming instruments, sang and danced - during which their hosts displayed their pride by sticking money to the crew's clothes. Emotions ran very high through laughter and tears, through shared memories of people and places. Many people left that evening feeling a small miracle had happened.

"The inclusion and exhibition of OCACPS Visual Arts at The Byre was a European first for our work, brought valuable attention to our work internationally and across the Pacific region, and was instrumental in enabling USP and the Oceania Centre to provide follow-on funding for our community art outreach workshops on Beqa island in Fiji."

Johanna Beasley
Visual Arts Coordinator
Oceania Centre for Arts, Culture and Pacific Studies

"Thank you for giving us the opportunity to exhibit and be a part of MOANA. You have given us a lot of good publicity on the international stage as well as here at home. This would not have happened without you."

Ben Fong
Gallery of Oceanian Art
Oceania Centre for Arts, Culture & Pacific Studies

Examples of Pacific-based artists' works both on display and for sale. →



St Andrews welcomed us with warmth after spending two weeks in Bergen, Norway. We proudly chanted and sung folk songs through the streets of St Andrews in our traditional attire, we really didn't feel the cold. Locals appreciated our culture, but most importantly I was proud to share it with them. - Dan John Fox



Centre for Pacific Studies, University of St. Andrews
Published by Craig Lind [?] · June 11, 2015 · 🌐

Moana shook MUSA, literally, the power of these amazing artists performance shook the building!!
<https://vimeo.com/130408678>



3,248 people reached

Boost Post

The experience at St. Andrews was wonderful, it really inspired me by providing a very rich and strong historical aspect to my creativity on the Moana Rising of the Sea production. - Igelese Orekene Eke

St Andrews...was by far the best place for me. It's very small, compact and full of history. It felt like every street corner and cobblestone has a story to tell and makes me want to go back and re-live those moments in history...In terms of Moana, St Andrews lies along this beautiful stretch of ocean that makes it vulnerable to the rising of the sea. It is no different than our own Pacific Islands. St Andrews is just as vulnerable as we are. Being there alone makes me want to learn more of what the place was, is and is about to become. It's so full of history and tradition that one can create endless pieces of work just by being there. I love St Andrews - Tulevu Tora

↑
Facebook statistics showing real engagement from the Pacific with events in St Andrews.

3 quotations with highlights - comments from some members of cast and crew.

The reopening of The Byre Theatre in June 2014 as part of the University of St Andrews and the timing of the Moana residency in St Andrews was no coincidence. The plan to bring 30 Fijian dancers to Scotland had been hatched during the preceding months and The Byre was in prime position to offer a state of the art building, with professional theatre facilities, workshop spaces and galleries as well as top class catering which matched the ambition of the ground breaking project which brought the University of St Andrews' Centre for Pacific Studies, MUSA and The Byre together with the University of the South Pacific to bring this inspirational production to Europe.

The impact was vast, as measured by attendance and engagement of audiences as well as in the way the project forged new connections between academics, artists and, crucially, the communities of St Andrews and the surrounding areas. There have been long lasting and extremely positive implications for funding, education and community and, crucially for The Byre, which as an organisation was able to use the overwhelming success of Moana as a springboard from which to launch itself in its new incarnation.

Statement by Stephen Sinclair, general manager of the Byre Theatre.

Performance at National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh



Attendance numbers

What types of customers visited?

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS = 821

Ticket Type	Value	% of total value	Quantity
Child	£1,088.00	20.5%	136
Children	£240.00	4.5%	30
Complimentary	£0.00	0.0%	208
Full Price	£1,448.00	27.3%	143
Senior Citizens	£992.00	18.7%	124
Staff_51	£550.00	10.4%	55
Student	£992.00	18.7%	124
Wheelchair	£0.00	0.0%	1

ArtsNews

Climate change real-life drama has Scots dates

A PLAY depicting the real-life drama of climate change in the Pacific comes to the UK for the first time next week.

Moana: The Rising Of The Sea will bring 30 Fijian dancers to Scotland for a run of six shows over three days from June 10-12 at the Byre Theatre of the University of St Andrews.

The play features Pacific islanders portraying their culture through a unique form of storytelling (combining poetry, music, dance and drama) to make international audiences aware of their nation's plight through global warming.

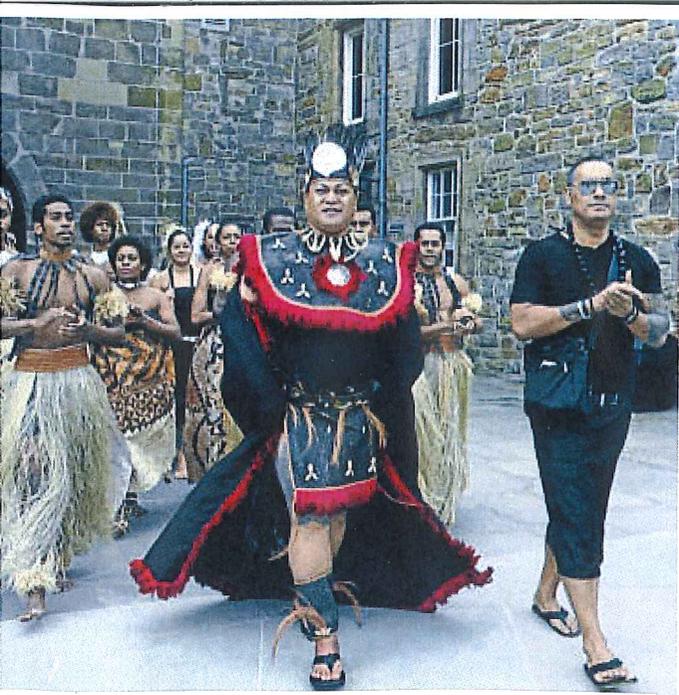
The St Andrews dates will be Moana's only UK appearance, born out of long-standing academic links between the university's Centre For Pacific Studies and the University Of The South Pacific in Suva, Fiji.

Tickets and further details are available from the Byre Theatre box office online or on 01334 475000. www.byretheatre.com

Herald article

Date	Capacity	Capacity Lock	# sold	% of Capacity	Reserves		Sold & Reserved	Total Available
					# Reserved	% of Capacity		
12/06/2015 19:30	1296	0	787	61%	419	32%	1	1206
12/06/2015 10:30	216	0	4	2%	212	98%	0	216
11/06/2015 19:30	216	0	216	100%	0	0%	0	216
11/06/2015 11:00	216	0	8	4%	207	96%	1	215
10/06/2015 19:30	216	0	182	84%	0	0%	0	182
10/06/2015 10:30	216	0	165	76%	0	0%	0	165
10/06/2015 19:30	216	0	182	84%	0	0%	0	182
11/06/2015 11:00	216	0	8	4%	207	96%	1	215
11/06/2015 19:30	216	0	216	100%	0	0%	0	216
12/06/2015 10:30	216	0	4	2%	212	98%	0	216
12/06/2015 19:30	1296	0	787	61%	419	32%	1	1206

LOCAL SCHOOL GROUPS



Stepping out with green play

A colourful troupe of 30 Fijian dancers descended on St Andrews University yesterday for the UK debut of a play about climate change.

The group – an ensemble of dancers and singers from the University of South Pacific – is in Fife for a three day run of *Moana: The Rising of the Sea* at the university's Byre Theatre.

Moana is an ambitious play that hopes to raise more awareness of global warming through the medium of performing arts.

Picture: George McLuskie.

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← Courier article



Student and pupil engagement with workshops on dance, exchange of artistic practice
Workshop on effects of climate change in Pacific

← Pacific ocean meets a visitor from space!

