

KULTOUR

Teuila Postcards tour is presented by Kultour, touring multicultural Arts, changing Australian culture – a proud initiative of the Australia Council for the Arts.

Kultour is a national network of arts organisations established in 2001 by the Australia Council as an initiative of the Arts in a Multicultural Australia policy, to increasing awareness of Australian multicultural arts through an annual touring program.

Kultour provides opportunities for Australian artists to tour their work to new audiences and inspires a stimulating culturally diverse arts industry - locally, nationally and internationally. Kultour's annual program is a microcosm of contemporary artistic practice in multicultural Australia exploring the boundaries between contemporary and traditional, community and mainstream, established and experimental.

In the touring of **Teuila Postcards**, Kultour has partnered with Queensland Company Member BEMAC, and for the Melbourne component with Victorian Company Members Footscray Community Arts Centre and Multicultural Arts Victoria.

Kultour would specially like to acknowledge Grace Vanilau.

The Australian Government is proud to be associated with this tour through the national performing arts program, Playing Australia, which gives Australians across the country the opportunity to see some of our best performing arts.

www.kultour.com.au

THANKS TO

Polytoxic would like to thank Rohini Sharma and Magdalena Moreno at Kultour; Katherine Hoepper, Manager, MAPS for Artists, for her ongoing work; Grace Vanilu for helping spread the word; the staff at Arts House and Footscray Community Arts Centre; Brisbane Powerhouse for their amazing support throughout the project's lifetime; Ausdance Qld for promoting and support Polytoxic's ongoing work; QPAC, for their support with rehearsal space; and of course the Polytoxic support team:

Andrew Meadows (LX and Production Mgmt); Justin Marshman (Stage Mgmt); Jaxzyn (visuals); outside eyes Neridah Waters, Lucas Stibbard and Lisa O'Neill; Jade Wightman at JSA Design; handymen Troy Gilliland, Luke Fa'alafi, Carlo Chermaz; and of course The Fa'anana Clan.

ARTS HOUSE



Living
the Arts

**ARTS
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innocent bystander
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HOTEL

ARTS HOUSE

www.artshouse.com.au | artshouse@melbourne.vic.gov.au
03 9322 3719 | 521 Queensberry Street North Melbourne VIC 3051

Arts House develops, produces and presents dynamic cultural experiences, which enable people to make meaningful connections on a local, national and international level. Each year Arts House presents a curated program of contemporary art featuring performances, exhibitions, live art, installations and cultural events, which are programmed to inspire dynamic community engagement.

Australia is home to the oldest living culture on earth. Respect and engagement with this ancient culture and its contemporary lineage continues to make a unique contribution to creativity in this place and inspire our collective consciousness and understanding. The presenters acknowledge and respect the customs and traditions of Indigenous Australians and their special relationship with the land. The artists and organisers respectfully acknowledge that this program takes place on the land of the traditional owners of the Kulin Nation.

Arts House is a City of Melbourne contemporary arts initiative.

Arts House has made every effort to offer wheelchair and limited mobility access throughout the program. Please contact Arts House on 03 9322 3719 for further information.



Polytoxic

TEUILA POSTCARDS

**Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall
Wednesday 13 – Saturday 16 May 2009**

'It was too hard not to fall in love with this seductively simple show that tackled tough issues through candy-scented pop-coloured lenses.' - Scene Magazine

ARTS HOUSE

LOOK
DIT



A NOTE FROM POLYTOXIC

Welcome to Polytoxic's first full-length production, Teuila Postcards.

Inspired in part by cheesy tourism commercials selling the unspoiled magical beaches and 'the beautiful tribal peoples' of the Pacific, this work is also influenced by our personal experiences and the different ways Pacific culture has been perceived within our own lives. The Teuila flower is the national flower of Samoa, so this work could be seen as our holiday postcard from Samoa to you, albeit a slightly warped one!

The work is loosely framed by the journey of three tourists to a fantasy island expecting an exotic, blissful holiday. It draws on a range of sources, including historical missionary diary entries from the 1830s, tacky tourism adverts, Elvis-style Hawaiian movies, and a view of everyday Samoa. Fusing traditional Pacific and contemporary dance theatre, Teuila Postcards is a tongue-in-cheek look at the oppression and evolution of an island.

We hope you enjoy it!

Lisa, Leah & Fez

ABOUT POLYTOXIC

The energising high pace vitality of Polytoxic's signature style is like no other. Inspired by the traditions of the Pacific and the kitsch of pop-culture, Polytoxic serves up dance performances that feature cheeky parody, intricate costuming, and choreographic attention to detail.

Creative and accessible, the company works in a diverse range of contexts including community cultural development, dance workshops, roving, theatrical cabaret, comedy, dance-theatre, mainstream outdoor events and in live music collaborations.

Polytoxic has recently been selected for the prestigious Management and Production Services (MAPS) initiative, and in 2009 is touring **Teuila Postcards** nationally to venues including Sydney Opera House, Arts House (Melbourne), Ten Days on the Island Festival (Tasmania), and Come Out Festival (Adelaide). Other highlights for the company include two sell-out seasons of **Teuila Postcards** at the Brisbane Powerhouse; Dance-Tracks Pasifika Seams at The Sydney Opera House; three regional Queensland tours of children's work Green Bananas, which also toured to Federation Square (Melbourne); and numerous commissions and events including FINA swimming championships, Cirque du Soleil opening events, Out of the Box Children's Festival, Brisbane Pasifika and Adelaide Fringe Festival.

60 minutes no interval

www.polytoxiclovesyou.com

BIOGRAPHIES

Efeso Fa'anana – Co-creator, Performer

Coming from a Samoan-Australian upbringing, Efeso Fa'anana (Fez) grew up with heavy involvement in traditional performance and hip hop dance groups. Fez has developed his art form as a performer, choreographer, performance maker and an ambassador for the Pasifik Arts within dance, theatre and more recently circus since 2000. Fez's work has featured in Adelaide Fringe Festival, Sydney Festival, Melbourne Comedy Festival and Brisbane Cabaret Festival to name a few. His work bends through visual theatre, cabaret, contemporary circus and installation performance. He has worked with Strut 'n' Fret production house, Brisbane Powerhouse, Performance Space and forges independent, diverse, confronting and comical performance work.

Lisa Fa'alafi – Co-creator, Performer

When Lisa Fa'alafi graduated from Queensland University of Technology in 1997 with a Bachelor of Arts (Drama), she knew that she was not fit for a conventional theatre or dance company. She looked on TV and couldn't find a Polynesian family on Neighbours and wondered how on earth she would ever fit her big islander feet into a pair of ballet shoes so she could be a 'real dancer'. In 2000 Lisa along with lifelong friend Efeso Fa'anana formed Polytoxic Dance Company. Furthering her skills and interest in costume design Lisa has spent time developing her traditional Samoan arts and crafts skills through yearly trips to Samoa and gone on to work with female Pacifican artist Chantal Fraser, to collaborate on her first short solo work, White Coconut. Both Lisa and Leah have received wide acclaim for their costume design for company shows and have been commissioned as designers for Strut 'n' Fret Production House, CIRCA and many corporate clients.

Leah Shelton – Co-creator, Performer

Leah Shelton is an actor, dancer, performance-maker, choreographer and costume designer who works as a solo artist and as an artistic collaborator. Originally dance-trained, she has a diverse performance background, including a decade working with the Actor Training Method of Tadashi Suzuki with Frank Theatre (ozfrank.com), with whom she has performed nationally and internationally. She is currently a core member of two performance ensembles, The Brides of Frank (thebridesoffrank.com) and Polytoxic (polytoxiclovesyou.com). As a solo artist Leah creates physical performance work that is highly visual, theatrical and absurdist. Leah has also worked in an arts management capacity for a range of organisations including Ausdance Qld, Brisbane Festival, QPAC and Youth Arts Queensland.

Justin Marshman – Stage Manager

Since graduating from Queensland University of Technology with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Technical Production), Justin has worked as Stage Manager for CIRCA, La Boite Theatre Company, Flipside Circus, The Brides of Frank, Millennium Entertainment International, Backbone Youth Arts, Imaginary Ltd, Brisbane Festival, Queensland Music Festival, State Library of Queensland, Kooemba Jdarra, Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Brisbane Powerhouse and others. Justin realised the design for David Fenton's Unstable Acts and The Goat Project (CIRAC). In 2008, Justin became the Executive Producer for the Restaged Histories project, a Brisbane based contemporary performance company.

Andrew Meadows Lighting Designer

Andrew has previously worked as Lighting Designer on a range of productions for companies including Queensland Theatre Company, Opera Queensland, La Boite, Queensland Ballet, Access Arts, Grin and Tonic, Kooemba Jdarra, Queensland Orchestra, Raw Metal, Woodford Folk Festival, The Brides of Frank and Polytoxic. A man of many talents, Andrew has worked as a sound engineer and designer, production manager and as Head Electrician at Opera Queensland and as Lighting Systems on Lion King in Johannesburg 2007 and LX operator Taipei 2008.

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Artists and Creators: Efeso Fa'anana, Leah Shelton, Lisa Fa'alafi

Costume Design and Construction: Leah Shelton, Lisa Fa'alafi

Lighting Design: Andrew Meadows

Sound: Efeso Fa'anana, Leah Shelton

Voiceovers: Luke Sullivan

Visuals: Jaxzyn (Island Splash design by JSA Design)

Stage Manager: Justin Marshman

Set Design: Lisa Fa'alafi with Polytoxic

Set Consultant: Jonathon Oxlade

Set Construction: Troy Gilliland

Images: Dallas Blackmore