

## At the Wake

By Victor Rodger  
Directed by Jane Yonge  
Starring Lisa Harrow  
Presented by FCC



Circa One  
21 - 31 March

Tues - Thurs 6.30pm, Fri - Sat 8pm,  
\$25 - \$52

Please note: There is no preview on Tuesday 20 March as advertised in our 2018 brochure. We apologise for any inconvenience

### Jane Yonge - Director

"We've reached the middle of rehearsals for *At the Wake* and we're starting to see the intricate twists and turns of Victor Rodger's script through the relationships between the three characters: grandson, grandmother, father. The family ties that bind us together are inescapable: you can choose your friends, but you can't choose your family.

I feel that our genealogy, our DNA, the hunt for who we are in relation to our family members is at the core of this piece. It's not about where or what we call home, but who we call home. Who is it that makes us feel safe? Who provides comfort? Love?

Is our identity inextricably embedded into our biological make-up? What does it mean to live with multiple cultural identities, to look like one culture but feel like we belong to another?

Unpacking *At the Wake* with Victor, Lisa, Jerome, and Marco has been absolutely thrilling and eye opening. It's been amazing to work with wonderful practitioners who each come from different cultural and generational backgrounds, each bringing their own perspective to the work. I'm looking forward to diving further into the text and bringing it to life for Circa's mainstage."

**Image Credit: Sean Coyle**

*\*At The Wake contains coarse language*



Director - Jane Yonge



### Lisa Harrow - Joan

"A palangi grandmother, Joan, sits listening to the polagi 4th movement of Mahler's 5th Symphony. In another room her half-Samoan grandson, Robert, who has just arrived from New York where he works for MFAT, is getting changed because they are going to the funeral of her daughter, his mother, Olivia.

In another part of the city, Robert's father, Tofiala, a Samoan is asking God whether or not he should attend Olivia's funeral. He has never seen his son who rang him from New York, asking him to come. God tells him that on this day his boy needs him.

Victor Rodger's hysterically funny, heartbreaking play sets these three characters on a collision course that results in a volcanic explosion as 25 year old secrets, secrets that should never be shared, are thrust into the light of day.

Because of my familiarity with the plays of Shakespeare and the ancient Greeks, what resonates most with me about Victor's writing is the depth of honesty in the human relationships he explores and his linguistic skill in the expression of those complex relationships.

Having performed *At The Wake* in Auckland and experienced audiences moved to laughter and tears simultaneously, I know that this roller coaster of a play touches the heart profoundly."



Cast - Jerome Leota, Lisa Harrow and Marco Alosio,