In Development —

We are Many by D F Mamea

# Cast

Taofi Mose-Nehemia

Tupe Lualua

Maurea Perez-Varea

Luz-Eliana Folau-Tovine

Voices — Reon Bell, Brett Taefu and John Ulu Va'a

# Production Team

Director — Sarai Perenise-Ropeti

Set Designer — Kaisa Fa'atui

Lighting Designer & Operator — Isadora Lao

Sound Designer — Reon Bell

Costume Designer — Chris Ulutupu

Producer — Nathan Mudge

Company Manager — John Ulu Va'a

Tuakana (Set Design) — Chris Ulutupu

Tuakana (Performance) — Moana Ete

Singing Advisor — Theodora Fa’afia Maualaivao

Costume Assistants — Cooki Martin and Haz Forrester

Set Assistants — Francis Gallop, Roy Iro, Albert Latailakepa, Havea Latu,

Gideon Smith and Kasi Valu

Photography — Vain Creative

# Circa Team

Accessibility — Kate Anderson

Administration — Georgia Davenport

Box Office — Fay Van Der Meulen

Communications — Rebekah de Roo

Front of House — Harish Purohit

Marketing — Shalesh Vasan

Partnerships — Chrissy Boulton

Technical Manager — Deb McGuire

We are Many received development support from Playmarket.

Presented by Toi Factory by arrangement with Playmarket.

Supported by Creative NZ, Shoreline Partners, Giddy Up and Theatre Artists Charitable Trust.

# Writer's Note

We Are Many came about after coming across photos of the Women's Mau in a museum. At the time I had only a passing knowledge of Sāmoa's 20th century history: that New Zealand occupied the islands from 1914 onwards; that the Mau movement grew to resist the occupation through non-violent means; and Black Saturday, 28 December 1929, when New Zealand police shot and killed 11 Mau members. I knew nothing about the Women's Mau — and it was the year on those photos that struck me: 1930.

Here were photos of women who, despite the bloodshed and terror of Black Saturday only months earlier, had picked up the mantle of non-violent resistance. Here were women whose story had disappeared from the usual narrative of Sāmoan independence. Here was a corner of Sāmoan and Aotearoa New Zealand history that should be more widely known.

I'm pleased and excited to have the play presented by a company of emerging and mid-career practitioners. I'm looking forward to see where they will take the script — to places I never dreamed, in ways I could never imagine — all while telling a story about four Sāmoan women.

— D F Mamea

# Director's Note

Before this project, I had not been taught much about the Mau Movement or what happened after the events of Black Saturday. Since being involved, I have researched and learnt about the tenacity and virtue the people of Sāmoa had during such a dark time. Although this is a fictional story, it holds a lot of truths and historical influences. I’m excited that this development season of We Are Many might help educate an audience who, like me, have had little to no knowledge of these events.

When I first read the script I was enamoured by these four characters and how familiar they all were. David writes these characters in ways where their dimensions and nuances allow anyone to connect and engage with them, in various ways. Being surrounded and supported by a Moana Pasifika cast and crew who are all based in Pōneke has been one of the biggest blessings of this project. It’s been an empowering experience to grow and discover alongside these talented individuals.

— Sarai Perenise-Ropeti