



Tuaratini - Takitua

Tuaratini is a Takitua - a Storyteller.

She was raised by her mother in central Auckland and from a very young age became fascinated with folklore. She devoured books with stories about Greek and Roman gods and goddesses, enchanted by the idea of magical beings with magical powers.

Upon reaching her teens she discovered that the stories of her own Pacific Islands ancestors were just as fascinating - and so began her love for Pacific Storytelling.

Tuaratini is currently the project manager at the Pacifica Arts Centre in west Auckland and facilitates varying arts, community, and education programmes. She performs as the Pacifica Experience official Storyteller, and is the senior tutor of the programme's Music, Drums & Dance workshop.

After graduating with her Bachelor of Communications Studies degree in 1996, she entered the media industry and worked in pan pacific broadcasting as a journalist, producer, sound technician, and announcer.

She featured in various televised works addressing pacific culture, both as the subject and as a presenter. She supports several community initiatives as freelance communications advisor and has been the entertainment coordinator at the Cook Islands village at the Pasifika Festival for the past eighteen years.

Ten years ago Tuaratini began focusing on the preservation and documentation of pacific cultural arts and practices through the recording of song, chant, prayer and legends of the Cook Islands. It is this work that has led to her current role as an artist – a Takitua (storyteller)

Tuaratini engages audiences with her dramatic retelling of ancient legends of the pacific, and her desire to develop herself further as an artist led her back to her homeland of Mangaia in 2016 where she researched Mangaian legends.

As a Takitua, Tuaratini has delivered her performances to audiences in schools, Auckland Libraries, Museums, to pacific and non-pacific community groups, and most recently the 2016 Storylines Festival



Jarcinda Stowers- Ama – Producer

Ko Takitumu te vaka. Ko Tumu-Te-Varoaro Te Ipukarea. E Te Moananui O Kiva - Jarcinda Stowers-Ama was born in New Zealand, her Pacific roots stem from the Cook Islands and

Samoa. Living art and te peu kuki arani – the

ways of Cook Islands culture and values – were the foundations of her upbringing in West Auckland.

Jarcinda was surrounded by arts and artists from a very young age, and it as no surprise that she too began creating or own visual arts pieces during her teens.

She is the current Centre Director for the Pacifica Arts Centre, based in the Corban Estate, West Auckland.

The projects and events she develops are influenced by the knowledge and Pacific art practices passed down by her elders. Her artistic heroes include her parents visual artist Mary Ama and musician Andre Tapena - both original founding members of the Pacifica Mamas and Papas.

Jarcinda's strength is in managing and producing authentic Pacific arts and cultural projects. She has successfully produced and developed Pacific heritage arts projects for the Auckland Council, Council Local Boards, Auckland Art Gallery, ASB Polyfest and Auckland War Memorial Museum.

Jarcinda has a reputation for producing high quality arts projects, where the outcomes have been met or exceeded and the feedback has been glowing and positive. Her organizational skills and the strong connections to the community have ensured that all projects undertaken by her run smoothly with excellent financial management practices.

Artist Collaborations



Tuaratini and Jarcinda Stowers have worked together on several projects since 2008. Both taking up roles as either artist or producer. These are just a few of their collaborations.

- Urbanesia 2014 – 2015
- Pacifica Living Arts Festival (artist and producer)
- Pacific Experience - Te Awamutu Museum
- Peu Tupuna – Researching and reviving legends of the Cook Islands
- Pacifica Kapatiki (Workshops)
- Auckland Libraries (Storytelling sessions)