

Directed by Jim Moriarty
Written by Helen Pearse-Otene
Choreography by Tānemahuta Gray

OUT THE GATE



Theatre Marae kōrerorero about the broken promise

Theatre
Marae



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1989

TE RĀKAU

TIAKI
podcast
ZINE 5

Out the Gate is Theatre Marae presented by Te Rākau Hua o Te Wao Tapu. It is a theatrical conversation about the criminalising legal system in Aotearoa New Zealand. It was written and performed alongside the **TIAKI** rangahau.

TIAKI (meaning 'to care') is a Kaupapa Māori research project that focuses on the lived experiences of Māori adults who have been imprisoned (in prisons either in Aotearoa New Zealand or overseas) and their whānau.



For more information
on TIAKI, check out our
podcast using this QR code.

Photo credit: Stephen A'Court | Te Rākau
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OUT THE GATE

PHOTOS AND QUOTES FROM PERFORMANCES BY TE RĀKAU HUA O
TE WAO TAPU IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2025





"From my perspective theatre marae brings the common and the sacred aspects of theatre and the marae together in way where we can create artistic works for the community and speak with a Māori lived experience that taps into the sanctity and goodness of our philosophies. Of our ways of looking at the universe. Where we can interrogate and make new meanings ..."

Helen Pearce-Otene
Kaituhi - Writer



"So what happened is I received the transcripts of the interviews to help me really understand this kaupapa. From there I found some themes and almost created a jigsaw puzzle of all these different kōrero used them to help inform the characters of the play. Their words, their story, their kōrero. Grounded in the truth of the interviews and the beautiful stories they shared with us."

Helen Pearse-Otene
Kaituhi - Writer



"Thinking about the awesome people who put their hands up to come and be in this piece... not everyone is a trained actor..."

Helen Pearse-Otene
Kaituhi - Writer



"I've never done a devised process with Jim and Helen before and this is such a great opportunity. You're building from the conversation. It's a wonderful opportunity as an artist to be able to bring our pukenga and skills and talents...."

Tānemahuta Gray
Choreographer



"Yeah, they've allowed us to take ownership of some words, which, man, it's a blessing. You know, we get to put our own words in there too."

Saulo Kolio
Actor + Kairangahau



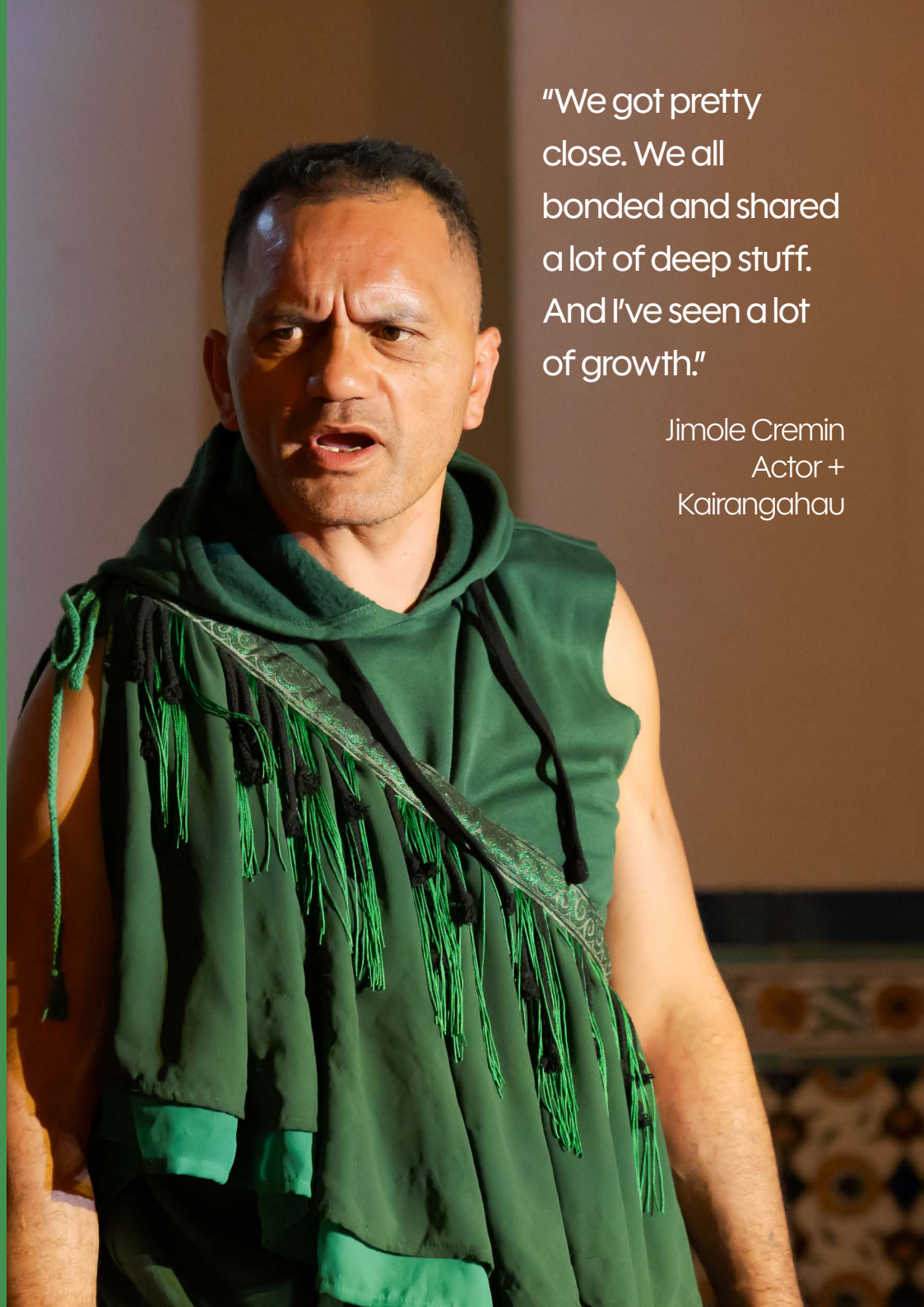
"It just helps us to see how their creative minds work, and how our creative minds start working"

Ace Goff
Actor + Kairangahau



"Every day there's been a bonus on this journey around people's evolution. I guess just their growth in so many situations in so many directions in te ao Māori in the world of theatre and the world of communication in the world of creativity it's just been wonderful."

Jim Moriarty
Kaitohu - Director



"We got pretty close. We all bonded and shared a lot of deep stuff. And I've seen a lot of growth."

Jimole Cremin
Actor +
Kairangahau



"Our mission was to keep everyone safe. And they know that and so they adopted it. Everybody keeps everybody safe."

Jim Moriarty
Kaitohu - Director



"For me personally, I want the audience to walk away and really question the systems, at a government level, but also systems within of themselves. Question how else can I use this system to help people."

Regan Taylor
Assistant Director

Te Rākau Hua o Te Wao Tapu

Out the Gate was an intimate Theatre Marae experience presented at nine community spaces across the lower North Island. We performed at marae, community centres and schools.

"Ultimately, Out the Gate is a postulation of hope. Hope springs eternal. It's inside people no matter how damaged they might have been by their experiences, no matter how wounded they are. We're all basically looking for the way out." Jim Moriarty - Kaitohu

A conversation about incarceration in Aotearoa, the work presents episodic vignettes woven together through music, waiata, choreographed movement and physical theatre. Out the Gate was written and created with a collective process.

Out the Gate is Theatre Marae in action, created with and for the community.

Te Rākau are committed to a socially just and creatively thriving Aotearoa. Recent work includes Waenga in partnership with Hūro, about young peoples experience of police, and next is revisiting The Swing, that dances pūrakau in and around a family harmed by intergenerational sexual violence.

The Theatre Marae process broadens perceptions of what Māori theatre can be as a platform for performance, but also a space for trauma recovery, language revitalisation,

political education and collective transformation; it is not just about making art or theatre, it is about creating spaces for healing, connection and transformation. Underpinned by therapeutic processes, including psychology and kaupapa Māori modalities of healing, Te Rākau's practice is rooted in hope, resistance, and the ongoing pursuit of decolonisation where creative work becomes a force for cultural reclamation among communities and systemic change.

Te Rākau has deep gratitude for the communities who walk alongside us, and with fierce determination to keep creating, sharing, and uplifting stories that reflect our collective strength, struggle, and hope.

www.terakau.org

E rere ana ngā mihi me ngā roimata ki ngā rangatira kua wehe ki te pō: James Rongotoa Elkington, Hariata Rangī Kauia Elkington, Harata Horomona, Te Puoho Katene, Chiefy Elkington, Mark Metekingi, Keri Kaa, Rameka Cope, Rowley Habib (Rore Hapiipi), Rei Rakatau, Hone Kaa, Nancy Brunning, Tama Poata, Don Selwyn, Cherie O'shea, Barry Barclay, Selwyn Muru, Tungia Baker, Toni Huata, Richard Campion and the whānau of the Māori Theatre Trust. Moe mai rā.

Out the Gate Kāhui

Kaiwhakahaere - Performers

Angie Meikljohn, Jimole Cremin, Rylee Herewini, Saulo Kolio, Erena Page, Ace Goff, Paige Wilson, Tamati Moriarty, Ari Hayvice, Jesse Duckworth, Hariata Moriarty, Dylan Fa'atui, Brooke Wharehinga, Kawa Koliavu, Mycah Keall, Priripi Awatere (Kaa) .

Paepae

Kaithohu Director:	Jim Moriarty
Kaithui Playwright:	Helen Pearse-Otene
Choreographer:	Tānemahuta Gray
Kaihautu Producer + Production Manager:	Lisa Maule
Kaihoahoa Kākahu Costume designer:	Cara Louise Waretini
Kaihoahoa Tūrama Lighting designer:	Janis Chong Yan Cheng
Ringa Pūoro Musician:	Rameka Tamaki
Kaitito Puhoro Sound Design:	Reon Te Aorangi Max Rose
Assistant Director Stage Manager:	Regan Taylor
Sound technician Assistant Stage Manager:	Ryan Hotham
Front of House + Social Media:	Kamaia Bainbridge-Frost
Kaiāwhina hanga Hōtaka:	Peter Kaa
Kaiāwhina Manaakitanga:	Noel Hayvice
Kaitaka Kai Caterer:	Dean Moriarty

Many people contributed to haka, poi, movement, mau rākau, poi: Tānemahuta Gray, Jeremy Davis, Rameka Tamaki, Rylee Herewini, Erena Page, Paige Wilson.

Many people contributed to waiata composition and arrangement: Helen Pearse-Otene, Rameka Tamaki, Hariata Moriarty, Kimberly Skipper , Paige Wilson.

The beautiful photos in this zine were supplied by Stephen A'Court | Te Rākau.

This zine was designed and prepared by Gabrielle Baker, using quotes from episode 5 of the TIAKI podcast. To hear more of the interviews, use the QR code on the inside front page or search Apple Podcasts.

The cover design is by Lisa Maule.

The TIAKI Rōpū Rangahau also wish to thank John Kingi for gifting us the beautiful tohu that we use on the back page of all of our zine publications. Ngā mihi nui John!

No generative AI was used in the creation of this zine.

