

# ARTIST PROFILE:

## Victoria Hunt



*Photo by Heidrun Löhr*

Victoria was born and raised in Australia on the land of the Yugambah people, Surfers Paradise, Queensland. Victoria is a queer indigenous-Maori dancer, choreographer, director, educator and activist living on the unceded lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, Sydney. Her ancestral affiliations are with TeArawa, Ngati Kahungunu, Rongowhakaata, English, Irish and Finnish. She works to reinstate the power of Indigenous creativity through unravelling the complexities Indigenous people face within the politics of recognition, reclamation, repatriation and remembrance. Central to this is the honouring of whakapapa (ancestral lineages) and the revitalization of mana wahine (Maori feminism, feminine knowledges). Her work is a gradual binding of intimate collaboration between artists, elders and communities.

Since 2000 Victoria has worked with Body Weather pioneer Tess de Quincey as a founding member of De Quincey Co. In 2016, Victoria received an Honours (first class, UNSW) and was awarded the Rex Cramphorn Theatre Fellowship. Her most recent work TANGI WAI... the cry of water premiered at Liveworks Festival (Performance Space, Carriageworks, 2015) and Dance Massive (Arts House, Melbourne, 2017) to

critical acclaim, receiving nominations for an Australian Dance Award, Helpmann Award, three Green Room Awards, receiving Best Visual Design in Dance. Her collaborative dance solo COPPER PROMISES: Hinemihi Haka premiered at Liveworks Festival (Sydney, 2012) and was nominated for a Helpmann Award for Best Female Performer in Dance, then toured to Origins Festival, The Place (UK 2013), IMPACT15 (CA, 2015), PuSh Festival (Vancouver), National Arts Centre (Ottawa) and Public Energy (Peterborough) in 2019. Her work Day of Invigilation and Dancing with the Dead: A performed conversation with Fiona Winning has also been presented at Ecocentrix: Indigenous Arts, Sustainable Acts (Southbank/UK), In-between Time Festival (Bristol/UK), Scène Contemporaine Autochtone, Festival TransAmériques Arts Centre (Montreal/CA). She is one of six honoured artists featured in the 1st edition of BAC Madrid - Biennale of the Arts of the Body, Image and Movement 2019-21.

Victoria has performed with MAU (Aotearoa/NZ) in REQUIEM which toured to LIFT - London International Festival of Theatre (UK), New Crown Hope Festival (Vienna/AUS), KVS Theatre (Brussels/BE), Pasifika Festival, Aotea Centre and Sky City (Aotearoa/NZ) 2006-07.

She has directed a short film, *TAKE* in collaboration with producer/editor Margot Nash. This film won the Mana Whenua award at the Wairoa Maori film festival. Screenings: New Zealand International Film Festival: Auckland and Wellington; Maoriland, Wellington NZ; Sydney International Film Festival; Wairao Maori Film Festival; ImagineNATIVE Media Arts Festival, Toronto, Canada; 50th Tampere Film Festival, Finland; Antenna Documentary Film Festival Sydney; BIAFF Batumi International Art House Film Festival; Rotorua Indigenous Film Festival, NZ; First Nations led Biennale of Sydney – NIRIN 2020.

Victoria is currently supporting a number of youths, emerging and established artists to develop their body-based hybrid performance practices.