



DIONE JOSEPH

WRITER | DIRECTOR | DRAMATURGE

Dione Joseph is the founder of Black Creatives Aotearoa and co-founder of JK Productions: He Korero Ngā Tahi. Her involvement as a practitioner spans a range of culturally specific projects, advanced facilitation skills, academic research, teaching, arts journalism and speaking engagements at home and overseas. She has also held various residencies and scholarly fellowships in the UK, China, Mexico, Canada and the USA, including teaching and guest scholar positions at universities in overseas and at home.

Her work can be found in a range of print and online publications as well as radio. Dione has extensive experience in community and cultural development, creative entrepreneurship and an emphasis on serving youth, women and diverse communities of Aotearoa.

COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

Founder/Tātariki: Black Creative Aotearoa (2018-ongoing)

This group was established to connect African and Afro-Caribbean New Zealanders to connect and collaborate, and ultimately create new work and connections. The group has swelled to almost 400 members in two years and is very active.

Co-Founder/Tātariki: JK Productions: He korero Ngā Tahi (2017-ongoing)

Along with Māori-Greek visual arts, the organisation is dedicated to supporting diverse creatives in New Zealand and is producing the world premiere of America Rex representing 13 different ethnicities in New Zealand this August.

SPECIALIST SKILLS

FACILITATION EXPERIENCE

High levels of expertise in delivering workshops to small groups (less than 10) to large gatherings (100+) extensive experience facilitating diverse and high level panels ranging from Migrant Action Trust to guests at the Auckland Writers Festival.

High competency in creating creative, responsive and engaging public presentations

Strong Leadership skills for different communities and over a decade of experience specialising with Indigenous and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities. excellent listening and communications skills with the ability to translate and interpret information efficiently and effectively.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching experience in multiple levels of university courses across Performing Arts, Gender, Native Studies and Global Citizenship courses in New Zealand and overseas including University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina, University of Toronto (Canada); Massey University and University of Auckland (NZ).

High competency in creating creative, responsive and engaging public presentations

High levels of expertise in delivering workshops to both small and large student groups Experience in providing rehearsal room direction and activities for performing arts students

Experience in linking the university to the surrounding community.

Experience working with a diverse student population; familiarity with the educational needs of students who are multi-lingual, first-generation, and/ or from historically under-represented groups.

SPECIALIST SKILLS

RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Translating academic research into field practice and vice versa collecting and collating field work and creating articles (Royal Holloway, University of London).

Producing high quality, conference-ready research papers. Liaising with external agencies, generating reports and making recommendations on findings. Advising sector leaders on how to design and develop evaluation methodologies

Experience developing evidence briefs that support a social investment approach

POLICY WORK

Robust policy analysis skills, paired with an ability to engage both critically and constructively with government and partners on social issues and in-depth understanding and proven experience in using an array of tools to influence change, including private and public advocacy

Proven ability to make decisions in complex, high pressure and fast-moving policy areas.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Strong project coordination experience – including project design, implementation, budgeting and evaluation

Strong project documentation and administration experience. Demonstrated initiative and skills in prioritisation and planning ensure projects have approvals, scopes, reporting and evaluation in line with appropriate methodology

RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

Developing an extensive range of networks and relationships both internally and externally across multiple sectors

Using inter and cross-cultural expertise to develop and maintain strong strategic relationships with diverse leaders, community representatives and organisations providing strategic and governance advice.

Work experience

STRATEGIC ADVISOR- (TOHATOHA AOTEAROA, CREATIVE COMMONS, NZ) (2018-2019)

My current role involves supporting the Chief Executive to work collaboratively with the public, private and not-for-profit sectors to support the development of the organisation as a role model for intellectual justice. Creative Commons (estd.2001) now has over 100 affiliates across 75 jurisdictions internationally and is the leading organisation for the open access movement.

Key tasks include:

- Increasing awareness and knowledge about digital citizenship for creators and consumers
- Developing workshops to facilitate understanding of data protection as a civil right
- Working with Māori to increased shared knowledge of indigenous data sovereignty
- Creating frameworks for organisations to increase awareness of structural inequities through algorithms of bias/race/oppression

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ADVISOR - (DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, NZ) (2015-18)

As a member of the Community and Engagement team I was responsible for ensuring that the following processes were undertaken at a level of best practice and supervising teams of up to four:

Key projects include:

- Smaller Communities (2017): Designing and developing a Community Intelligence Repository Tool to collate qualitative intelligence from three specific smaller communities on a nation-wide scale and a final report with findings, analysis and recommendations to enhance leadership capability.
- Mana Tangata Programme (2016): Designing a two-day governance programme for senior community leaders to increase leadership opportunities and nominations for ethnic communities; this also included an evaluation and next steps proposal.

- Heritage and Community Languages Guidelines (2016): Designing and developing user-friendly manual that supports language revitalization for both government and communities through extensive consultation and research and following up with appropriate evaluation.
- Young Leaders Alumni (2015) Designing and delivering a full-day programme at Parliament for young ethnic leaders from across the country to be exposed to different modules developed in accordance with tikanga Māori

RESEARCHER, ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL SCHOLAR - DIFFERENT UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONS (2013-ONGOING)

My role involved a range of different opportunities. These included teaching, guest lecturer, fellowship and publication opportunities working across the Global Citizenship, Native Studies, Gender Studies, Theatre, Dance and Media departments.

Key appointments include:

University of Auckland (Feb-March 2020)

- Guest lecturer in Developing Monologues for Performance
- Massey University, Albany (New Zealand, 2017-ongoing): Tutor in Tu Rangaranga (Global Citizenship); Introduction to Media Studies and Creative Communications
- University of Saskatchewan and University of Regina (Canada, 2014/15): Visiting Scholar in the Native Studies, Gender and Theatre Studies departments over two years (5 wks/3 wks)
- University of Toronto (Canada 2014): Guest speaker for Indigenous Performing Arts School
- Royal School of Speech and Drama (UK, 2013): Guest Speaker at Ecologia Symposium
- Royal Holloway, University of London (UK, 2013): Research Assistant, Indigenous Theatre

KEY PUBLICATIONS INCLUDE:

- 'Towards a New Zealand dramaturgy: A Maverick undertaking' (2016) Published on The Theatre Times (world's largest international portal for writing on theatre) <https://thetheatretimes.com/new-zealand-dramaturgy-maverick-undertaking-2016-part-i/>
- 'Power and Privilege: The Role of the Reviewer in Responding to Indigenous Theatre' Published in Te Kaharoa, e-journal for Māori and Pacific issues (2016)
- "Indigeneity, Performance and Globalization: An Artists Dialogue' Commissioned chapter edited by Professor Helen Gilbert (Royal Holloway) that explores key themes with four different Indigenous artists from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the USA and Nicaragua. [Publication: Aug 2018]
- 'Cradling Space: Towards an Indigenous dramaturgy of Turtle Island' Commissioned chapter edited by Professor Kathleen Irwin (University of Regina) engaging with two Indigenous playwrights and directors from Saskatchewan. [Publication: Aug 2018]

FREELANCE JOURNALIST AND CRITIC. (2008-ONGOING)

My role involved providing high-level quality information for a range of different outlets and publications.

Key appointments (print and online) include:

- New Zealand Herald (2016-17): Theatre/Dance Reviewer and Arts Journalist
- DANZ (Dance Aotearoa NZ) magazine (2016-17): Editorial Committee; Dance researcher
- Radio New Zealand (2016-17): Theatre, Dance and Music Reviewer
- Melbourne City Newspaper (2010-11) Arts Editor. Australian Stage (2019-13): Senior Theatre Reviewer
- Manawatu Standard (2008-09) provided copy for different catalogues
- Tribune (2008-09): Arts and Culture Reviewer.

Key tasks (print and online) include:

- Advertorial for a range of different clients from hospitality, business and education sector
- Arts coverage including interviews and events plus editing copy from three different writers specialising in theatre, dance and literature
- Senior arts critic and reviewer
- Member of Editorial board for DANZ (Dance Aotearoa NZ)

EDUCATION

2012 – 2011

MA (Community & Cultural Development) Uni of Melbourne, Australia (H1)

2010 – 2009

BA Creative Arts (Hons) Theatre Studies, Uni of Melbourne, Australia (H1)

2007 – 2005

UCLA (Theater & Film) University of California, Los Angeles, United States

BA (English) Massey University, New Zealand.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Academic:

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Massey Scholar (among the top 5% in the College of Humanities, Massey University (2007)

Recipient of an EAP international exchange scholarship to UCLA (2007);

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Awarded an H1 for her work on the aesthetics of Indigenous Theatre by University of Melbourne (2010) and an artist scholarship to complete a MA in Community and Cultural Development from the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA, 2011).

Other:

- Dione is a graduate of the Leadership NZ Programme (LNZ 2019) and the recipient of numerous awards and nominations in the field of art and culture including:
- LMDA (Literary Managers and Dramaturgs) Association of America recognition Award for the research work on Towards a New Zealand dramaturgy, USA (2015)
- Nominated for Best Critic Award at the Auckland Theatre awards. New Zealand (2015)
- The only New Zealand critic to have been shortlisted for the Allen Wright media award at Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Scotland (2014)

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AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS (CONTINUED)

- First New Zealander to have been awarded a place at the prestigious Lincoln Centre directors lab in New York; USA (2014)
- The Ian Potter Cultural Trust Award, Australia (2013)
- Hot Desk Writer's Fellowship at the Wheeler Centre, Australia (2013)
- Creative Young Stars Australian government grant, Australia (2013)
- Rotary Scholarship, Australia (2012)
- Lorna Stirling Theatre Award, Australia (2012)

RESIDENCIES:

- **Bergman Gallery, Rarotonga (2017)**

Collaborating with Cook Island glass blower NiaVal Ngaro to create a contemporary dance performance hosted at the Bergmann gallery. The work involved rehearsing three traditional Cook Island dancers (14-15 years olds) and creating the first dance installation at the gallery.

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- **Lincoln Theatre Directors Lab New York USA (2014)**

An intensive three weeks of professional development engaging with national and international directors gathered together to debate, discuss and inspire professional theatre makers.

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- **Debajehmujig**

Storytellers - Manitoulin Island, Canada (2012)

A week with one of Canada's foremost Indigenous Storytelling theatre company

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- **Sunhoo. Design Park, Zhejiang, China (2012)**

Based in Fuyang (40 minutes from Hangzhou) the locals and landscape were caught in a moment of flux. A series of monologues were developed based upon the stories shared by the local native women.

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