



DIONE JOSEPH

Writer
Director
Dramaturge

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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, academic research and teaching, arts journalism and speaking and facilitation 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 New Zealand and overseas. 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. Recent exhibition Untold Secrets: Hidden Gifts of Our Ancestors featured at Q theatre from 28 Feb-31 March.

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.

EDUCATION

2012 – 2011 MA (Community & Cultural Practice) Victorian College of Arts, Australia (H1)

2010 – 2009 BCA Creative Arts (Hons) Theatre Studies, University of Melbourne, Australia (H1)

2007 – 2005 UCLA (Theater & Film) University of California, Los Angeles, United States;

BA (English) Massey University, New Zealand

DRAMATURGY AND DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

- Kamasutra Chronicles || 2020 || Patralekhika Productions || Auckland [Director] CANCELLED
- How to be a Great White Man || 2020 || Proudly Asian Theatre || Auckland [Director] CANCELLED
- Where Little Spirits Walk || 2020 || JK Productions || Auckland [Director] CANCELLED
- Pork and Poll Taxes || 2020 || Independent || Auckland [Dramaturge]
- Just Crazy B*tches || 2020 || Independent || Auckland [Dramaturge]
- Black Tree Bridge || 2020 || PAT (Proudly Asian Theatre) || Auckland [Dramaturge]
- Not Woman Enough and Marigold Memories || 2019 || The Oryza Foundation || Auckland [Dramaturge & Director for Staged Readings]
- Black Creatives Aotearoa Inaugural Playwrights Lab featuring the work of three black playwrights || 2019 || Auckland Theatre Company || Auckland [Director]
- Kamasutra Chronicles || 2019 || Ferndale House || Auckland [Dramaturge & Director]
- I Am Rachel Chu || 2019 || Basement Theatre || Auckland [Dramaturge & Directing Mentor]
- Two Mad Women || 2019 || Mika Haka Foundation || Auckland [Dramaturge & Director]
- Basmati B*tch || 2019 || The Basement Theatre || Auckland [Dramaturge]
- Woman of Citrus || 2019 || The Basement Theatre || Auckland [Dramaturge]
- The Classics || 2017 || The Sapphire Room || Auckland [Director]
- This Woman's Work is a Woman's Worth || 2016-2017 || Auckland and Rarotonga [Director]

THEATRE AND DANCE REVIEWER AND FEATURE WRITER

New Zealand Herald (2016-ongoing)

Radio NZ (2016- ongoing)

Theatre review (2014-2019)

Dance Aotearoa New Zealand (2016)

Melbourne City Newspaper (2011-2013)

Australian Stage (2010-2016)

Aussie Theatre (2013-2014)

The Tribune (2008-2009)

WORKSHOPS

Black Poets Workshops - Black Creatives Aotearoa (2020)

Thanks to funding from the Mātatuhi Foundation six black poets were given the opportunity to receive a three hour workshop from legendary black queer poet Sonya Renee Taylor. These poets will also receive feedback and mentorship to present three works to established NZ publications.

Developing Pacific Dance Critics - Pacific Dance Festival (2018)

Invited by the Pacific Dance Festival to design, lead and deliver a three-day art workshop to support the development of emerging dance critics. This is the first workshop of its kind to ever be held and was a unique opportunity for seven Pasifika dance writers to stretch their writing ability.

Performing Belonging - Race, Unity and Justice Conference (2018)

Invited to work with a group of young people to explore the key themes of the conference through different exercises including writing, storytelling and performing

PANELS

The Art of the Critic – Auckland Writers Festival (2018)

Invited by the Artistic Director to chair the panel with renowned critics Diana Wichtel, Charlottle Grimshaw and Alan Taylor at a sold-out event of over 200 people.

Diversity in the workplace – Auckland, NZ (2017) Facilitator

(on behalf of the Office of Ethnic Communities) for a panel organised by Auckland University of Technology as part of Employability Week.

Transcribing Spaces – Ora Gallery, New York (2016)

Invited guest Speaker on the topic of the role of the reviewer in responding to indigenous performance at an international event organised by New York guest artist/researcher in residence choreographer, Jack Gray.

Dance Aotearoa NZ HUI – Auckland (2016) Facilitator

Discussing the art of reviewing dance works in New Zealand at the first national dance hui organised since 2006.

National Refugee Resettlement Forum – Wellington (2016)

Speaker on the topic of Refugee Youth Participation (on behalf of the Office of Ethnic Communities) organised by the Ministry of Business and Innovation.

Origins festival – London, United Kingdom (2013) Facilitator

Discussing sustainability of international festivals and alongside international festival directors.

Planet IndigenUS Festival - Toronto, Canada (2012)

Panel member discussing sustainability of international festivals.

VISITING SCHOLAR/ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

University of Saskatchewan, Canada (2014, 2015)

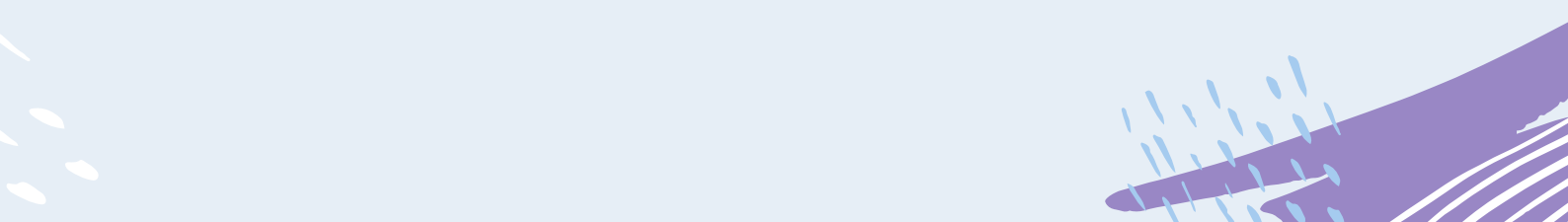
As visiting scholar (specializing in Indigenous performance) and guest lecturer in the drama, native studies and gender departments during her five weeks at the University of Saskatoon.

University of Toronto, Canada (2015)

Guest speaker on Identity Politics in Contemporary Indigenous Australian Theatre.

London School of Speech and Drama (2013)

Guest speaker at the Bioremedial Performance: The Blurring of Art and Ecology, Colloquium of Performance Research



BOOK CHAPTERS

Cradling Space: Towards an Indigenous Dramaturgy in Turtle Island

Responding to the need for an Indigenous dramaturgy in Turtle Island based on interviews with Cree and Metis artists based in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan following a PSI conference presentation in Regina in 2015. [Publication: Aug 2019]

Indigeneity, Performance & Globalization: Artists Dialogue

This is a commissioned chapter edited by Professor Helen Gilbert (Royal Holloway) engaging with four different Indigenous artists from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the USA and Nicaragua. [Publication: Aug 2018]

Power and Privilege: The Role of the Reviewer in Responding to Indigenous Performance Presented at AUT's Ka Haka Symposium

Towards a NZ Dramaturgy: A Maverick Undertaking in 2016

A two yearlong collation of ideas, insights, reflections gathered from over thirty different practitioners across New Zealand on the importance of dramaturgy.

<https://thetheatretimes.com/new-zealand-dramaturgy-maverick-undertaking-2016-part-ii>

RESIDENCIES

Lincoln Theatre Directors Lab New York and Lincoln Centre's Chicago Directors Lab, Chicago (2014)

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

Debajehmujig - Manitoulin Island, Canada (2012)

A week with one of Canada's foremost Indigenous Storytelling theatre company to understand better practice.

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.

ACADEMICS

Dione has been recognized as a Massey Scholar (among the top 5% in the College of Humanities, Massey University (2007);

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

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

OTHER:

Dione has received the Lorna Stirling Theatre Award (2012) a Rotary Scholarship (2012) Creative Young Stars consecutive roles as a Guest Scholar and Artist in Residence to the University of Saskatchewan (2014/15) in the Theatre department. She has also held a Hot Desk Writer's Fellowship at the Wheeler Centre, Melbourne (2013) recognised as the first New Zealander to have been awarded a place at the prestigious Lincoln Centre Directors Lab in New York (2014); the only New Zealand critic to have been shortlisted for the Allen Wright media award at Edinburgh Fringe Festival (2014) and nominated for the inaugural Best Critic award at the Auckland Theatre Awards (2015) and shortlisted for the American Literary managers and Dramaturg's Elliot Hayes award for Towards a NZ Dramaturgy: A Maverick Undertaking in 2016