

# Writing with our Limbs: Bodies and Tongues

*Using the Arts : Dance, Music and Poetry  
as an agent for change*

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## Presentation in four parts is Framed by:

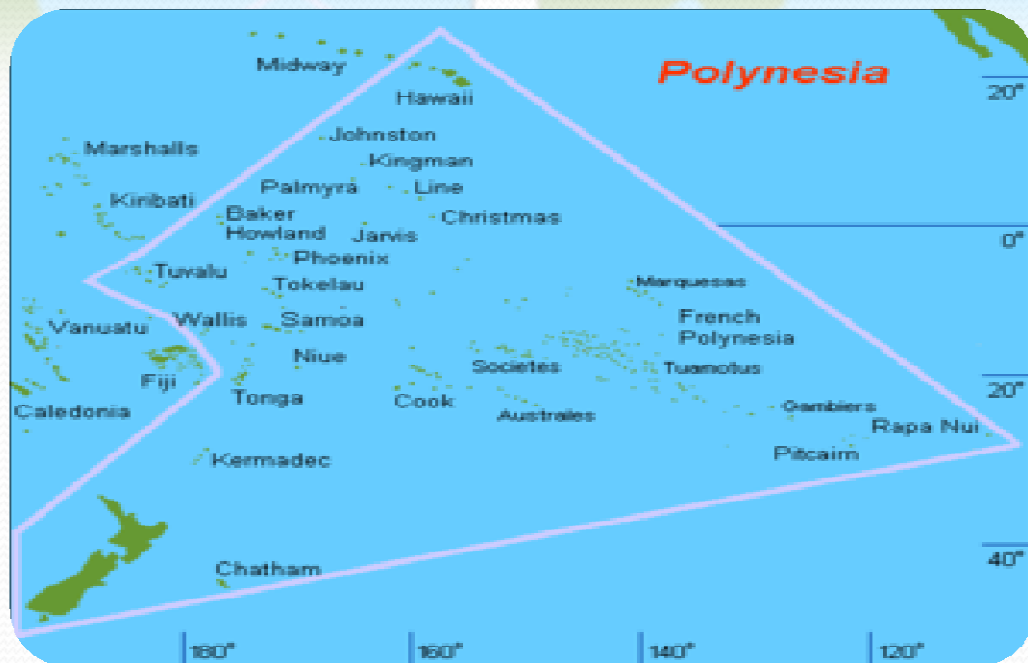
- Samoan Concept of VA Tapuia
- Va as means to navigate and negotiate our places, spaces and meanings in our time
- Afa – coconut sinnet as metaphor for VA tapuia



# Parts: Themes posed by the Conference

- **Samoan Fale**
- **Paper Presentation**
- **1: Past Lessons**
- Fa'avae - Foundation of the Fale
- Inspiration – Histories and Traditions
- **2: Present Stories**
- Poutu – Pillars of the Fale
- Tensions/ Misinterpretation / Natural Disasters
- **3: Present Stories**
- Falealuga or Fa'atafiti – Roofing and lashings
- Intricate elements and functions of the Performing Arts used as a vehicle to drive meaningful messages
- **4: Future Lives**
- Tualuga -
- Future Aspirations





## Inspiration:

‘ History resonates with the source of dance in many parts of the region where ancestors, spirits and the Gods (who are mainly understood as manifestations of the land, sea, plant and animal life) inform, influence or direct dance practices. Many composers of Pacific chants and songs and dance masters, receive their ideas in dreams and visions, often from spirits or ancestors’ (*Teaiwa, 2008*)



***Communal Dance or Fa'afiafiaga  
(Photo of Male Manaia's with traditional tuiga  
(hairdress) courtesy of the Samoan Museum )***





# Using the Arts: Dance, Music and Poetry as a means to drive messages

- Why the Arts?

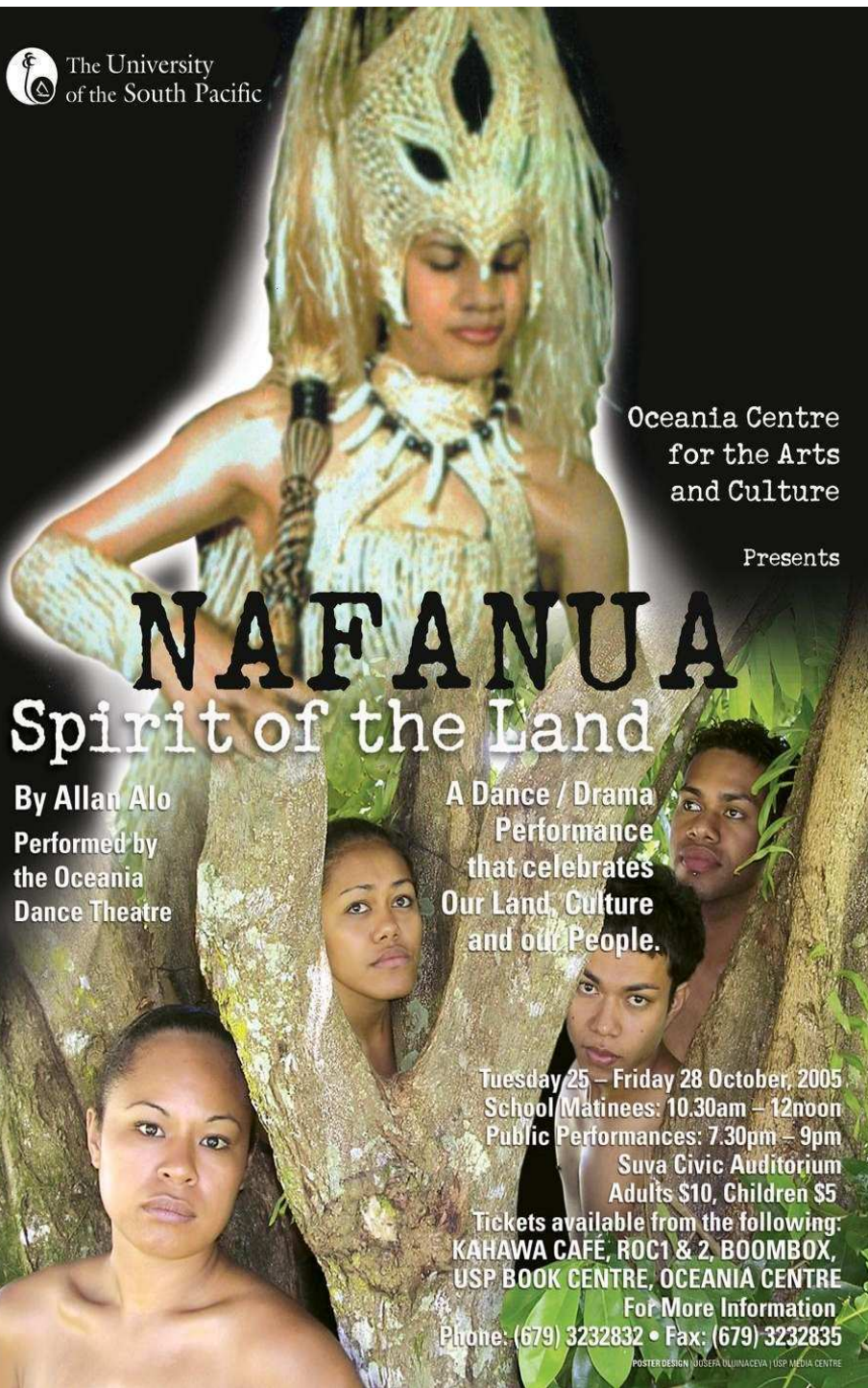
- Empowers and inspires individuals to tell their stories
- Traditionally, music, dance, story telling, architecture etc - the arts functioned as a way of transmitting knowledge of genealogies, histories, places and ideas
- Less confrontational
- Rhetoric value as the art of persuasion
- Dance and Music connects and opens ways for dialogue, understanding and appreciation



# Va – the concept

- *Ka'ili 2005*, 'the spaces between people or things'
- *Mahina, 2002*, 'Physical, social, intellectual and symbolic'.
- *Konai Thaman , 2002*, 'Va is often seen as a pre-condition to peaceful coexistence and sustainable development'.
- *Aiono Dr Fanaafi Le Tagaloa, 1996*, 'relationship, connection, affiliation, boundaries, difference, separation, space, distance, responsibility, obligation, state of being, position, standing and so on and so forth...'





Oceania Centre  
for the Arts  
and Culture

Presents

# NAFANUA

## Spirit of the Land

By Allan Alo  
Performed by  
the Oceania  
Dance Theatre

A Dance / Drama  
Performance  
that celebrates  
Our Land, Culture  
and our People.

Tuesday 25 – Friday 28 October, 2005  
School Matinees: 10.30am – 12noon  
Public Performances: 7.30pm – 9pm  
Suva Civic Auditorium  
Adults \$10, Children \$5  
Tickets available from the following:  
KAHAWA CAFÉ, ROC1 & 2, BOOMBOX,  
USP BOOK CENTRE, OCEANIA CENTRE  
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P R E S E N T S

# V A

## The Broken Sinnets

A Dance Drama about Sacred Pacific Relationships and Broken Promises

By Allan Alo Danced by the Oceania Dance Theatre

Dates: Wednesday 24th and

Thursday 25th November, 2004

Time: 8pm – 9.30pm

Venue: Civic Centre Auditorium, Suva

Cost: \$8 (adults) and \$5 (children under 10)

Tickets available from the following:

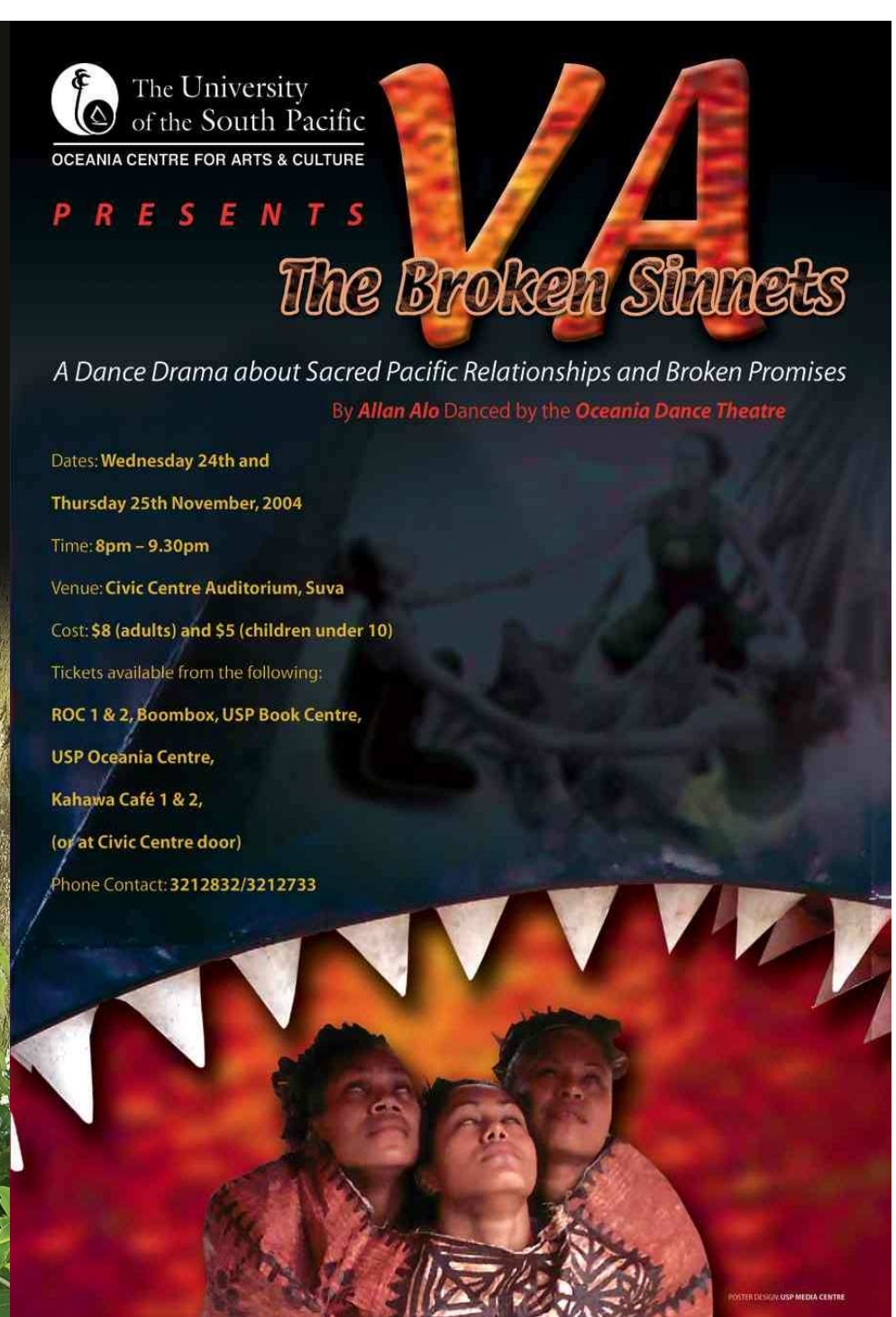
ROC 1 & 2, Boombox, USP Book Centre,

USP Oceania Centre,

Kahawa Café 1 & 2,

(or at Civic Centre door)

Phone Contact: 3212832/3212733



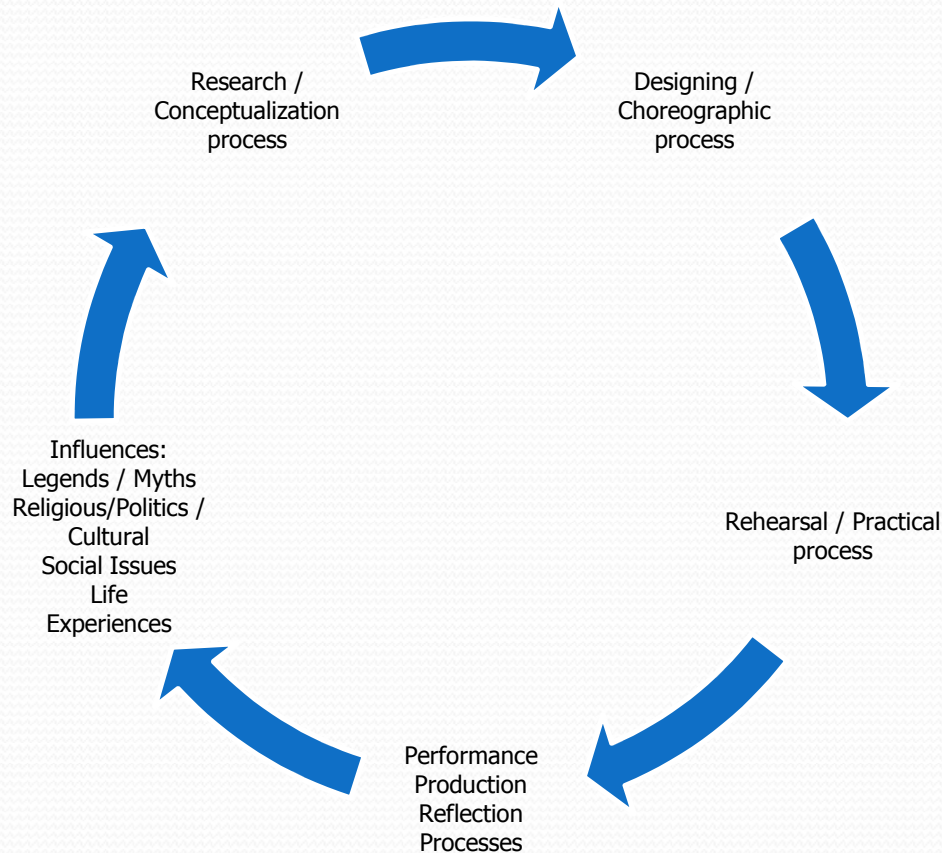
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# Oceania Centre for Arts, Culture and Pacific Studies – founded by the late Professor Epeli Hau'ofa

- OBJECTIVES:
  - Nurture special spirit of originality
  - Rooted in our Pacific histories
  - Experimental and innovative
  - Distinctive Oceania identity
  - Autonomous – always on the move
  - Integration of all mediums of the Arts
  - Dance, drama, music, visual and literary arts

# Creative Process



## Oceanic Influences:

- Myths / legends / oral traditions / genealogy
- Religious/ Cultural/ Political / Social
- Cultural motifs, values and principles
- Personal and familial struggles
- Aspirations





# The Arts and the Future...

- Evolve through the creative processes and cultural exchanges
- Recreate, redefine and reinterpret our existence through the creative arts
- Influenced by Colonialism, Modernization, Globalization
- Expressed through Arts and Academia
- Symbols and representations
- Tension throughout the Pacific and the world



Fa'afetai Tele lava



# Bibliography

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