Living Waters

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Before the siblings can begin the journey, an ‘uniki ceremony must occur. The elements (Kula, Ku, Kama kilo, Karonaloha, Moanaloha, Kawaa’ule) come to witness the initiation ritual, which takes place at Haleakalā.

Act 7: In the clouds, deep in the ground

The familiar battle between the nāulu and kūi clouds mirrors the conflict between the siblings, and the environment responds. Wind, rain, and storm overwhelm the land, and the twins recognize their power and realize their duty and bond. The journey back to Kūlaniholo‘a can now continue in harmony.

They travel to Waihōlā, where they greet their grandmother, who teaches them their last lesson and the realization of their full potential. That completed, the siblings cross Maui to Pu‘ukuki, the pathway home.

ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

Hōkūlani Holt descends from a maoli tradition of dance (Hula masters) from the island of Maui. Holt is a hula practitioner who has dedicated her life to traditional Hawaiian cultural practices. A graduate of Kamehameha Schools and the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Holt has given tirelessly to her community in the capacity of Hawaiian cultural and language specialist since 1976. In that same year, she founded her hula school, Pā‘O‘O Hula, which is considered a master Kumu Hula as well as a respected mele and chant composer. She has worked with other Kumu Hula in creating major hula productions, which have included Nā Mele O Ke Ajunl: Songs of the Nation, Tales of Maui the Demigod, Maui Moonlight Serenade, Kūhio: Nā Mea O Ka‘ana, and Hōkūlani. Holt focuses on her time and energy on education in Hawaiian culture and tradition, notably through her role as cultural coordinator and program director for the National Endowment for the Arts & Cultural Center, the largest and most comprehensive arts organization in Hawai‘i. In 2009, she was awarded the prestigious United States Artists Fellowship in dance, the only recipient from Hawai‘i to receive this distinction.

Keali‘i Reichel was born and raised on Maui. His passion for the language and culture of Hawai‘i led him to find love of her founding director for Pūnana Leo O Maui, a Hawaiian language immersion school. Reichel apprenticed with Kumu Hula and Hawaiiau hula chant master Paulani Kanaka‘ole Kanahele and is recognized as a Hawaiian Chant Master of the Hawai‘i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Reichel completed his apprenticeship with Kumu Hula Keali‘i Reichel for chant under the Hawai‘i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts’ Polynesian Arts Apprenticeship Program. He has served as a judge in hula competitions in Hawai‘i and throughout the continental US and Europe.

Ulalia Woodside is a Hawaiian hula practitioner and emerging Kumu Hula who in 2008 completed the ‘uniki rites and training of her family’s genealogical hula tradition under the direction of her sister, Kumu Hula Ke‘alaokamaile. She participated in the Merrie Monarch Hula Festival, winning several group awards, and has served as a judge in hula competitions. In 2009, Ulalia was recognized as a member of the creative development team for Kahēkī, contributing to choreography, chant presentations, and costume concepts, and was also a member of the touring cast, which performed throughout Hawai‘i, New York, California, Arizona, Germany, and Senegal. In 2007 to 2010 Ulalia Woodside expanded her knowledge of the art of Hawaiian chanting through apprenticeship with Kumu Hula Paulani Kanaka‘ole Kanahele. She is also a student of Hawaiian warrior arts with recognized skilled masters of Pā Ku‘i A Lua. Woodside is on the board of directors for Kaheakahe Inc. and Lā'akea Foundation, organizations dedicated to the advancement of Hawaiian cultural practices and the preservation of the Hawaiian relationship to land.

Kauhilonohona Padilla was born and raised on Maui and studied hula under the tutelage of Nani Kauhi Padilla that fostered a love for hula and Hawaiian culture and where he began his hula age at 5 with his grandnaint, Kahili Cummings. A graduate of University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Padilla continued his hula education under Kumu Hula Hoalona Stender in Kāpūlehu. Padilla has performed extensively throughout Hawai‘i, the continental US, the South Pacific, Japan, and Europe. Padilla joined the creative development team for Kahēkī as a choreographer in 2006. He was awarded the prestigious United States Artists Fellowship in dance, the only recipient from Hawai‘i to receive this distinction.

Robert Ke‘ano‘au Ke‘au‘u IV was born and raised in Keaukaha on Hawai‘i Island. As a hula student of Kumu Hula Ray Fonseca and Kumu Hula Johnny Lum Ho, Ke‘au‘u IV has danced often at the prestigious Merrie Monarch Hula Festival, where these hālau have won many group and individual awards. He was a choreographer and dancer on Norwegian Cruise Lines and a dancer for the Star of Honolulu and has performed hula throughout Hawai‘i, the continental US, Japan, and Europe. In 2007, Ke‘au‘u IV was part of the creative development team for Kahēkī, where he was the costume designer and choreographer; and was also a member of the performing cast that toured from 2007 to 2010. He was project costume/adornment designer, choreographer, and performing artist in Home: Inside & Out, which received funding from the National Museum of the American Indian in 2008. Ke‘au‘u IV’s enduring love for hula led him to complete ‘uniki ceremonies in 2008 under Kumu Hula Hōkūlani Holt. He is now a Kumu Hula, along with Kauhilonohona Padilla, of Kāpūlehu Hula Ensemble. A graduate of Kāpūlehu Community College, he is a much sought-after stylist and a licensed cosmetologist in the State of Hawai‘i.

COMPANY ACKNOWLEDGMENTS


Dance

Dance

Dance

Dance

Dance

Dance

Dance

Dance

Dance

Dance

Dance
Peak Performances presents:

US Mainland Premiere!

Kūlanihākoʻi: Living Waters

Choreographed by Hōkūlani Holt, Kealiʻi Reichel, Pali Ahue, Ulalia Woodside, Kauhilonohonua Padilla, Robert Keʻano Kaʻupu IV

Lighting Design by Mark Astrellia

Costume Design by Marques Hanalei Marzan, Robert Keʻano Kaʻupu IV

Sound Design by John Signor and Haʻi

Performed by Giselle Leimomi Ah Sing, Shannon Kahamani Basco, Tori Hulali Canha, Chandis Dabin, Marie Facuri-Juario, Haland Keaohi Kalaohi, Shaun Pili Kamakea-Young, Kalapana Kollars, Carlson Kamaka Kukona, Aleah Makusuke, Nalei Pokipala, Lu‘ukia Ruidas, Chanel Souza, Desmond Sula, and Ulalia Woodside

Narrated by Hale Kaulana Mawae

Artistic Director Hōkūlani Holt

Producer Colleen Furuikawa

Production Director Kealiʻi Reichel

Production Manager Pali Ahue

Production Development and Training Coordinators Robert Keʻano Kaʻupu IV, Kauhilonohonua Padilla, and Ulalia Woodside

Technical Director Donald Nakoʻoka

Stage Manager Pāpaikaniʻau Kaʻanui

Lighting Director Mark Astrellia

Kūlanihākoʻi: Living Waters is commissioned by the Maui Arts & Cultural Center. This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. Funded in part by the National Dance Project (NDP) of the New England Foundation for the Arts. NDP is supported by lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, with additional funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Community Connections Fund of the MetLife Foundation, and the Boeing Company Charitable Trust. Additional support provided by the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority; Kauhia, Inc.; and the Indigenous Contemporary Arts Program, National Museum of the American Indian.

Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes, including one 15-minute intermission.

In consideration of both audience and performers, please turn off all electronic devices. The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted. No food or drink is permitted inside the theater.

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