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Living Waters

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PEAK Performances at Montclair State University

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PROGRAM NOTES

Act 1: Ancestral elements

This is the time when the deities roamed the land, the great ancestors of many generations past. This is the land of Kuaihelani and Kūlanihāko‘i. Born is the Kumulipo, and the deep water sources of Moanalihā, and the surface water sources of Kawaoma‘aukele. This is the time when Kāne and Kanaloa travel creating water sources. *Aia I Hea Ka Wai A Kane* (Where are the waters of Kane)?

Act 2: Born and raised are the siblings

In successive generations, the water deities are born, again and again. At Kūlanihāko‘i, the source of all waters, siblings are born, one male and one female, twins, the female always born first, the male the younger twin.

Act 3: The learning occurs

As was the tradition, children who demonstrated promise in a particular area of knowledge were entrusted to family members to be raised and trained. It was customary for children to spend time learning from the grandparent generation.

The male sibling (Manawainui) is taken to the east and south side of Maui, Wailuanui and Kaupō, where he receives training in the earthly water resources from Kamakilo, who is his granduncle. The female sibling (Hauola) is taken to the west and north side of Maui, Lihau mountain and Honokowai, where she receives training in the elemental forms of rain, mist, and cloud from Kapōulu, who is her grandaunt.

Act 4: The journey begins

Kalāhaku is sent to inform the twins that the time has come for them to begin their journey home to Kūlanihāko‘i as part of their life-cycle completion. They must travel the long road back to Kūlanihāko‘i and demonstrate their mastery and understanding of the different qualities of water. They each will balance and complement their twin to manifest their water body forms to ensure the continuation of the water cycle.

Before the siblings can begin the journey, an ‘*uniki*’ ceremony must occur. The elemental forms (Kānehoalani, Kanaloa, Moanalihā, Kawaoma‘aukele) come to witness the initiation ritual, which takes place at Haleakalā.

~~*Intermission*~~

Act 5: In the ridges, valleys, and rivers

To begin their journey, Hauola and Manawainui go to Waikamoi, where together they manifest the water of the forest. Laka, deity of the forest, is exhaling her breath and the cloud mist that connects heaven and earth. Hauola dances the misty forms while Manawainui accompanies.

As the mist and rain roll through the forests, Hauola and Manawainui move on their journey and travel following the path of the sun. Still in the east, they come upon a dry river bed and a struggling ‘*o‘opu*’ unable to complete its life cycle in the stream. With the help of Manawainui, ‘*O‘opuola*’ stream is born.

Act 6: On the ocean, in the heavens

As the twins continue to follow the sun, the *kualau* rains part and the floating island of Kānehunamoku appears off shore. This is the time of *le‘ale‘a*... of laughter and merriment. The people of Kānehunamoku recognize the twins and their ‘*ano kupaiānaha*’, extraordinary qualities. They beckon the twins, and Manawainui readily joins them, but Hauola continues on her journey.

As Kānehunamoku continues to travel around the island of Maui, the *naulu* and *kiu* cloud forms appear along the slopes of Haleakalā. Manawainui once again remembers his task and the need to complete the water cycle.

Act 7: In the clouds, deep in the ground

The familiar battle between the *naulu* and *kiu* 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 Kūlanihāko‘i can now continue in harmony.

They travel to Waihou in Pi‘iholo, 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‘u Kukui, the pathway home.

Act 8: He wai e ola! The water of life!

All of the Akua and ‘*ohana*’ are gathered to witness the return of Manawainui and Hauola to Kūlanihāko‘i and the completion of the water cycle. As one journey is completed, another one begins. In successive generations, the water deities are born, again and again. At Kūlanihāko‘i, the source of all waters, siblings are born, one male and one female.

Generations of ancestral water deities perpetuate a cycle that lives in each of us... these waters are ancient, and these waters are alive with us today... these are living waters.

ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

Hōkūlani Holt descends from a matrilineal lineage of Kumu Hula (hula masters) from the island of Maui. Holt is a hula practitioner who has dedicated her life to traditional Hawaiian cultural practice. 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 culture and language specialist since 1976. In that same year, she founded her *hālau* hula, Pā‘ū O Hi‘iaka. Holt 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 dramatic hula productions, which have included *Nā Mele O Ke Aupuni: Songs of the Nation*, *Tales of Maui the Demigod*, *Maui Moonlight Serenade*, *Kilohi: Nā ‘Akua Wahine*, and *Kahekili*. Holt focuses much of her time and energy on education in Hawaiian tradition and culture, notably through her role as cultural programs director for Maui 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 become the founding director for Pūnana Leo O Maui, a Hawaiian language immersion school. Reichel apprenticed with Kumu Hula and Hawaiian chant master Pualani Kanaka‘ole Kanahale and is recognized as a Hawaiian Chant Master in the Hawai‘i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts’ Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program. He is foremost a hula practitioner and since 1980 is the Kumu Hula of the award-winning *hālau* hula, Ke‘alaokamaile. Reichel was one of the artists selected to represent Hawai‘i during the Wolf Trap Foundation’s September 2006 *Face of America: Hawai‘i* presentation in Vienna, VA. Additionally, he is a multiple Nā Hōkū Hanohano awards winner (Hawai‘i’s equivalent of the Grammy) as well as a Grammy nominee. Throughout all, Reichel maintains his goal to present new compositions in the Hawaiian language for hula students and to educate world audiences about Hawai‘i’s living culture.

Pali Ahue is recognized and respected statewide as a Kumu Hula and chant composer. He is the Kumu Hula of Nā Maile Kū Honua, a Lāhaina-based *hālau* hula dedicated, since 1986, to the preservation and perpetuation of Hawaiian culture through the art form of hula and its many related disciplines. A graduate of the Kamehameha Schools, he learned chants and dance under the mentorship of renowned Kumu Hula Winona Beamer. Ahue completed his apprenticeship with Kumu Hula Keali‘i Reichel for chant under the Hawai‘i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts’ Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, where he also began his teaching of traditional and contemporary Hawaiian issues for the Hawaiian Ethnic Studies Program. Ahue has assisted in curriculum development and taught classes for the visitor industry that many Hawai‘i resorts have adopted as their employee training program. In 2006 he was recognized by the County of Maui for his lifelong contributions to hula and the Hawaiian culture.

Ulialia 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 Hōkūlani Holt. She has participated in the Merrie Monarch Hula Festival, winning several group awards, and has served as a judge in hula competitions. In 2007 Woodside joined the creative development team for *Kahekili*, 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 Japan from 2007 to 2010. In addition to hula, Woodside expands her knowledge of the art of Hawaiian chanting through apprenticeship with Kumu Hula Pualani Kanaka‘ole Kanahale. 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 Kauahea Inc. and Lālākea Foundation, organizations dedicated to the advancement of Hawaiian cultural practices and the preservation of the Hawaiian relationship to land.

Kauhilonohonua Padilla was born and raised on Maui within a hula family that fostered a love for hula and Hawaiian culture and where he began hula at age 5 with his grandaunt Kahili Cummings. A graduate of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Padilla continued his hula education under Kumu Hula Holoua Stender in Ka Pā Hula O Kamehameha and successfully participated in several Merrie Monarch Hula Festival competitions. His hula has taken him throughout Hawai‘i, the continental US, the South Pacific, Japan, and Europe. Padilla joined the creative development team for *Kahekili* as a choreographer in 2007 and was also a member of the performing cast that toured from 2007 to 2010. In 2008, Padilla was the project choreographer, technical designer, and performing artist in *Home: Inside & Out*, a project that received funding from the National Museum of the American Indian’s Expressive Arts program, which toured within the state of Hawai‘i through 2009. Padilla’s ongoing hula education led him to complete ‘*uniki*’ ceremonies in 2008 under his mother, Kumu Hula Hōkūlani Holt, and he is now Kumu Hula, along with Ke‘ano Ka‘upu, for Hālau Hi‘iakaināmakalehua, based on O‘ahu.

Robert Ke‘ano Ka‘upu 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, Ka‘upu 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, Ka‘upu was part of the creative development team for *Kahekili*, 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. Ka‘upu’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 Kauhilonohonua Padilla, for Hālau Hi‘iakaināmakalehua. A graduate of Kapi‘olani Community College, he is a much sought-after stylist and a licensed cosmetologist in the State of Hawai‘i.

COMPANY ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Peak Performances presents:

US Mainland Premiere!

Nā Kinimakalehua Kūlanihāko‘i: Living Waters

Choreographed by **Hōkūlani Holt, Keali‘i Reichel, Pali Ahue, Ulalia Woodside, Kauhilonohouua Padilla, Robert Ke‘ano Ka‘upu IV**

Lighting Design by **Mark Astrella**

Costume Design by **Marques Hanalei Marzan, Robert Ke‘ano Ka‘upu IV**

Sound Design by **John Signor and Ha‘i**

Performed by **Giselle Leimomi Ah Sing, Shannon Kahunani Bacos, Tori Hulali Canha, Chandis Dabin, Marie Facuri-Juario, Haland Kealohi Kalahiki, Shaun Pili Kamakea-Young, Kalapana Kollars, Carlson Kamaka Kukona, Aleah Makuakane, Nalei Pokipala, Lu‘ukia Ruidas, Chanel Souza, Desmond Sula, and Ulalia Woodside**

Narrated by **Hale Kaulana Mawae**

Artistic Director **Hōkūlani Holt**
 Producer **Colleen Furukawa**
 Production Director **Keali‘i Reichel**
 Production Manager **Pali Ahue**
 Production Development and Training Coordinators
Robert Ke‘ano Ka‘upu IV, Kauhilonohouua Padilla, and Ulalia Woodside
 Technical Director **Donald Nako‘oka**
 Stage Manager **Papaikani‘au Kai‘anui**
 Lighting Director **Mark Astrella**

Kūlanihāko‘i: 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; Kauahea, 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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SEASON
11/12



Credit: Kauhilonohouua Padilla

US Mainland Premiere!

Nā Kinimakalehua Kūlanihāko‘i: Living Waters

October 20-23, 2011

Alexander Kasser Theater

Montclair State University