

Arts Centre Melbourne presents

Modern Māori Quartet: Two Worlds



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June, 2019 – New Zealand’s favourite musical quartet, the award-winning **Modern Māori Quartet**, will perform *Two Worlds*, a theatrical tale full of heart and revelation, as part of **Arts Centre Melbourne’s Big World, Up Close** series from **10 -14 July, 2019**.

With signature style and humour *Two Worlds*, an original Māori play with songs, weaves together four stories from different eras of New Zealand history that reveal the fabric of Māori musical culture, its genealogy and evolution. Layering a uniquely Kiwi narrative to beautiful soaring harmonies and classic quirky charm, the Modern Māori Quartet invite audiences to meet Koro, Big Bro, Uncle and Bub to experience their take on what it means to be Māori today.

This highly acclaimed original play direct from Edinburgh Fringe Festival features hysterical and heartfelt harmonies as well as some hard truths. Accomplished actors and musicians, **Maaka Pohatu, Matariki Whatarau, Francis Kora** and **Matutaera Ngaropo** all hail from different corners of Aotearoa to perform as the core members of the Modern Maori Quartet.

Recent highlights include performing at the Salisbury International Arts Festival, St John’s Smith Square (London), Komedia (Brighton), Norwegian Church Arts Centre (Cardiff), Sharq Taronalari International Music Festival (Samarkand, Uzbekistan), Festival of Voices (Hobart), Maui Arts & Cultural Center, Kahilu Theatre (Hawaii Island), SingJazz Club (Singapore), PJ Live Arts Theatre (Selangor, Malaysia), Empire Cinema (Rarotonga), TEDxAuckland, New Zealand Festival (Wellington) and Māorilands Film Festival (Ōtaki).

Our partners



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Media Release

"Big World, Up Close is a curated program of six works that focus on artists, cultural perspectives, stories and experiences that are under-represented on our main stages. It is a rare opportunity to see some of the most compelling contemporary performance works from around the globe over three months at Arts Centre Melbourne," says **Arts Centre Melbourne Director of Programming Edwina Lunn**.

Arts Centre Melbourne's highly acclaimed series **Big World, Up Close** amplifies vital voices in contemporary performance giving space for fierce storytellers to reclaim and reframe views of the world today. These stories know no limits and are more urgent than ever. Woven from raw emotion, brutal truths and radical love each story speaks across the fault lines between ancestry and contemporary existence. This year, it turns the spotlight on First Nations artists from New Zealand, Canada and Australia, as well as those representing Cambodian, Malaysian and African diasporas – it's a fearless new world in the making.

"Sit back and revel in the unique vocal experience, unbridled joy and genuinely good-natured, ingeniously crafted humour that is the Modern Maori Quartet, which is surely the find of this year's Adelaide Cabaret Festival." The Advertiser

"A combustible mix of passionate history, personal and tribal." The Scotsman

Arts Centre Melbourne presents
Modern Maori Quartet: Two Worlds
Part of Big World, Up Close
10 – 14 July 2019
Arts Centre Melbourne, Fairfax Studio
Auslan Interpreted Performance – Thursday 11 July, 7.30pm
Visit: <https://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au>

For more information about Arts Centre Melbourne, please visit www.artscentremelbourne.com.au or phone 1300 182 183. Become a fan of [Arts Centre Melbourne on Facebook](#) or follow [@artscentremelb](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

For further media information and interviews, please contact: Suzanne Robson, Media Advisor on 03 9281 8526 / 0407 443 271 and suzanne.robson@artscentremelbourne.com.au

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