

Dione Joseph

Writer
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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. She also facilitated and attended the Mana Tangata, a two-day governance workshop for ethnic stakeholders in 2016. Dione has extensive experience in community and cultural development, creative entrepreneurship and an emphasis on serving youth, women and diverse communities of Aotearoa.

EXPERIENCE

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 150 members in three months 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.

Strategic Advisor to Chief Executive: Tohatoha Aotearoa (2018-ongoing)

Responsible for providing advice on developing new partnerships with different agencies including the State Services Commission on their Open Government Partnership project, other not-for-profits including Te Mana Raraunga (Indigenous Data Sovereignty) as well rolling out different projects supported by Statistics New Zealand, Internet New Zealand and Netsafe. Also work with schools to encourage the adoption of Creative Common policies especially with Board of Trustees.

Diversity and Inclusion Advisor: Department of Internal Affairs (2015-2018)

Responsible for working nationally to inspire, influence and include New Zealand's ethnic communities in conversations and activities that support innovation, education; language, culture and identity. Key roles include providing policy advice on cross-government initiatives.

WORKSHOPS:

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 Indigene US Festival - Toronto, Canada (2012)

Panel member discussing sustainability of international festivals.

DIRECTOR/DRAMATURGE:

America Rex (2017-2018)

Multi-award winning black, gay playwright Tom Minter's acute examination of politics and policies was performed in a staged reading at Q theatre in Dec 2017. The cast boasted one of the most diverse groups of creatives and the upcoming development season in Aug 2018 will

have members of Māori, Samoan, Zimbabwean, African-American, Caribbean, Lebanese, Colombian, Indian, Chinese, Sri Lankan, Singaporean and white American and British descent. The showing will be at The Auckland Performing Arts Centre from 29-31 Aug 2018 and playwright Tom Minter will be in New Zealand delivering workshops in the lead up to the work.

The Classics (2017)

Broadening trans-Atlantic relationships, JK Productions hosted American playwright, and founder of Planet Connections Creativity, Glory Kadigan to present a staged reading and exhibition by Jimmy James Kouratoras at the Sapphire Room, Ponsonby Central. Over 300 people attended the performance installation that saw creatives come together to present work to a New Zealand audience.

This Woman's Work is a Woman's Worth (2016-2017)

Working with Cook Island glass sculptor Nia-Val Tali, to create a dance performance installation at the Depot Arts Space. This brought together the talents of Cook Island dancers, Rarotongan, Turkish and Islander drumming for a presentation that explores. This work later premiered in Rarotonga at the internationally renowned Bergman Gallery.

Transformance Lab – Na'lā'la' i Lina'la' (2015)

Working with Atamira Founder Jack Gray and Dākotta Alcantara Camacho at the Transformance Lab held at Mangere Arts Centre in Nov 2015 to explore different indigenous expressions through art, movement, rap and storytelling.

The Clipperton Project, Mexico (2014)

As an invited artist on The Clipperton Project's 2014, Dione's role was to serve as a community and cultural consultant and also work on an on-going project titled 'River Voices' a play in development exploring the different identities and cultures that create the dynamic cultural ecosystem along this river.

THEATRE/DANCE CRITIC:

New Zealand Herald (2016-ongoing); Radio NZ (2016- ongoing) Theatre review (2014-ongoing) Melbourne City Newspaper (2011-2013); Australian Stage (2010-2016); Aussie Theatre (2013-2014); The Tribune (2008-2009)

ARTS JOURNALIST:

Dance Aotearoa New Zealand (2016); The Big Idea, Te Aria Nui NZ/Scotland (2014)

VISITING SCHOLAR/ ARTIST IN RESIDENCE:

University of Saskatchewan, Canada (2014, 2015)

As visiting scholar (specializing in Indigenous performance) at the University of Saskatoon, Dione was a guest lecturer in the drama, native studies and gender departments during her five weeks. She also gave two public talks, one in Saskatoon and the other in Regina.

University of Toronto, Canada (2015)

Dione was invited to give a public talk on Identity Politics in Contemporary Indigenous Australian Theatre.

London School of Speech and Drama (2013)

Dione was invited to offer a provocation at the Bioremedial Performance: The Blurring of Art and Ecology, Colloquium of Performance Research that responded to the various issues of the conference.

BOOK CHAPTERS:

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]

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 2018]

Power and Privilege: The Role of the Reviewer in Responding to Indigenous Performance

Presented at [AUT's Ka Haka Symposium](#) addressing the role of the reviewer.

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>

RESEARCH/ARTIST LIAISON:

Royal Holloway, University of London, UK/NZ (2015)

Research Assistant for Prof. Emma Cox on scoping out works related to Maori involvement in WWI including interviews, attending productions, exhibitions and summarising reflections and also providing an index of Maori productions that included references to the war.

Royal Holloway, University of London, UK (2013)

In preparation for the international conference: Indigeneity in the Contemporary world; the EcoCentrix Exhibition, Dione worked alongside Indigenous artists, presenting workshops for local school children and chairing a panel on Indigenous Festivals.

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.

ACADEMIC:

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.

EDUCATION

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| 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 (Theatre & Film) University of California, Los Angeles, United States;
Bachelor of Art (English) Massey University, New Zealand |

References provided on request.