



Duncan Collie



Presented by Dance Affiliates
and Annenberg Center Live

BLACK GRACE

PROGRAM

Minoi

Pati Pati

Human Language

Mother Mother

// Intermission //

Gathering Clouds



Thursday, February 12 at 7:30 PM

Friday, February 13 at 8 PM

Saturday, February 14 at 2 PM and 8 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

PROGRAM NOTES

Minoi (1999)

Choreography **Neil Ieremia**

Music "Minoi Minoi" (traditional), arranged by **Neil Ieremia**

Lighting Design **Mark Burlace**

Minoi fuses a traditional Samoan dance style known as Fa'ataupati (slap dance) and western contemporary dance as a means of exploring the idea of cultural identity issues, live singing and vocalizations.

Pati Pati (2009)

Choreography **Neil Ieremia**

Original Music "Surface" (2003), **Neil Ieremia and Juse**

Lighting Design **Nik Janiurek**

Pati Pati is a mixture of excerpts from older repertoire that utilize body percussion influenced by traditional Samoan Sasa (seated dance) and Fa'ataupati (slap dance). Movement segments, phrases and motifs have evolved from past full-length works, including *Relentless* (1998); the self-titled debut season *Black Grace* (1995); *Fia Ola* (1998) and *Amata* (2007).

Human Language (2002)

Choreography **Neil Ieremia**

Music "Conquistador," **Chico Hamilton**

Lighting Design **Jeremy Fern**

"As social creatures, we seem to complicate the very thing that was designed to capture, articulate and communicate our deepest thoughts and feelings - language. From a simple scenario, I extrapolated gesture and movement patterns common to a particular social situation and created a physical language that I used to respond to my sources of inspiration. *Human Language* is also inspired by an unexpected reaction to having females in my studio after working for years with only male dancers." – Neil Ieremia

Mother Mother (2013)

Choreography **Neil Ieremia**

Music "Mother Mother" (radio version), **Fat Freddy's Drop**

Lighting Design **Mark Burlace**

Mother Mother was originally choreographed for a music video, on request of popular New Zealand band Fat Freddy's Drop.

"*Mother Mother* is a tribute to my mother who is often the unsung hero in my family. Even to this day she helps to prop me up when things get tough, knocks me back when I get ahead of myself, reminds me to never forget where I come from and to always be grateful for what I have." – Neil Ieremia

// Intermission //

Gathering Clouds (2009)
Choreography **Neil Ieremia**
Lighting Design **Nik Janiurek**

Music

Section One—*Exodus*

Cook Island Drumming	Ngativaro Iorangi and Tuaine Robati
Hymns	Siufaitoota Simanu Ieremia
	Rev Maligi Evile
	Afioga Tofa Lautiso Simanu ma le Tausi
	Afioga Tofa Teoteo
Tongan Chants	Niulala Helu

Section Two—*Land of the Song Sung Loud*

Elvis Presley	"Can't Help Falling in Love"
	"There'll be Peace in the Valley"
	"If I Can Dream"
	"It's Alright"
	"Suspicious Minds"

Section Three—*Keep Honour Bright*

Goldberg Variations	Aria and Variations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 31
	Played by Murray Perahia

With a diverse movement vocabulary ranging from traditional Samoan dance to fast and dynamic movements influenced by cult hero Bruce Lee, *Gathering Clouds* captures Black Grace at its physical and creative best.

A deeply personal work, *Gathering Clouds* responds to controversial claims made by a New Zealand economist in a discussion paper titled "Growing Pains: The Valuation and Cost of Human Capital." He notes, amongst other things, that "Pacific Island immigrants are a drain on the (New Zealand) economy" and warns that Polynesians living in New Zealand display "significant and enduring under-achievement"—a problem he believes immigration is making worse.

"*Gathering Clouds* is not about looking back in anger, nor is it about pretending that everything is perfect when clearly it is not. It is simply about reaffirming who we are as a young and diverse nation that is learning to weather the storms of change." – Neil Ieremia

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Black Grace

Black Grace was founded by Neil Ieremia in 1995. As artistic director and choreographer, Ieremia draws from his Samoan and New Zealand roots to create innovative dance works that reach across social, cultural and generational barriers. The work itself is highly physical, rich in the story telling traditions of the South Pacific and expressed with raw finesse, unique beauty and power. The Company features some of New Zealand's finest dancers and has toured internationally to Europe, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Australia and New Caledonia. In 2004, Black Grace made its USA debut, performing a sold-out season at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, with a subsequent return to the Festival in 2005. Since then, the Company has performed regularly throughout North America earning audience and critical acclaim.

Neil Ieremia (Artistic Director and Choreographer)

Founding Artistic Director Neil Ieremia is one of New Zealand's most accomplished choreographers as well as a creative entrepreneur and inspirational leader. Born in Wellington and of Samoan heritage, Ieremia was raised in a tough working class neighborhood in a country focused more on sporting prowess and agriculture than creative expression.

At the age of 19 and with no formal training, Ieremia resigned from his banking job, left home, enrolled in a full time dance program and broke his parents' hearts. In his final year of training, he was invited to join the prestigious Douglas Wright Dance Company which he worked for until 1996. As a freelance professional dancer, Ieremia worked with many other leading New Zealand choreographers and created a number of commissioned works.

Motivated to provide a different perspective and a fresh voice in the dance scene, Ieremia founded his own company, Black Grace, in 1995, with ten male dancers of Pacific, Maori and New Zealand heritage. Since then, he has changed the face of contemporary dance in New Zealand and turned Black Grace into one of the most recognizable and iconic cultural brands. The Company tours throughout New Zealand, developing new audiences and a new appreciation for dance. Internationally, his work has been presented in Australia, Canada, Germany, Holland, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Caledonia, South Korea, Switzerland and the U.S.

Among his many achievements, Ieremia was a recipient of the 2005 Arts Foundation of New Zealand Laureate Award and received the Paul D. Fleck Fellowship in the Arts from The Banff Centre, Canada. Numerous 'firsts' for a New Zealand choreographer include sell-out performances at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival (US debut 2004 and 2005), a four-week season on New York City's 42nd Street, performances at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and performances as part of the 2010 Cultural Olympiad in Vancouver.

Black Grace

Founding Artistic Director/CEO **Neil Ieremia**

Choreographer **Neil Ieremia**

Rehearsal Director/Tour Administrator **Abby Crowther**

Technical Manager **Bonnie Burrill**

Business Manager **Anna Ting**

Admin Support **Alex George**

The Black Grace Trust

Haydn Wong (Chair), Dean Poole, Sam Sefuiva, Bernice Mene, Neil Ieremia

Cultural Advisors Siufaitotoa Simanu, Kionasina Ieremia

Black Grace would like to acknowledge their sponsors:

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