SPECIAL THANKS
Dr. Luafata (Fata) Simanu-Klutz, Tammy Haili’ōpua Baker, Paul Mitri, Rick Greaver,
Victor Rodger, Artwork provided by Wil Kahele and Luisa Tora, PA’I Arts Gallery @
Kālia, Ryan Sueoka, Kahana Ho, Angie Taylor, Christina Torres, Jennifer Yoo,
Nathaniel Niemi, Jonathan Sypert, Doris Tulifau

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
The UHM ticket program is supported by a grant from the Student Activities and
Program Fee Board.

Kennedy Theatre is a member of the Hawai‘i State Theatre Council.

FRONT OF HOUSE INFORMATION
For large print programs or any other accessibility requests please contact the House
Manager or call the Kennedy Theatre Box Office at 956-7655.
After Dark: to arrange a Campus Security Escort from any two points on campus
please see a House Manager.
As a courtesy to your fellow audience members and to our performers, please
remember that eating, drinking, video recording, photography and use of cell phones
and other electronic devices is not allowed inside the theatre. Please take a moment
to turn off any sound or light emitting devices now.

Fa‘alavelave is entered as an Associate Production
in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.
The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival 50®, part of the Rubenstein Arts
Access Program, is generously funded by David and Alice Rubenstein. Special thanks to The
Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for
the Performing Arts’ Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. Additional support is
provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; the Dr. Gerald and Paula
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is part of JFKC: A Centennial Celebration of John F. Kennedy, inspired by five enduring ideals
often ascribed to JFK: Courage, Freedom, Justice, Service, and Gratitude. Support for JFKC: A
Centennial Celebration of John F. Kennedy is provided by Ambassador Elizabeth Bagley, Chevron,
the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, and Target. Kennedy Center education and related
artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for
the Performing Arts and the President’s Advisory Committee on the Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACFT).
The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in
college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response
by a regional KCACFT representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate
in KCACFT programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors,
directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional
and national levels. Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to
the KCACFT regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing
outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance. Last year more
than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACFT involving more than 200,000 students
nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACFT goals
to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university
theaters across the nation.

Visit us on the web at manoa.hawaii.edu/liveonstage/kennedy-theatre
In partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Master of Fine Arts Degree

CAST

Mele    Katherine Wong
Sefina    Vaganafetelai Mamea
Pina    Dorothy Mane
Samaria   Alex Savusa
Fa’afafine/Hercules/Malosi    Tom Perelini

This show will be performed with one 15 minute intermission.

DIRECTOR’S NOTE

Currently, approximately 40% of children are born to single parents (mainly women), and the divorce rate has continued to hover around 50% for 20 years now. Broken and divided families are the norm. Being abandoned from birth by my own biological father and only discovering some of who he was through unknown relatives and his things after his death helped forge the healing, forgiveness, and growth to the adult and parent I am today. Without that journey, I’m not sure that I would have laid down the roots necessary for my future. When a child is abandoned at infancy even by one parent, their early life journey is plagued with division and unanswered questions swirling with confusion as to where they fit in within the family and society. Discovering one’s roots can have a profound grounding effect for generations to come. Finding different connections to branches within one’s family can heal the wounds of feeling alone or unwanted. How children forge their future depends on whether they can break the molds that confine them to create a path to resilience and peace.

The journey to self-discovery inherently involves asking how one fits into their family, culture, and society. How can one be their true self among secrets, oppression and repression that build walls surrounding their authenticity? Breaking away from societal norms, from gender restrictions, from their own religion, culture, and location can set them up for a tailspin of sorting out divisions and boundaries. One person’s actions can affect the whole family, while a lack of acceptance and embracing of individual differences can divide the relationships we value most. The imposition of a different culture and religion upon Pacific Islanders could create a sense of loss and displacement; raising the questions: “How do we fit in?” and, “How do we navigate within these different cultures?” What else is lost with the erosion of traditional cultural ways and structures? How can the substitution of different cultural practices damage individuals and their families? Those affected are left with their own unique journey to self-discovery.

PLAYWRIGHT’S NOTE

Fa’alavelave: The Interruption is a part of a greater consciousness that started over ten years ago when I had a vision of a more influential Pacific Theatre presence. I remember the day I wrote Kumu Haili’ōpua Baker, my then kumu ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i and told her about this kind of awakening within me which established a greater responsibility as an indigenous artist, which at that time I didn’t see myself as. Fa’alavelave and Puzzy were written out of a need to see more plays representing today’s Pacific Islander voice and experience. The plays were written out of a need to see more diversity on stage and to provide more opportunities to an often overlooked, underrepresented, but often inherently talented generation of theatre artists. This play is dedicated to all of them.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager: Joseph Governale
Light Board Operator: Jarren Amian
Sound Board Operator: Emily Hoadley
Production Technical Director: Christian Londos
Stage Crew: Florence Andres, Kayli Baraniecki, Christopher Kim
Wardrobe Supervisor: Malia Wessel

FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF

Box Office Supervisors: Christian Cesar, Lexi Moreno, Mark Shiroma
Box Office Staff: Madi Franks, Joanne Aire-Oaihimire
Publicity Director: Nicholas Brown
Publicity Assistant: Katherine Altman
Graphic Designer: Michael Donato
Photographer: John Wells
KT House Manager: Catherine Kindiger
Lab Theatre House Manager: Lauren Vance
Assistant House Managers: Joanne Aire-Oaihimire, Shea Torres

KENNEDY THEATRE STAFF

Department Chair: Betsy Fisher
Director of Theatre: Lurana Donnels O’Malley
Production Manager: Rick Greaver
Theatre Manager: Jessica L. Jacob
Operations Coordinator: John Wells
Technical Director: Gerald Kawaoka
Costume Shop Manager: Hannah Schauer Galli
Asst. Cost. Shop Manager: Iris Kim
Office Staff: Lori Chun, Lindsey Rice

*In partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Master of Fine Arts Degree