

Poutokomanawa / Co-Director's statement:

Heretaunga haukū nui, Heretaunga ara rau, Heretaunga takoto noa, hāro te kāhu, tihei mauriora. I have had the privilege of working with Free Theatre since 2015, on projects such as Footprints/Tapu wae (2015), Frankenstein (2016), Ubu Nights (2015-2018), A Winter's Tale (2019) and The Axe (2021). As an actor and co-director in this project, I am interested in the interwoven strands of pūrākau Māori and European storytelling; where they come together to share, to challenge and to celebrate the depth of universal human experience, yet remain steadfast in their own mana, in a uniquely Aotearoa New Zealand retelling of *Woyzeck*. I will be supported in this project by my long-time tuakana, friend and cultural advisor Te Mairiki Williams (Ngāi Te Ruahikihiki, Ngāi Tahu).

Aaron Hāpuku