



THE
COURT
EDUCATION

O Le Toa

EDUCATION PACK

Written by Ben O'Brien-Limmer

Show Synopsis

Long ago, there were three guardians of the seven seas. Each Toa had a part of the sea under their protection. Everyone was happy until a mysterious creature came in the night... The Guardians awoke to find their powers were gone, and so was their friend and fellow guardian, Fe'e...

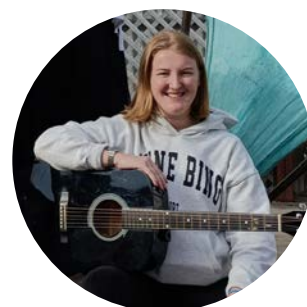
THE CAST



Jake Arona



Talia-Rae Mavaega



Rachel Brebner

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Co-Director/Devisor – Jake Arona

Co-Director/Devisor – Talia-Rae Mavaega

Devisor – Rachel Brebner

Props Designer – Julian Southgate

Costume Designer – Rosie Gilmore

Stage Manager – Hayden Dickie

Education Manager – Ben O'Brien-Limmer

MAKING THE SHOW

Co-Director/Devisor – Jake Arona

Q1 – What did you enjoy most about making O Le Toa?

It was fun to have different people with all different strengths and skills to play a part in a bigger picture.

Co-Director/Devisor – Talia-Rae Mavaega

Q2 – What do you want the audience to get out of watching this show?

To have a go and have fun!

Myths and Legends

Legends

A legend is usually based on a true event in the past.

Legends usually have a real hero at the centre of the story and they are often set in fantastic places. The story will have been passed on from person to person, sometimes over a very long period of time. The fact that so many people have taken the trouble to keep the story alive, usually tells you that it has some very important meaning for the culture or region in which the story was first told.

Myths

A myth is not quite the same as a legend.

Sometimes a myth is loosely based on a real event but, more often than not, it is a story that has been created to teach people about something very important and meaningful.

O Le Toa has been created using inspiration from a variety of myths and legends from around the Pacific.

MYTHS AND LEGENDS USED IN *O LE TOA*

- Laumei ma le Malie / The Shark and the Turtle – Sāmoa
- Sina ma le Tuna / Sina and the Eel – Tonga, Sāmoa
- Māui – Pan-pacific legend
- Fe'e / Octopus – Pan-pacific legend
- Nafanua / Goddess of War – Sāmoa
- Tatau Twins – Sāmoa

RESEARCH

In small groups, research one of the myths or legends used in *O Le Toa* and share a summary of the story with the class.

EXTENSION

Discuss what you notice about the story you have researched that shows whether it is a myth or legend.

HAVE A GO

Choose an important section of the story and show it by creating a freeze frame (a still image using your body and facial expression).



The Story

LANGI

Up in the sky, Nua can see her shell, but it's too far away! In order for it to come back, she needs the call its name "Fonuea" using the power of 100 voices.

PULOTU

The Earthquake God, who lives under the ground, loves to hold precious treasures. In his collection, Nafa finds her spear! She tries to get it back but might need a bit of extra help.

MOANA

Back at home in the ocean, Nafa and Nua find Fe'e. He's shapeshifted so much that he's forgotten who he is. Nafa and Nua need the help of the whole village to remind him of who he is.

DISCUSS

Talk with a partner about a time you wanted something that you weren't able to get.

HAVE A GO

With the same partner, act out a short scene showing a solution to one of the problems you discussed.

The Characters



NAFA - THE SHARK

A master navigator who uses her powerful jaws to provide food for all.



FE'E - THE OCTOPUS

The trickster of the ocean and a master shapeshifter.



NUA - THE TURTLE

She uses her giant shell to protect all the inhabitants of the ocean.



OTHERS

Old Man, Earthquake God and Tuna.

HAVE A GO

Choose one of the characters from the show and try acting as that character.

EXTENSION

Discuss with a partner how and why you changed your movement, facial expression and voice to show the character you chose.



Devising A Story

The cast of *O Le Toa* created their own story using different myths and legends. This is called devising.

Have a go at doing the same thing using two different myths, legends or even fairytales, and combine them to create a new story.

Here are some story ideas:

- How Maui Tamed the Sun
- Little Red Riding Hood
- Cinderella
- Sina ma le Tuna / Sina and the Eel
- The Tortoise and The Hare

As a class, choose two stories you are going to combine. It can be the ones listed above or other stories the class is familiar with.

Have a quick re-tell of each story so everyone knows the key parts. Do this by having a student start telling the story then switch to another student who picks the story up where the last student stopped. Keep switching storytellers until reaching the end. Repeat the task for the second story.

Now for the fun part! Hold a quick brainstorm of what new story could be created based on the two original stories. The students then get into small groups of 3-4 and devise their own new story using ideas from the selected stories as inspiration. It is a good idea to recommend the story has a time limit of no longer than two minutes and all group members must be in the performance in some way.

Example: The two stories selected as inspiration – ‘How Maui Tamed the Sun’ and ‘The Tortoise and the Hare’.

Maui challenges the Sun to a race. The loser of the race must forever walk slowly from that day on. Maui and the Sun begin racing across the land. The Sun is much faster than Maui and quickly disappears into the distance leaving Maui far behind. The Sun is going so fast that he didn't notice the trap Maui had set for him. The Sun became tangled in magical ropes Maui had laid down and by the time he frees himself, Maui has crossed the finish line!

Once each group has devised their story performance, have each group present to the rest of the class.

Create Your Own



HAVE A GO

Think of something you treasure and write a story about it or draw a picture of it, describing why you treasure it.

Try to use some language from the show in your story:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| TOA – warrior | MATAGI – wind |
| PATI – clap | LUGA – up |
| LALO – down | PULOTU – underworld |
| LAGI – sky | MESINA – Treasures |

EXTENSION

Can you find the Sāmoan words for the following?

Sail.....

Conch.....

Turtle.....

Spear

LANGUAGE NOTE:

In the Sāmoan written language, the letter G is pronounced as “NG”

Feedback

The information you provide helps us to make our shows more informative, entertaining, and relevant to the needs of your student.

School:

Contact Teacher's Name:

Position:

Email:

Which elements of *O Le Toa* did your students find most enjoyable? Why?

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Which aspects of *O Le Toa* were most relevant to your students?

.....

.....

Please rate the following by circling 1 to 5 (1 – Not Really // 5 – The Best!)

Engagement with children	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of performance	1	2	3	4	5
Relevance to learning	1	2	3	4	5

Any other comments?

.....

Are you happy for us to use your comments in our marketing material? YES / NO

Teacher's Signature: Date:

Please feel free to email additional feedback to our Education Manager, Ben O'Brien-Limmer at Ben.Limmer@courtheatre.org.nz