

# Celebrating Excellence in Performing Arts Placed Third in the New Zealand National Stage Challenge Competition



## Stage Challenge 2016

### Looking back, Moving Forward – Titiro whakamuri, Kia haere whakamua

Stage Challenge is a performing arts event involving thousands of secondary school students from around New Zealand. Over 140 Rotorua Girls High School students and teachers are involved in different aspects of the production including; dance, acting, stage lighting, backstage, choreography, makeup, costumes, props, set-design and preparation.

This year our performance was titled 'Looking Back, Moving Forward – Titiro whakamuri, Kia haere whakamua and was introduced as follows:

He Kanohi Kitea, He Hokinga mahara, to see the faces, ignites and stirs a flow of memories. Te Arawa, a rich environment surrounded by natural phenomenon for past, present and future generations. Through local Maori Pakiwaitara – stories that interweave our spirit beyond time itself. Titiro whakamuri, Kia haere whakamua - Looking back, Moving Forward.

We focussed on pakīwaitara/stories specific to Te Arawa people to help establish connections within our school and our community.

The production team and choreographers consisted of Year 13 students: **Michaela Cairns, Gabrielle Jones, Chetique Paul, Xianar Pike, Charlotte Courtney-Strachen, Sally Haslam** and Year 12 students **Rose Smith, Pia Padayhag, Sinitia Lee** and **Tania Woods-Uluave**, who devoted much of their time and energy to ensure that Stage Challenge would be a positive and successful experience for all of those involved; and I am extremely proud of them all.

A special mention must also go **Michaela Cairns** (student in charge) who on the performance evening received the Ministry of Youth Development Award for Excellence in Leadership. **Michaela** and **Miss Kylie Hill**, spent a significant amount of time designing, building and painting the most amazing and realistic set that I have ever seen at this performance level.

I would also like to thank **Mapihi Kahurangi Tini**, our student co-host who introduced our performance in a dynamic and powerful way, you really were incredible. Our students choreography shone on stage and looked absolutely amazing in their costumes. The set and backdrops were breathtaking and our theme was easy to understand. I could not have been more proud of my team.

### We received the following awards of Excellence in

- 3rd Place Open Division
- Award of Excellence for Performance Skill
- Award of Excellence for Choreography
- Award of Excellence for Stage Use
- Award of Excellence for Concept
- Award of Excellence for Drama
- Award of Excellence for Costuming Character
- Award of Excellence for Visual Enhancement
- Student Lead Award (Michaela Cairns)
- Award of Excellence for School Initiative

I am truly grateful for the following staff who were involved in organising and supporting me in the Stage Challenge Production and would like to thank them for all of their time and hard work that was freely given to this enterprise: **Miss Kylie Hill, Miss Sarah Riley, Miss Charlotte Hazlett, Whaea Trish Pike, Miss Bryony Edwards, Whaea Felicity Kaiwai, Whaea Rana Motu, Tina Sutherland and Meegan Edwards.** A further thanks needs to be given to parent help **Wendy Higgins** who again donated much of her own time to support our girls. They were truly amazing and without them this production could never have gone ahead.

To all of the parents, caregivers and students involved thank you for your commitment and dedication to this production over the past four months. You contributed a significant amount of your time and energy to our school and RGHS placed 3rd in the regional competition and we are truly grateful for that.

- **Janaye Biddle-Kite** – TIC Dance / Stage Challenge