WE ARE OUR 4NCESTORS' PRAYERS

JUNE 2024

EDITION 2



POLYNESIAN MUSIC NETWORK +

POWERED BY

ISLAND CITY

PMN+

WELCOME! POLYNESIAN MUSIC NETWORK+ IS A MULTIMEDIA PLATFORM THAT REACHES BEYOND ITS NAMESAKE. WE EXPLORE A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS, INCLUDING MUSIC, BREAKING NEWS, SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT, EVENT COVERAGE, FUN CONTENT, AND BEYOND. IN THIS ERA DOMINATED BY SOCIAL MEDIA, JUST LIKE THE OCEAN, IT SERVES AS A VITAL CONNECTOR, BRIDGING DISTANCES AND UNITING US DESPITE GEOGRAPHICAL BARRIERS. OUR MISSION IS TO UNITE THE PASIFIKA COMMUNITY, UTILIZING THE POWER OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO SHED LIGHT ON OUR STORIES OFTEN OVERLOOKED BY MAINSTREAM MEDIA. WE STRIVE TO SERVE AS ONE OF THE PREMIER MAINSTREAM MEDIA OUTLETS FOR OUR PASIFIKA COMMUNITY, OFFERING GLOBAL COVERAGE AND REPRESENTATION FOR OUR PEOPLE WORLDWIDE.



Safune, Savai'i

"WE SHOULD NOT BE DEFINED BY THE SMALLNESS OF OUR ISLANDS, BUT BY THE GREATNESS OF OUR OCEANS.

WE ARE THE SEA, WE ARE THE OCEAN. OCEANIA IS US.

IT IS TIME TO CREATE THINGS FOR OURSELVES, TO CREATE ESTABLISHED STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE THAT MATCH THOSE OF OUR ANCESTORS."

-Epeli Hau'ofa, Pacific Scholar

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JUNE 2024 EDITION 2

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“TAUTUA I LE ALOFA, MANUIA LE LUMANA’I.”

SERVE IN LOVE FOR A BLESSED FUTURE.


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PMN+/Queenie Taua'a

CHAMPIONING LEADERSHIP THROUGH SERVICE

THE INAUGURAL RESILIENCE BOWL

BY QUEENIE TAUA'A

In the heart of Samoan wisdom lies a timeless proverb:

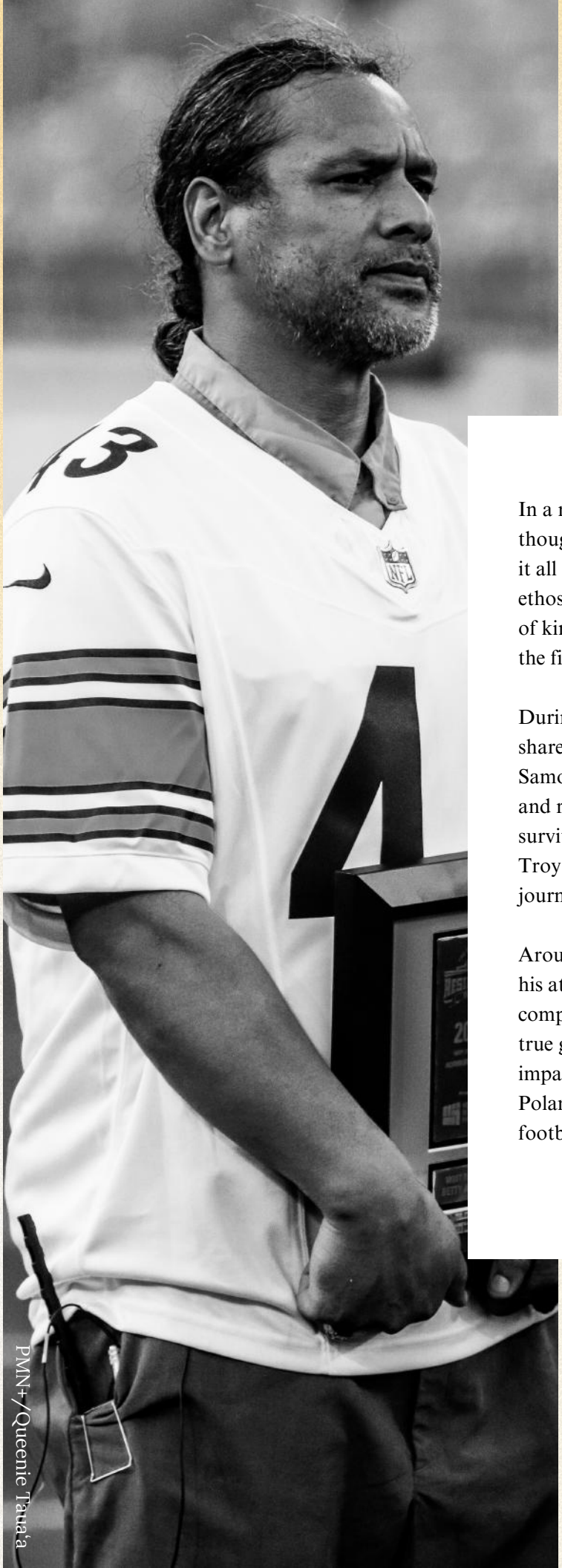
"O le ala i le pule o le tautua"

meaning "the path to leadership is through service." This saying resonates deeply with former Pittsburgh Steeler and two-time Super Bowl champion, Troy Polamalu. While his gridiron achievements are celebrated, Troy treasures his role as a dedicated humanitarian above all else.

Returning to Pittsburgh alongside his wife, Theodora, they proudly led the inaugural Resilience Bowl, a fundraising event benefiting the Neighborhood Resilience Project. This local initiative, rooted in the Hill District, provides crucial support to underserved communities grappling with racial inequity and crime. The Polamalus are staunch supporters of this cause, embodying the spirit of service in action.

The Resilience Bowl showcased not only spirited competition but also a gathering of stars committed to making a difference. As dusk settled, cheers erupted for Troy and fellow celebrities, including rappers Fedd and Chevy Woods, along with beloved Steelers alumni such as James Harrison, Chris Hope, Ike Taylor, Ben Roethlisberger, and Ryan Clark. Even Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin joined in as referee, adding to the excitement of the evening.

For Troy, the event held meaningful significance. Reuniting with former teammates underscored the bonds forged on and off the field, all in support of a worthy cause. By night's end, over $200,000 had been raised, a testament to the community's generosity and commitment to resilience. During the press conference, our teammate Serafina Maulupe posed a question to Troy: **"Being Samoan and coming from a culture where we are naturally givers, how does it feel to give back to a community that has given so much to you?"**



PMN+/Queenie Taua'a

In a reflective moment at the Resilience Bowl, Troy shared his thoughts on giving back to the community that shaped him. For him, it all begins with a sense of ownership and familial bonds, echoing the ethos of the Rooney family and the Steelers organization. This sense of kinship, he believes, is the cornerstone of success, both on and off the field.

During his induction into the 2021 Pro Football Hall of Fame, Troy shared insights into his roots, emphasizing the influence of his Samoan heritage. He expressed how values like discipline, humility, and respect form the bedrock of Samoan culture, guiding not only survival but also existence. As a first-generation American-Samoan, Troy takes pride in representing his family's lineage, bridging the journey from Am. Samoa to the NFL.

Around the globe, Troy Polamalu is hailed as a legend, not only for his athletic talent but also for his enduring legacy of service and compassion. His story serves as a beacon of hope, reminding us that true greatness is measured not only by touchdowns but also by the impact we have on others. As his legacy continues to inspire, Troy Polamalu remains the epitome of greatness, both in the game of football and in the game of life.

DOUBLE THE TROY, DOUBLE THE STEEL

A STEELERS' FULL-CIRCLE MOMENT



PMN+/Queenie Taua'a



Steelers Now/Ed Thompson

"Growing up, just being a big fan of Troy and being a big fan of the Steelers, I grew to love the city, grew to love the team, and it couldn't have been written any better than this."



Did you catch that Troy Fautanu, the offensive lineman from UW who was picked by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 20th spot of the 2024 NFL draft's 1st round, actually grew up as a hardcore fan of Troy Polamalu and the Steelers? Talk about a full-circle moment, huh? Throughout his life, he sported the number 43 in honor of Polamalu until his switch to the offensive line, which unfortunately meant he had to let go of that number.

We caught up with Fautanu at the resilience bowl event hosted by Troy and Theodora. He expressed his desire to emulate Troy's path and give back to his hometown of Vegas someday. "I'm just grateful to be here. Getting the opportunity to see what a guy like him has done for the community inspires me to do something back home in Vegas, and I am super excited to learn from him in that way." This marks the beginning of the Troy x Troy legacy, and it's incredible witnessing this dream come true for Fautanu; it seems like destiny had a hand in it all along. Now, Fautanu gets to play for the team he grew up rooting for and can look to Polamalu as his mentor. It's a past-meets-present legacy in the making for both Troys.



@Southsides/Geoffery Matautia

“O LE TELE O SULU E MAUA AI FIGOTA, E MAMA SE AVEGA PE A TA AMO FA‘ATASI.”

MY STRENGTH DOES NOT COME FROM ME ALONE BUT FROM MANY.

OCEAN SONG

DINAH JANE





> **"AS MUCH AS WE ALL LOVE, LOVE SONGS, I TURNED THIS INTO AN ANCESTOR CALL"**
>
> *-Dinah Jane*

A CALL TO HER *ANCESTORS*

BY KEILANI MAYO

May 17th, 2024 marked an awakening of Dinah Jane's rebirth into the music industry. Although she has been continuing to drop music and collaborate with other Polynesian artists such as Australia's JKING and Samoan Indie brother group, Roses on the Moon, Dinah Jane has tapped into her ancestry for guidance into making her new single "Ocean Song."

What we believe will be this summer's go to song and added on to everyone's playlist, we got the opportunity to go behind the scenes and get an inside look on how "Ocean Song" was created.

“I WANNA BE, WANNA BE WHERE YOU ARE”

OCEAN SONG X DINAH JANE

In a writing camp in Bali, Dinah Jane initially wrote “Ocean Song” to be a love song, but after a divine appointment with grammy award winning producer Jason “JG” Gilbert, on the last day of her writing camp, they combined their gifts to produce Dinah’s ancestral prayer.

With Dinah’s ear to layer harmonies and JG’s extensive expertise in songwriting and producing, and everyone behind the scenes being an all Polynesian cast, we get taken on a personal, emotional journey through Dinah Jane’s life.

“Ocean Song” is beautifully curated to take you on two journeys of reminiscing on those who have come before you, and also celebrating on what your ancestors have already established before and building on their foundation. From start to finish, “Ocean Song” incorporates elements of Dinah’s personal life, Tongan upbringing, as well as inviting her circle of friends from different Polynesian islands and backgrounds in the music video.

Jane opens up about the line “I wanna be, wanna be where you are” is for those who she has lost in the past and when she’s alone, she wishes to be with them again.
As one of the biggest Polynesian mainstream stars in this generation, Dinah Jane reveals how hard it can be sometimes in the music industry, but her call to her ancestors propels her to keep going and make more waves not only in the industry but in the community as well.

“AND SOMETIMES WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE GIVING UP, THEY’RE USUALLY THE WHISPERS THAT HELP ME GET BACK ON MY FEET”

DINAH JANE

“I WANNA BE, WANNA BE IN YOUR ARMS LET ME RIDE OUT THE STORM IN YOUR CALM”

OCEAN SONG X DINAH JANE





Taking us into a glimpse of her personal life, Dinah Jane opens up about the line “I wanna be, wanna be in your arms - Let me ride out the storm in your calm” meaning. The line pays homage to her grandfather who is pictured in the music video in a portrait. Her grandfather played a huge role in raising Dinah Jane to the person she is today and whenever she feels lost or scared, he is the person she is calling and crying out for.
In the second verse of the “Ocean Song” Jane’s creativity and vulnerability mesh as she incorporates a voice recording of her mother representing a lost of a loved one. It’s a unique moment of artistry as she layers her mother’s voice recording with her own voice as she depicts what you might usually here at Tongan funerals.

Another element Dinah Jane uses in her song to make it special is the uniqueness of breath and exhales. She shares with us how she incorporates exhales into the track to represent the letting go of the past, the hardships, the trials and tribulations the last few years.

“SHE’S THERE - OUT!”

From the Pasifika representation, collaboration, and commemoration in Dinah Jane’s “Ocean Song” we are excited to witness her rebirth and new era of musicality as she continues to spearhead and create waves into the mainstream music space.

TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OF THE PASIFIKA CREATIVES WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE MUSIC VIDEO

We were honored to feature the behind-the-scenes perspectives and insights from these remarkable creatives on our Instagram page. Head over to our Instagram to listen to the creatives share their experiences working behind the scenes, collaborating with an all-Polynesian cast, and more! Congratulations to the entire cast, crew, and all involved in making this project a reality! Don't forget to check out the music video below!



CHAD VAIFANUA
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

TIANA N. LIUFAU
DIRECTOR OF CHOREOGRAPHY

NANCY THOMPSON
WARDROBE DESIGNER

NINA SOSEFINA
LEGACY CAST



@Southsides/Geoffery Matautia

"E SUI LE FAIGA AE TUMAU LE FA'AVAE."

WAYS OF DOING MAY CHANGE BUT THE FOUNDATIONS REMAIN THE SAME.

ISLAND AVENUE X AIR FORCE ONE'S

BY KEILANI MAYO



"I believe if we're ever going to do a Polynesian inspired shoe, it should pay homage to our Pasifika ancestors who were the first ocean navigators of the world".

-FA'AVAE FA'AVAE

FA'AVAE FA'AVAE, OWNER OF LUXURY STREETWEAR BRAND ISLAND AVENUE BASED OUT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, CONTINUES TO MAKE WAVES IN THE APPAREL INDUSTRY AS HE LAUNCHES A COLLABORATION PROJECT WITH NIKE.



“I dreamed about this moment”



Through networking, learning business models, trusting divine timing, and dream casting, Fa’avae Fa’avae is pioneering his way be one of the first Polynesians to collaborate with a well known Fortune 500 company, Nike.

As he built his own brand Island Avenue, and landing his work in stores such as Nordstrom, his years of expertise and building relationships led to an opportunity to create Nike’s first Polynesian inspired Air Force One.



On track to release this year, Fa’avae Fa’avae and his team are looking forward to making their dreams turn into reality. The Pasifika community can look forward to adding the timeless capsule wardrobe piece of Air Force 1’s into their wardrobe as it will represent our Pacific Islander Heritage. Fa’avae Fa’avae found inspiration to connect two worlds of everyday streetwear and Pasifika ancestry into a statement piece we can represent everyday. The Air Force 1’s are inspired from the va’a or canoe and it is to pay homage and tell a story of our ancestors being the ocean’s first navigators.

“I believe our ancestors will be proud - Mainly because I believe that those were sacrifices that they made that this is what they wanted for us. Sacrifice of them, going through what they went through for us to migrate from the South Pacific and chase after this - the American dream!”

Set to launch in 2024, be on the lookout for Island Avenue X Nike Air Force 1 Collaboration in the upcoming months!

ISLAND AVENUE

PAISLEY PALMTREES COLLECTION



KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ISLAND AVENUE'S SUMMER LINE, THE PAISLEY PALMTREES COLLECTION.



@Southsides/Geoffery Matautia

“E LELE LE TOLOA AE MA‘AU I LE VAI.”

THE TOLOA BIRD FLIES FAR, BUT WILL ALWAYS RETURN TO THE WATER.

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RIMA

BY TIANA NONOSINA LIUFAU

BY QUEENIE TAUA'A



In early May, Creative Native, Tiana Nonosina Liufau brought her much-anticipated RIMA show to life in Orange County, California, at the Grove of Anaheim. Tiana, a proud representative of her Polynesian heritage, showcased her unique blend of creativity and cultural reverence in a display of music and movement. Described as fierce yet humble, Tiana's artistic approach was deeply rooted in the rich traditions of her heritage. She's not just a dancer, but a versatile artist who seamlessly transitions between roles as a drummer, musician, choreographer, scholar, and cultural educator. Her journey through UCLA's World Arts & Culture Program had further enriched her perspective, shaping her into a role model and steadfast advocate for the Asian-American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community.

RIMA, Tiana's brainchild, was more than just an event – it was a celebration of life told through the language of music and dance. Drawing inspiration from her upbringing, which straddled the worlds of Polynesian tradition and West Coast influence, RIMA offered a glimpse into Tiana's creative process and personal narrative. Each performance at RIMA was a testament to Tiana's artistic vision and the diverse influences that shaped her work. Spanning from lively Polynesian beats to contemporary R&B rhythms, the landscapes she crafted provided the canvas for fascinating movement-to-music sequences that unfolded on stage. One of the highlights of RIMA was Tiana's intimate sharing of her creative process with the audience. Prior to each dance number, she delved into the inspirations fueling her choreography and music selections, granting the audience a glimpse into her creative intuition.





“I AM A DESCENDANT OF MY ANCESTORS’ KNOWLEDGE. MY VA’A (boat) NEVER STOPPED SAILING.”

During the show, Tiana paid heartfelt tribute to her late grandmother, Estella "Gram" Reid, the founder of Nonosina. Gram's unwavering dedication to dance laid the foundation for Nonosina's enduring legacy, which had flourished for over 57 years. Tiana's reverence for her grandmother's teachings was evident as she honored the ancestral knowledge that continued to guide her own artistic journey. In a moving moment, Tiana reminded us of the importance of honoring the sacrifices of our ancestors and embracing the cultural heritage that binds us together. She embodies the spirit of resilience and perseverance that defines her Polynesian heritage, reaffirming her commitment to keeping the flame of tradition alive in a rapidly changing world. Through RIMA, Tiana Nonosina Liufau invited us to embark on a journey of self-discovery, creative processes, and cultural exploration. Her artistry transcended boundaries, intertwining the threads of tradition and innovation to create a tapestry of beauty and meaning. As we immersed ourselves in the sensational rhythms of her creative processes, we were reminded of the enduring power of music and movement to unite and inspire us all, just as it did for our ancestors, our people today, and our people of tomorrow.

TIANA NONOSINA LIUFAU

FILLS IN THE BLANKS.



PMN+/Queenie Taua'a

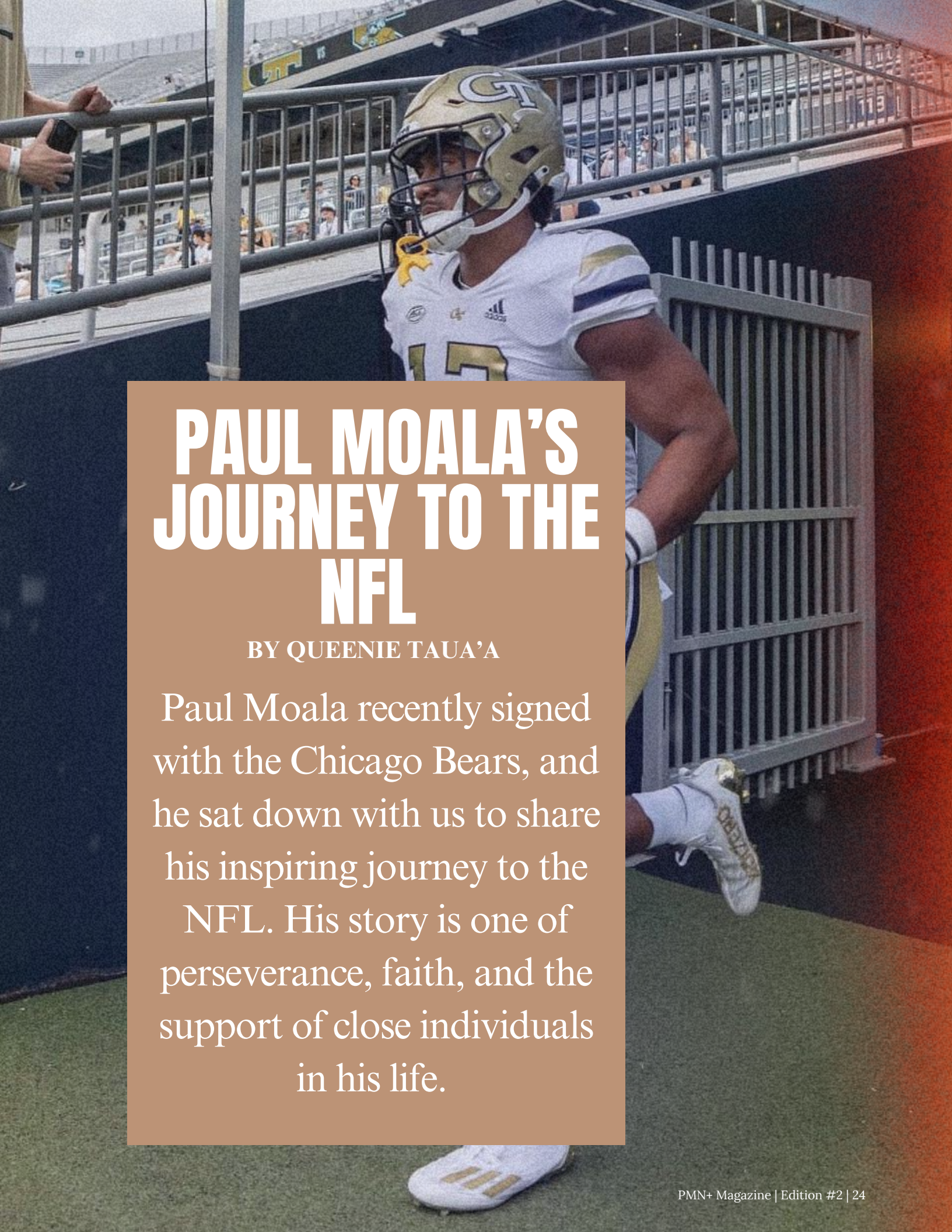
1. The biggest lesson I learned so far is **trust nobody, keep your circle small**.
2. **Whitney Houston** is the greatest singer of all time.
3. **College GE requirements** is overrated.
4. I prefer **love** over **hate**.
5. If I wasn't a creative, I'd be **lost and bored AF**.
6. My favorite Samoan song is **Pele Moana**.
7. If I could live anywhere in the world, it would be **Los Angeles**.
8. Ten years from now, **I will have built an empire**.



@Southsides/Geoffery Matautia

"E A'E MANUIA FAIVA E.

WHERE SUPPORT IS GIVEN, THE WORK WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.



PAUL MOALA'S JOURNEY TO THE NFL

BY QUEENIE TAUA'A

Paul Moala recently signed with the Chicago Bears, and he sat down with us to share his inspiring journey to the NFL. His story is one of perseverance, faith, and the support of close individuals in his life.

Paul's parents were born in Tonga and moved to the United States in the late 1980s and early 1990s. They initially settled in California before relocating to Salt Lake City, Utah, in the early 2000s, where Paul was born. After eight years in Utah, the family moved to Indiana due to his father's new job. It was in Indiana that Paul grew up and developed his passion for football, eventually earning the opportunity to play college football at Notre Dame.

Paul's love for football began in Salt Lake City, where he played with older boys since he wasn't old enough to join little league football. Practicing with a team coached by a friend's father allowed him to grasp the fundamentals and fall in love with the game. This early exposure, along with playing pickup football with his older brother and neighbors, showcased his athletic talent and deepened his passion for football.

Throughout his journey, Paul's older brother served as his role model. As the first in their family to play football, his brother introduced them to a world that was entirely new and unfamiliar to their parents. Seeing his brother succeed motivated Paul to follow in his footsteps. Paul's father, a former National Rugby League player for Tonga, also inspired him with stories of travel and representing their Tongan nationality, instilling pride and a desire to excel in sports.

Paul faced significant challenges during his college football career. At Notre Dame, he tore his right Achilles tendon during his junior year and, after recovering, tore his left Achilles tendon in the first game of his senior year. These back-to-back injuries nearly ended his football career, but Paul refused to give up. He transferred to the University of Idaho, where he played well enough to earn another opportunity at a higher level, ultimately leading him to Georgia Tech.

Signing with the Chicago Bears was a dream come true for Paul. He credits his agent, Kanani, for guiding him to the Bears, believing it was the best fit. Paul's tryout experience in Chicago was intense. On the third day of tryouts, he was completing a physical when he realized he was actually signing employment forms, signifying his official entry into the NFL. Paul expressed immense gratitude and disbelief at this milestone, feeling validated in his talents and hard work.

Paul's faith has been a cornerstone of his journey. He consistently gives praise and glory to God, attributing his successes to divine guidance and support. His goals in the NFL are to make a name for himself, contribute to his team, and help achieve collective goals like making it to the Super Bowl. Paul's advice to aspiring athletes and dreamers is to fully commit to their goals and trust in God's plan. Despite not being the biggest player out of high school, he worked tirelessly to improve and eventually achieved his dream. He believes that dedication, hard work, and faith are essential to overcoming obstacles and reaching one's aspirations.

Paul Moala aims to leave a legacy that extends beyond football. He wants to be remembered as someone who represented his people with pride, cared deeply for others, and served as a role model for future generations. His story is a testament to the power of perseverance, faith, and the support of loved ones in achieving greatness.

WHAT'S PAUL MOALA LISTENING TO?

Get a taste of Paul Moala's Pasifika playlist with his top 5 favorite tracks at the moment!

1. 

'OUANA
JOSH TATOFI

2. 

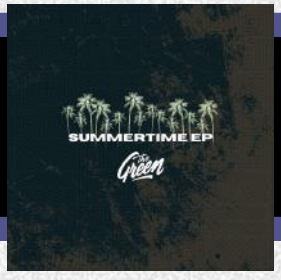
HERE I AM
J BOOG

3. 

WARRIOR OF LOVE
FIJI

4. 

ANY SONG BY MAOLI

5. 

LOVER TONIGHT
THE GREEN



@Southsides/Geoffery Matautia

"E SO'O LE FAU I LE FAU."

UNITY IS STRENGTH.

MOTHER LAND SAMOA 2023: YOU JUST HAD TO BE THERE.

BY QUEENIE TAUA'A



Alafaga/Pasefika Presence

SOURCE: SAMOA COUNTRY MAGAZINE

About a year ago, in June 2023, the heart of the Pacific, beautiful Samoa, made history by hosting the first-ever Motherland Samoa music festival, brought to life by PacifiCast.

PacifiCast presented Motherland Samoa as a cultural music festival celebrating Pacific heritage and reconnecting communities with their Samoan roots. This landmark event took place on June 3, just two days after Samoa's 61st Independence Day. Despite the rain, nearly 10,000 people gathered to celebrate at the inaugural Motherland Samoa festival, marking the highlight of Samoa's 2023 music and social calendar.
In a nation of just over 200,000 people, drawing a crowd of OVER 11,000 was a record-breaking achievement, with tickets completely sold out well before the event.

Julius Tuigamala, founder of PacifiCast, expressed,

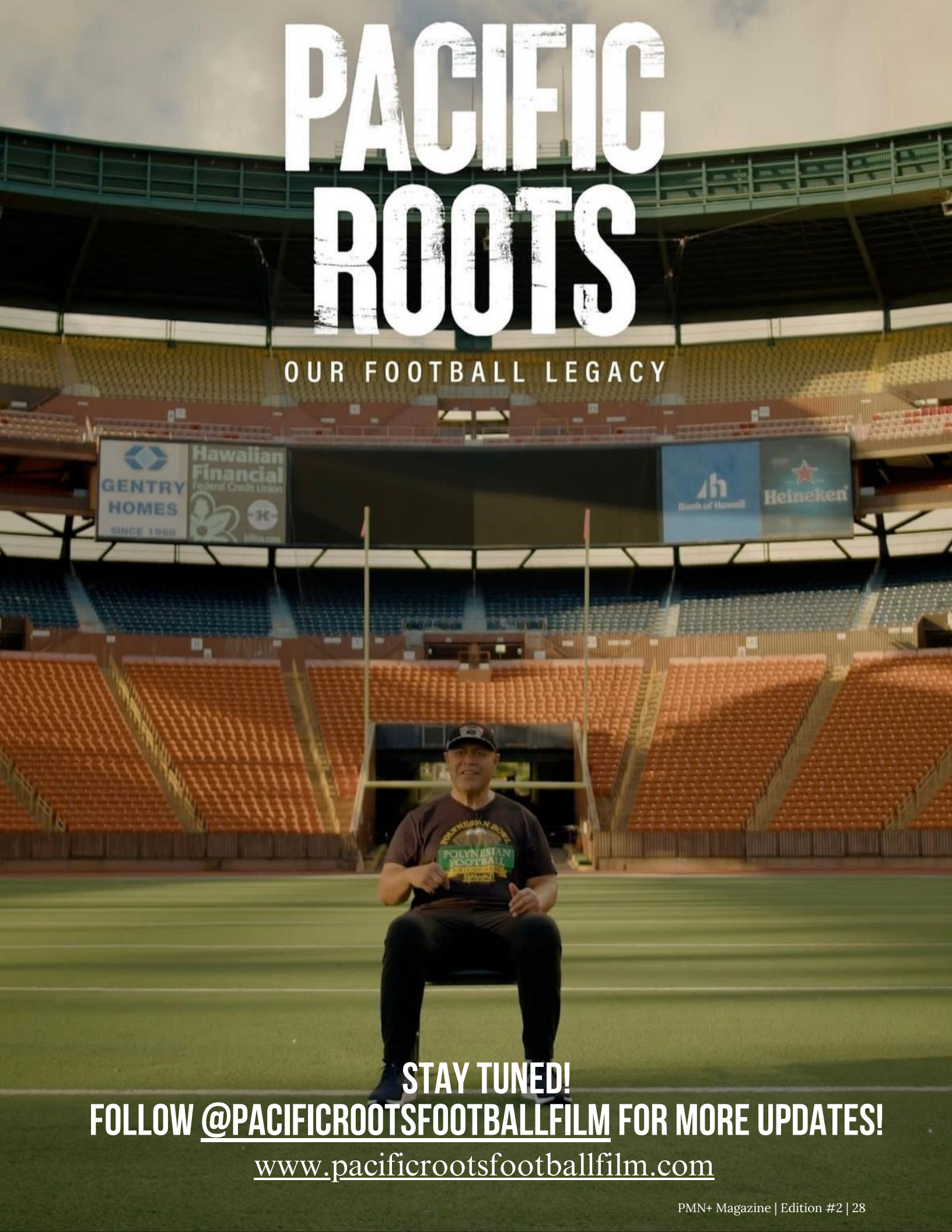
"This festival was built from the heart to serve both our Pasifika community and our extremely talented artists."

The Motherland Samoa lineup featured an impressive array of artists, including Fiji, J Boog, HP Boyz, Lisi, Savage, DJ Noiz, Kennyon Brown, Tomorrow People, Bina Butta, Wayno, Lani Alo, DJ Tikelz, DJ 651, Donell Lewis, Mautaotasi & Matalenaa, Pacific Love Band, Rellek Brown, Tree, Zipso, DJ Kayoz, and DJ Wreckah. The event was hosted by Dr. Tua.

Reflecting on the festival's success, Festival Director, **Tana Tupa'i** shared,

"We are extremely proud to see the successful outcome of the inaugural Motherland Samoa Festival. Witnessing the event unfold and the overwhelming response of the young people, who were able to experience a world-class event in their own backyard, has filled our hearts with pride and satisfaction."

This was an experience you just had to be there for. Check out the video above and follow @pacificast on social media to stay up to date with their work! Cheehoo!



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www.pacificrootsfootballfilm.com



MOANA 2 TRAILER SHATTERS RECORDS AS DISNEY ANIMATION'S MOST-WATCHED, GARNERING OVER 178 MILLION VIEWS WITHIN JUST 24 HOURS!

The ocean's mighty force serves as a powerful unifier indeed. Disney Pictures unveiled the first trailer for the highly anticipated "Moana" sequel on Wednesday, instantly shattering records.

Within a mere 24 hours, the teaser amassed a staggering 178 million views, securing its place as the studio's most-watched animated movie trailer ever. This feat surpasses previous record-holders such as "Inside Out 2" (157 million), "Frozen 2" (116 million), and "Incredibles 2" (113 million). The trailer's reach extends across various social media platforms, including TikTok, YouTube, X, Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat.

In this sequel, Moana receives an unexpected summons from her wayfinding ancestors, propelling her on a perilous voyage to the distant waters of Oceania. It promises an adventure unlike any she's encountered before.
Dwayne Johnson returns to voice the charismatic demigod Maui, while Auli'i Cravalho reprises her role as the spirited Moana. Despite being seven years old, the original film dominated streaming platforms in 2023, according to Nielsen.

Moana 2 sails into cinemas on **November 27th**, don’t forget that date!



“NO SUCH THING AS A LIFE THAT'S BETTER THAN YOURS.”

-J. Cole

Lale, seeking solace by the beach to clear her head, stumbled upon a once-in-a-lifetime moment when she unexpectedly encountered the acclaimed rapper and producer J. Cole. Their spontaneous meeting lasted about thirty minutes, with J. Cole engrossed in his work on a forthcoming album, as evidenced by the laptop beside him in the photo Lale shared on social media.

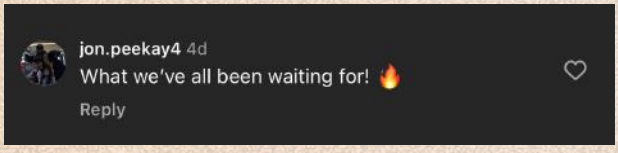
“ALL GLORY GOES TO GOD! I’M JUST A HUGE FAN OF J. COLE.”

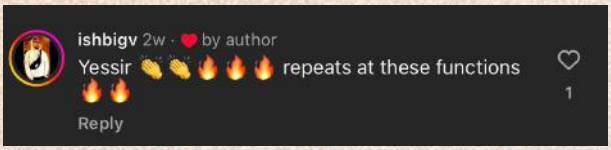
During their brief but meaningful chat, Lale brought up the hot topic of the alleged feud between Kendrick Lamar and Drake. J. Cole, known for his modesty, expressed his dislike for such conflicts with a simple statement: "I don't like beef." For Lale, this unexpected meeting was a true blessing, a moment she'll forever cherish as a dedicated fan of J. Cole. What were the chances? It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience for Lale! Talk about being in the right place at the right time! Amidst the chaos of the world, it's crucial to safeguard your peace and pursue what brings you joy; like going to the beach to clear your head.

THIS MOMENT, YEARS IN THE MAKING, HAS FINALLY ARRIVED.	FIJI AND SPAWNBREEZIE HAVE RELEASED THEIR INAUGURAL COLLABORATION TOGETHER.	THIS COLLABORATION IS EXACTLY WHAT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.

HOW DID WE GET THIS FAR?

After a journey spanning years, the highly anticipated collaboration between Fiji and Spawnbreezie has finally arrived with the release of "Get This Far." This debut track, released in early May, marks a significant milestone for the two artists, blending their individual styles into a fire track sure to enchant listeners everywhere. Look at what some of the people are saying:









5 ARTISTS WHO SHAPED THE NZ MUSIC SCENE

May - Last month marked New Zealand Music Month, a time dedicated to celebrating the special sounds of New Zealand and the talented individuals behind them. As we reflect on this occasion, it's essential to recognize the profound impact Pasifika artists have had in shaping the NZ music scene. Here, we honor five Pasifika artists who have not only paved the way locally but have also left an indelible mark on the global stage.



KING KAPISI

Bill Rangi Urale, aka King Kapisi, is a trailblazing New Zealand hip hop artist. He made history by winning the Silver Scroll Award for his single "Reverse Resistance" in 1999. With gold-selling albums and singles, and performances alongside global icons like Janet Jackson and Red Hot Chili Peppers, King Kapisi has left an indelible mark on the international music scene.



CHE FU

Che Fu, born Che Kuo Eruera Ness in 1974, is a trailblazing figure in New Zealand's music scene. Known for his contributions to hip hop, R&B, and reggae as both a solo artist and a founding member of Supergroove, he has sold thousands of albums domestically and internationally. Che Fu's impact as a pioneer of Pasifika music in New Zealand is undeniable.



ARDIJAH

Formed in 1979, Ardijah, a group from Auckland, New Zealand, gained prominence in 1987 after winning the Rheineck Rock Award. This victory led to their debut self-titled album, released by WEA, featuring hit singles like "That's the Way" and "Give Me Time." Blending funk rock and reggae, Ardijah became trailblazers in New Zealand's R&B scene, with their music still enjoyed today.



ANNIE CRUMMER

Anne Crummer, a New Zealand pop singer and songwriter of Cook Islands heritage, has left an indelible mark on the music scene. Recognized with accolades like Best Female Artist at the New Zealand Music Awards in 1993 and a Senior Pacific Artist Award in 2011, she's been celebrated for her contributions to music both locally and internationally. In 2017, she was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to music. Crummer's enduring impact was further honored in 2021 when she and her bandmates from When the Cats Away were inducted into the New Zealand Music Hall of Fame.



TE VAKA

Founded and led by Opetaia Foa'i, Grammy-nominated for Disney's "Moana," Te Vaka is a trailblazing Polynesian band. With nine albums and hits like "Pate Pate," they've conquered global stages, from Olympics to Disneyland. Their influence extends beyond music, with Opetaia's Grammy nomination and awards at the New Zealand Music Awards. Te Vaka's legacy transcends borders, shaping the global music scene with their Polynesian music and sounds.



Matchroom



✌️⏰

Jai Opetaia reclaimed the IBF Cruiserweight Championship in a decisive victory over Mairis Briedis on May 18th, 2024, at Kingdom Arena in Riyadh. This marks Opetaia's second reign as IBF Cruiserweight Champion, adding to his three-time title as the Ring Magazine Cruiserweight Champion. The judges' scorecards tallied 117-111, 116-112, and 116-112, all in favor of Opetaia.

The bout, scheduled for 12 rounds in the Cruiserweight division with a weight limit of 200 pounds (90.7 kg), was a unification match, putting both the IBF and Ring belts on the line.
This clash was a highlight of the undercard, preceding Tyson Fury's defeat to Oleksandr Usyk for the WBC, WBO, WBA, and IBF World Heavyweight titles. Congratulations to Jai Opetaia on this impressive victory!

JAI OPETAIA



HEALTH IS WEALTH

PRIORITIZING YOUR HEALTH SAVES YOU MONEY - LET US TELL YOU WHY! 24/7 First Care is an American based company dedicated to providing everyone with reliable, affordable, accessible medical and mental healthcare benefits starting at less than $2.60/day with no additional copays, consult fees, or deductibles for 24/7 virtual access to primary care physicians, urgent care doctors, and behavioral health/trauma specialists. PLUS, you can get access to comprehensive healthcare benefits with low out of pocket costs of $2500.00 for under $350/month.

cancer, heart disease, unintentional injuries (accidents), stroke and diabetes are the leading cause of death within the Pacific Islander community. In hopes to change the statistic and improve our way of living for future generations, we have partnered with 24/7 first care to make sure we bring awareness to our health at an affordable rate.

HEALTHCONNECT BASIC
Healthcare Benefits that are Affordable,
Accessible & Convenient...VERY CONVENIENT!
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HEALTHCARE BENEFIT PLANS
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LOS ANGELES PASIFIKA FILMFEST

THIS YEAR'S LOS ANGELES PASIFIKA FILM FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTED PASIFIKA EXCELLENCE, EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF EMPOWERING AND BUILDING CAPACITY WITHIN THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LOS ANGELES AND ISLAND CITY MEDIA'S PARTNERSHIP HELPED ESTABLISH A PLATFORM CELEBRATING PASIFIKA STORYTELLING!

RESEMBLING TRADITIONAL FILM SCREENINGS FEATURING WORKS FROM MICRONESIAN, POLYNESIAN, AND MELANESIAN FILMMAKERS, THE LA PASIFIKA FILM FEST ALSO HOSTED INDUSTRY PANELS. BUILDING OFF LAST YEAR'S INAUGURAL FILMF FESTIVAL, THIS YEAR THEY INCLUDED "TALK STORY" WORKSHOP, MODERATED BY DR. LANI CUPCHOY, A KĀNAKA MAOLI HISTORIAN-FILMMAKER. SHE BROUGHT ON A FEW COLLEAGUES OF HERS ON THE PANEL CONSISTING OF INDIGENOUS STORYTELLERS AND SCRIPTWRITERS. AMONGST THE PANELISTS INCLUDED SCREENWRITER-TELEVISIONWRITER FREDDIE GUTIERREZ (CHAMORU), ACTRESS LINDSAY WATSON (KĀNAKA MAOLI), AND ACTORS DAVID TU'ITUPOU (TONGAN) AND SETALEKI MANU (TONGAN).

THE WORKSHOP WAS CENTERED ON THE ART OF INDIGENOUS STORYTELLING, COMEDY, AND SCRIPTWRITING, OFFERING ALL THOSE WHO ATTENDED A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FROM THOSE IN THE INDUSTRY. THROUGH SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCES AND INSIGHTS, THE WORKSHOP WAS AIMED TO INSPIRE AND EQUIP PARTICIPANTS WITH THE TOOLS AND KNOWLEDGE NEEDED TO TELL THEIR OWN STORIES, PRESERVING AND PROMOTING THEIR RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE THROUGH FILMMAKING.

BE SURE TO FOLLOW @LAPASIFIKAFILMFEST ON INSTAGRAM FOR MORE NEWS AND INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES.





ARE YOU A DREAM GIRL? BECAUSE YOU'RE THE FIRST TRACK ON THIS PLAYLIST.

1. 

DREAM GIRL
KOLOHE KAI

2. 

REGGAE PARTY
SIAOSI

3. 

GIVE ME ALL
SAMMY JOHNSON

4. 

UTU BANG BANG
KA'IKENA SCANLAN

5. 

ISLAND GIRLS
PATI FT. FIJI & O-SHEN

6. 

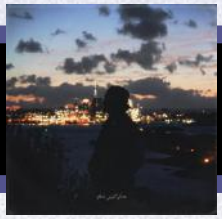
PENINA O LE VASA
T'NAY & WAYNO

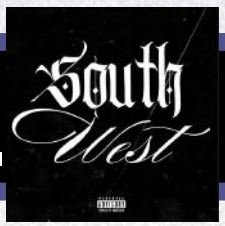
7. 

TEMPORARY
SIRE

8. 

ONE NIGHT
LAUGA FT. GXUNO

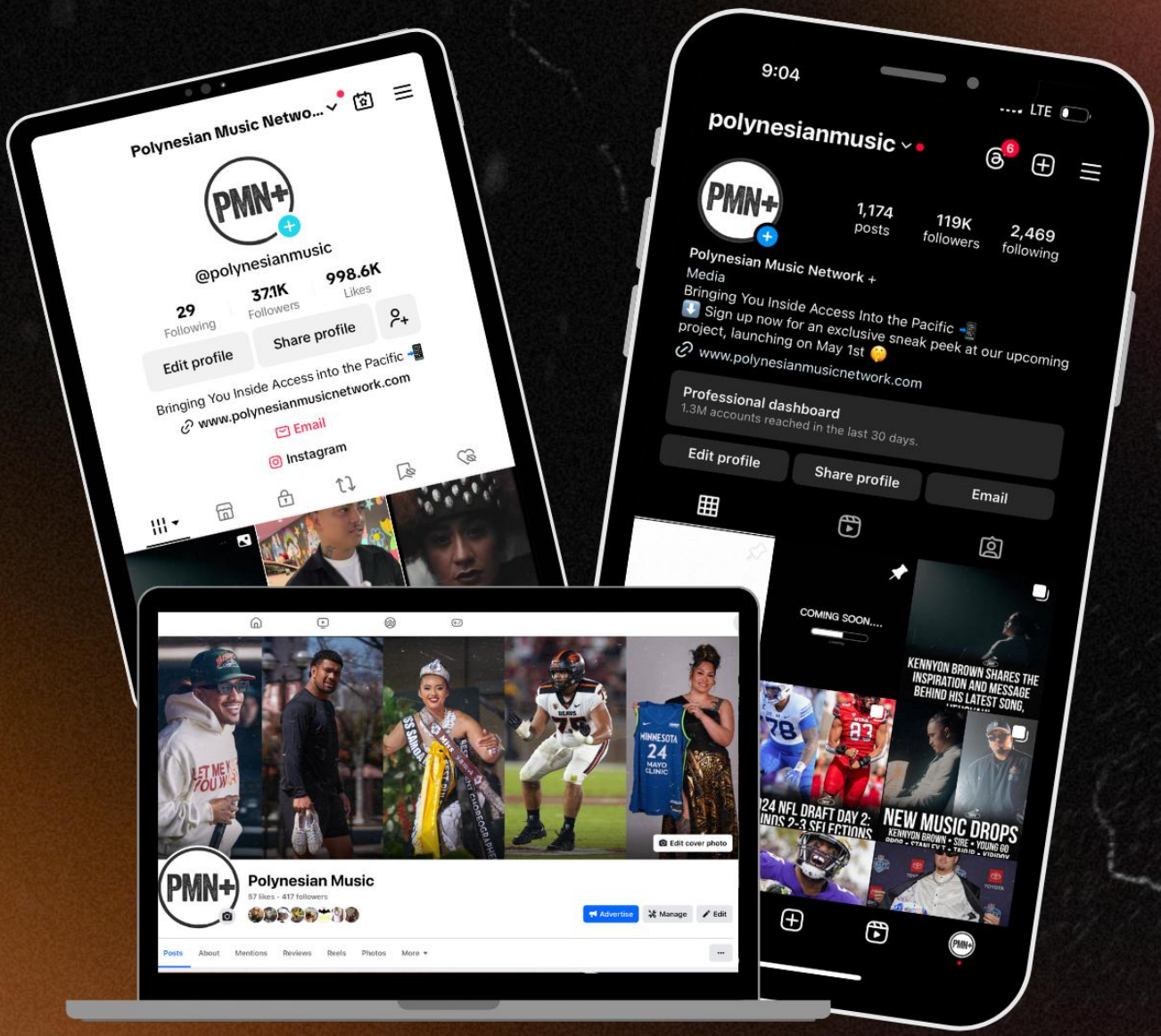
9. 
CONTAGIOUS
TEO GLACIER

10. 

SOUTHWEST
STALLYANO & E.T

Have you added these tracks to your playlist yet?! We've got a mix of 5 throwbacks and 5 fresh releases from this year, offering a perfect balance of old favorites and new discoveries. Dive into these 10 songs and make sure they find a spot in your rotation! We're excited to keep bringing you timeless tunes that stir up nostalgia, along with the latest beats from our Pasifika artists!

THANK YOU!



Malo ‘Aupito, Fa’afetai lava, Vinaka, Meitaki Maata!

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ISLAND CITY