THE POWER OF US

JULY 2024

EDITION 3

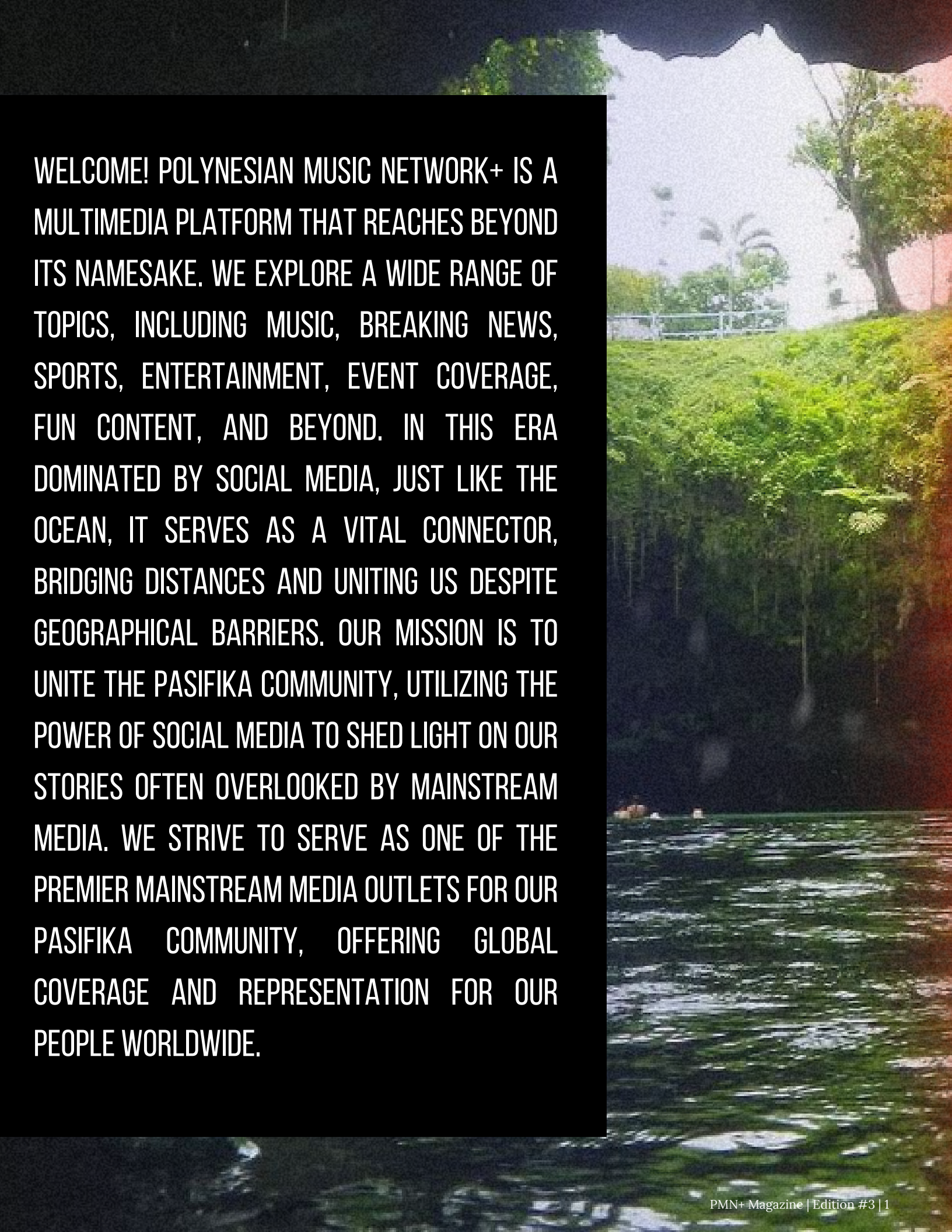


POLYNESIAN MUSIC NETWORK +

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.





"YOUR GENEALOGY AND YOUR IDENTITY ARE NOT NEGOTIABLE."

–A‘eau Christopher Hazelman

During the opening ceremony of the 2024 Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture (FESTPAC), the Sāmoa delegation emphasized the significance of safeguarding culture, identity, and fostering unity across the Pacific region.

@festpachawaii

IN THIS ISSUE

TREE X WAYNO'S TUPULAGA SAMOA

COLDPLAY X THIS IS OUR HOME

RISING STARS OF SOUTH AUCKLAND: MEET FAVONA BOYZ

VICTOR J SEFO X JOSH WAWA HIT 20M STREAMS

UA TAUNU'U: TEUILEALEALOFA ROSE-ANNA SAITUMUA TAFAOIALII

INTRODUCING TETI'S CLUB

ISLAND BREEZE FEATURING SILIA MATELAU

HAILAME KINIKINI: FROM D2D SALES TO SHORT TERM RENTAL KING

SIVE: RIDING WAVES, WRITING HISTORY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF SIKA ANOA'I

2024 NBA DRAFT ROB DILLINGHAM X TOLU SMITH III

BLUES RUGBY: 2024 SUPER RUGBY PACIFIC CHAMPS

FESTPAC 2024

MOANA LIVE-ACTION CAST

HEALTH STORY

JULY ISSUE PLAYLIST

PMN+

POWERED BY ISLAND CITY

JULY 2024 EDITION 3

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Queenie Taua'a

EXECUTIVE EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
Keilani Mayo

MANAGING EDITOR
Ammon Green

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
Kayla Fa'amaligi

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Tree Manu
Liz Laupepa
Masini Matautia
Tim Liulamaga
Teuilealealofa Rose-Anna Saitumua Tafaoialii
Sive Mata'utia-Jarrard
Silia Matelau
FavonaBoyz
Hailame Kinikini

ART

Contributing Photographers | Videographers

FESTPAC HAWAI'I
PARKER FILMS
BRIANNA FRUEAN
PROJECT THIS IS OUR HOME
ZURIEL TAUA'A
NOORFXS
ARRAN ROGERS
WORLD SURF LEAGUE
WWE
ISLAND BREEZE
GETTY IMAGES



PARKER FILMS

SAMOAN

‘AUA NE‘I ‘INO‘INO SE TASI I LOU TAULE‘ALE‘A;
A ‘IA FAI OE MA FA’AA’OA’O I Ē UA FA’ATUATUA,
I LE UPU, MA LE AMIO; MA LE ALOFA, MA LE FA’ATUATUA, MA LE LĒ GAOIĀ.

1 TIMOTEO 4:12

ENGLISH

DON'T LET ANYONE LOOK DOWN ON YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE YOUNG, BUT SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THE BELIEVERS IN SPEECH, IN CONDUCT, IN LOVE, IN FAITH AND IN PURITY. (NIV)

1 TIMOTHY 4:12


PARKER FILMS

TUPULAGA SAMOA

TREE & WAYNO

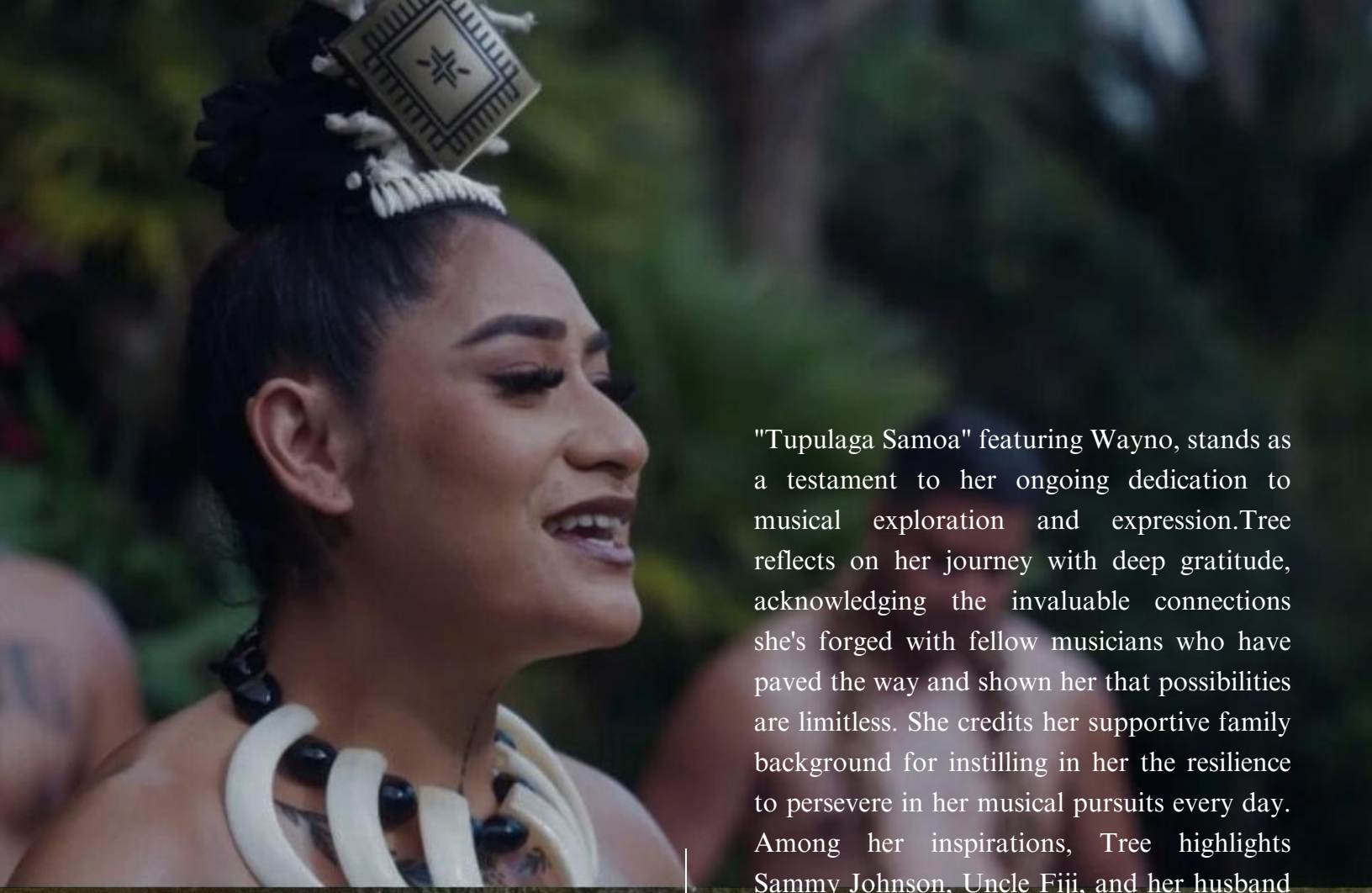
BY QUEENIE TAUA'A

"SO MUCH EMPOWERMENT HAS BEEN WOVEN TOGETHER — FOR OUR PEOPLE, MUSIC IS OUR UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE, SO WHEN YOU LAYER A SOOTHING MELODY AND A PACIFIC SOUND OVER AN ENCOURAGING MESSAGE, IT'S EMPOWERING."

-TREE



Tree and Wayno have recently launched their latest track, "Tupulaga Samoa," alongside its music video. We had the opportunity to sit down with Tree to dive into this latest release and her musical journey.



Tree's musical journey took root in church, where her passion for singing began at the age of 7. Throughout her upbringing, she eagerly embraced every opportunity to perform. By the time she turned 16 in high school, she was already a member of an all-girl band, actively participating in competitions and tours. This early immersion in music set the stage for her professional career, which has since flourished. Since those formative years, Tree has achieved significant milestones, including collaborations with Sammy Johnson on "Don't Say Goodbye" and projects with her husband, Swiss. From the acclaimed "Afio Ane Loa" to numerous other creative endeavors, her artistic journey has been marked by innovation and growth. Her latest release, "Tupulaga Samoa" featuring Wayno, stands as a testament to her ongoing dedication to musical exploration and expression.Tree reflects on her journey with deep gratitude, acknowledging the invaluable connections she's forged with fellow musicians who have paved the way and shown her that possibilities are limitless. She credits her supportive family background for instilling in her the resilience to persevere in her musical pursuits every day. Among her inspirations, Tree highlights Sammy Johnson, Uncle Fiji, and her husband Swiss, but she reserves a special place for her mother as her true-life influence. Growing up, Tree was deeply influenced by her mother, who herself had a strong musical legacy within their family. Her mother, a former worship team singer deeply involved in church life, served as a role model. Witnessing her mother's dedication to pursuing her dreams while balancing the responsibilities of motherhood and community service left an inspiring mark on Tree. She followed in her mother's footsteps, inspired by her commitment to happiness, service to their village, and dedication to family. For Tree, her mother remains a strong influence both in music and in life. Influenced by both these artists and her mother, Tree's Samoan culture and identity play a significant role in shaping her music and defining who she is today.

PARKER FILMS

She emphasizes that her talent represents only 20% of the equation; it is the values and traditions of her Samoan heritage —such as respect, service, honor, and integrity—that have provided the discipline necessary to sustain her creative practice and artistry. Tree firmly believes that without her cultural heritage and the strength of her ancestors, she wouldn't have endured in her career. She acknowledges standing on the shoulders of resilient giants, emphasizing that her lineage is one of warriors—a common thread among Pasifika people. For Tree, her Samoan culture and faith are paramount driving forces throughout her journey and career. She asserts that integrating faith and culture serves as guiding lampposts illuminating her path, offering strength and direction. These elements form the foundational core that defines her identity far beyond her musical endeavors.







PARKER FILMS

Tree acknowledges the song's writers, Joyce Lonise Toleafoa Salu and Juliana Sopoaga Lologa, noting that one of them was her close friend from high school. Originally penned for a Polyfest group at a school lacking Pasifika representation—where only a few Pasifika girls attended—the song served as an empowering anthem for those girls and their school community. The message of this song

is about embracing pride in one's Samoan culture and identity, while staying grounded in faith. It encourages the younger generation to unite in pride, guiding them through life's challenges. It emphasizes the importance of acknowledging and respecting the efforts of parents and families in shaping our lives. Despite life's uncertainties, maintaining faith in God is crucial. Our heritage and cultural practices may sometimes be misunderstood, but they are integral to who we are and should be embraced wholeheartedly.

Fast forward a decade, the song found its way to Tree through a friend, resonating deeply with her. Inspired by its message of hope and encouragement, Tree felt compelled to release it, envisioning how it could impact others through her platform. She meticulously honed the song in the studio, navigating moments of doubt and comparison with her previous work, like the acclaimed "Afio Ane Loa."

Throughout this process, Tree leaned on her older sister Liz, who not only manages her career but also serves as a steadfast source of support. Together, they prayed over the production, seeking clarity and inspiration. One pivotal evening during family downtime, Wayno, present with them, listened to the song and questioned why it hadn't been released. Tree candidly admitted her fears, prompting Wayno to offer his collaboration. Thus, "Tupulaga Samoa" by Tree featuring Wayno emerged as a collaborative masterpiece.



PARKER FILMS



DIRECTED & PRODUCED BY TREE MANU & LIZ LAUPEPA

FILMED & EDITED BY PARKER FILMS

Reflecting on her own youth, Tree wishes she had encountered such empowering messages earlier in life. Now, through her platform, she joyfully shares this wisdom with today's youth, hoping to inspire and uplift them. Accompanying the beautiful track is its music video, directed and produced by Tree and her sister Liz.

Tree described the collaborative process of bringing the video to life as amazing, highlighting their supportive dynamic where they filled in each other's gaps and had each other's backs. She characterized their working relationship as embodying a big sister-little sister vibe: Tree as the dreamer and Liz as the realist, a balance that was evident even in the creation of the "Tupulaga Samoa" music video.Tree envisioned a tropical setting with full representation—from young to old, men and women of all sizes and shades. Collaborating with choreographers, they discussed and refined ideas to embody unity, strength, and empowerment. Tree meticulously selected elements that would reflect these themes in the video, focusing on costumes and attire down to every detail. Liz, her older sister, translated these concepts into realistic formations and visual representations.

Their goal was to portray unity, paying homage to the song's origins through various shots beautifully captured by Parker Films, who served as the director of photography and one of the editors. Tree emphasized that even the smallest ideas and details contributed significantly to the final product, underscoring the impact of their collective vision. Tree's message to aspiring Pasifika artists and beyond is one of authenticity and self-confidence: to embrace one's uniqueness and run one's own race without comparison. She believes that everyone has their own path to navigate, supported by the conviction that God doesn't give challenges one cannot handle. This philosophy permeates both her music and her life.

Congratulations to Tree, Liz, Wayno, and all involved in bringing "Tupulaga Samoa" to life—an inspiring creation that resonates not only with youth but with everyone. Through sharing their story, Tree hopes to inspire others to embrace their true selves. Be sure to experience Tree and Wayno's "Tupulaga Samoa" track and music video—it's a journey worth taking.

WHO IS TREE CURRENTLY LISTENING TO?

We asked Tree who she's been listening to recently, and she shared three artists she's really into right now!



KIRK FRANKLIN



ANDRAÉ CROUCH



FIJI

ISLAND CITY
STRUGGLING TO GROW YOUR ONLINE TRAFFIC?
DIGITAL GROWTH FOR YOUR BRAND THROUGH OUR CREATIVE POWERHOUSE!
help@islandcitymediagroup.com | www.islandcitymediagroup.com
SEO & SEM OPTIMIZATION





COLDPLAY SHARES THE STAGE WITH PASIFIKA ARTISTS

BY QUEENIE TAUA'A

The Internationally acclaimed band, Coldplay invited Saia, Junior, Poni, Sione, and Nate from the "This Is Our Home: Pacific Artists for Climate Justice" project to perform in front of a crowd exceeding 60,000 people in France. This initiative harnesses music and storytelling to advocate for a fossil fuel treaty. We want to honor and celebrate those who have contributed to this achievement, fighting for climate justice across the Pacific and beyond.

Like the ocean, music unites us and serves as a powerful universal language for our community and beyond. These artists and leaders showcased the spirit of the Pacific to thousands, creating a profoundly memorable moment for the world.

Brianna Fruean, a prominent leader and activist in our Pasifika community, shared a video on Instagram capturing this special occasion. She mentioned that following their gathering in Fiji earlier this year, she and Joe, the Pacific Chief Advisor of the fossil fuel treaty and Project Lead of "This Is Our Home," shared the dream of merging music and activism to elevate our stories onto larger platforms.

They dared to dream big, but never imagined that just four months later, the "This Is Our Home" project would grace Coldplay's stage before thousands of people. Brianna acknowledges the creator for granting Saia, Junior, Poni, Sione, and Nate this unique opportunity to turn their dreams into reality, enabling them to showcase the essence of the Pacific.

For more information, visit and follow @project.thisisourhome! Let's continue to shine and inspire on the global stage!



Dreams truly do come true! Watch the video courtesy of Brianna Fruean (@briannafruean), sharing their incredible journey from dream to reality. We celebrate this beautiful moment and congratulate everyone involved. It's a moment to cherish for generations. Dare to dream big and never lose hope!

"IT WAS MORE THAN JUST A PERFORMANCE. IT WAS A MANIFESTATION OF A NEW RELATIONSHIP BUILT WITH COLDPLAY, EARTH PERCENT AND THE FOSSIL FUEL NONPROLIFERATION TREATY ON THE BASIS OF CARING FOR CLIMATE. COMING TOGETHER AS PEOPLE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET, BUT WHO HAVE HOPE THAT MUSIC CAN BE THE VEHICLE TO SPREAD AWARENESS ON IT. THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING FOR "THIS IS OUR HOME" PACIFIC ARTISTS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE. CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU ALL TO SEE WHAT WE HAVE LINED UP NEXT!"

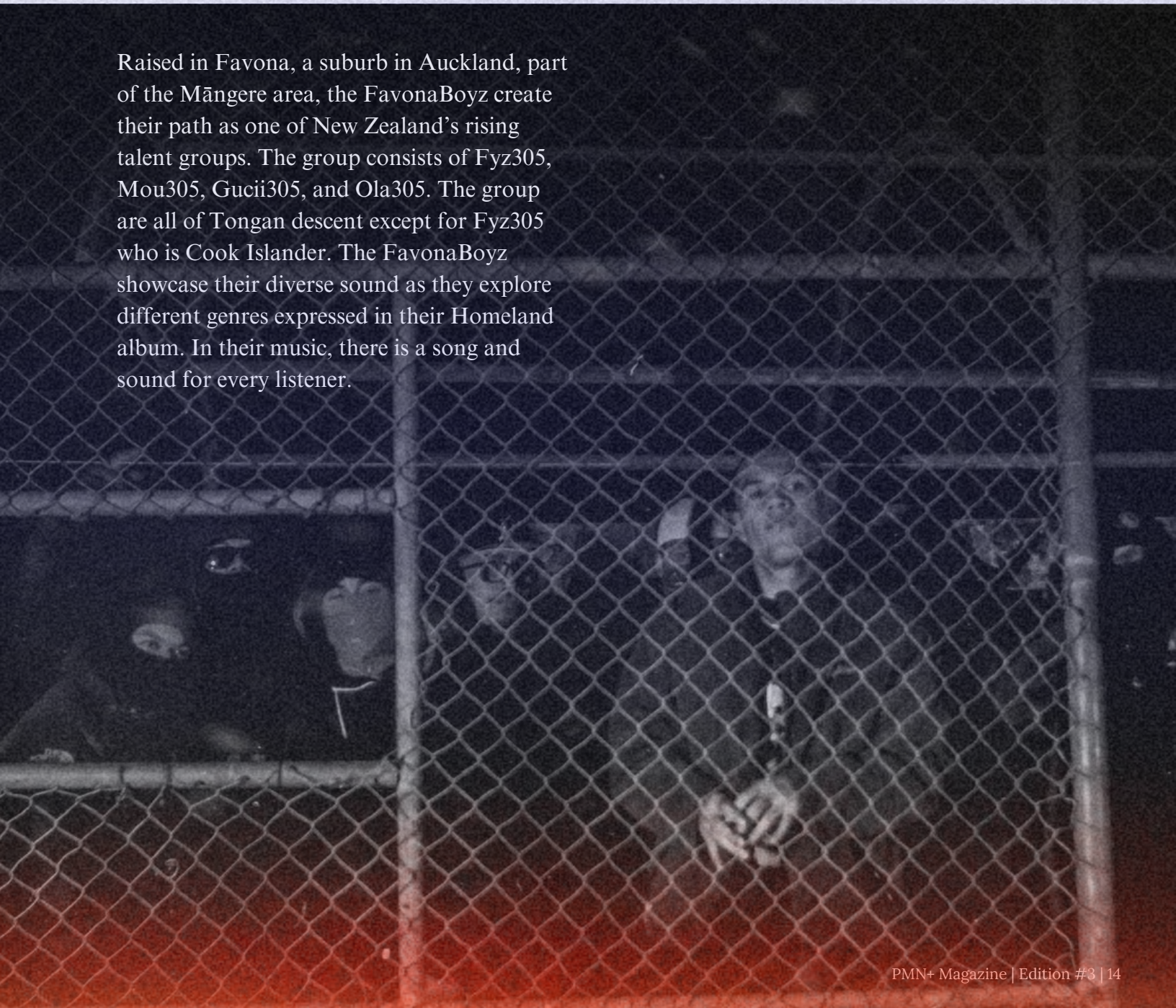
-@project.thisisourhome | Saia, Junior, Sione, Poni & Nate

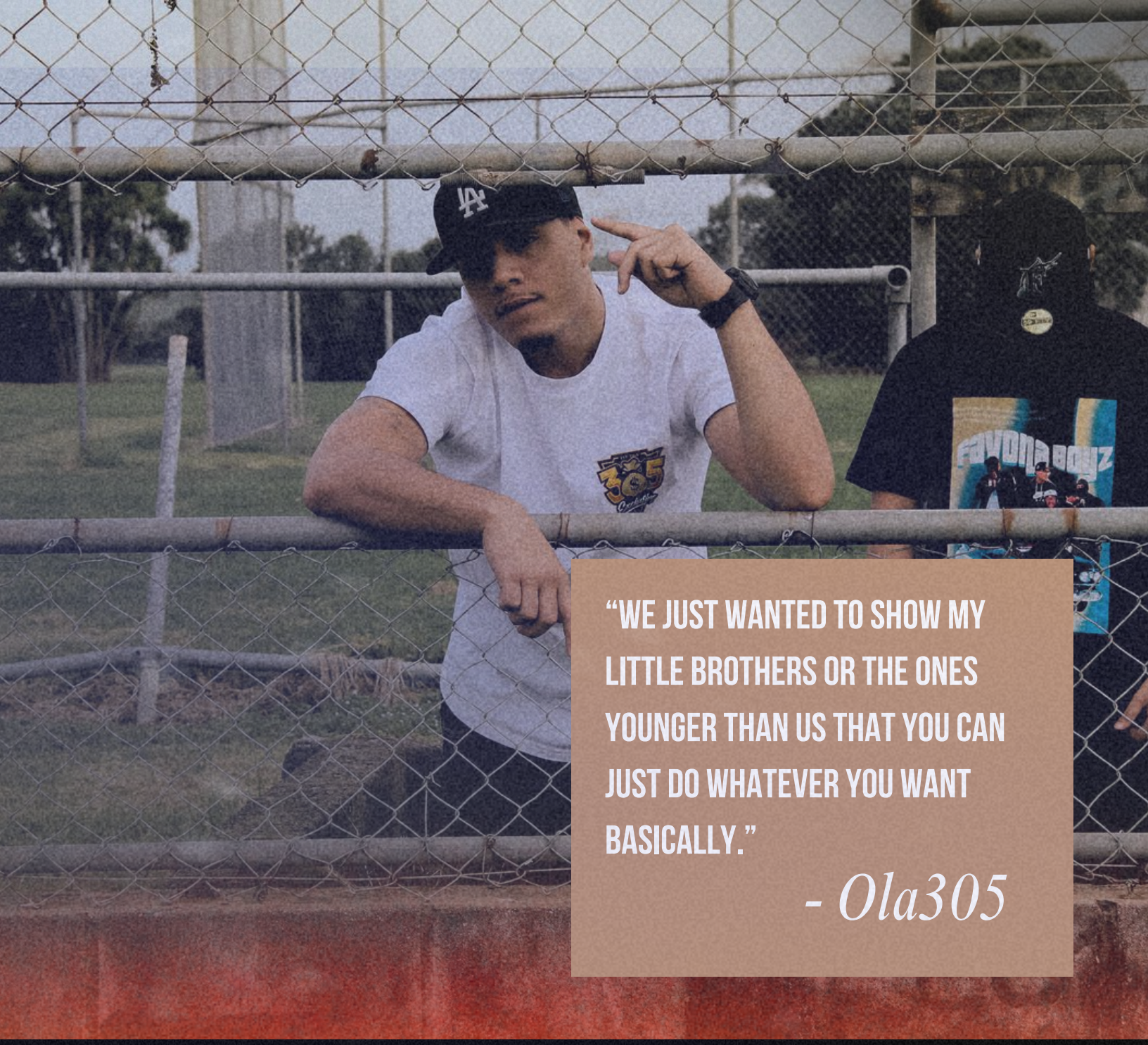


RISING STARS OF SOUTH AUCKLAND:
MEET FAVONA BOYZ

BY KEILANI MAYO

Raised in Favona, a suburb in Auckland, part of the Māngere area, the FavonaBoyz create their path as one of New Zealand's rising talent groups. The group consists of Fyz305, Mou305, Gucii305, and Ola305. The group are all of Tongan descent except for Fyz305 who is Cook Islander. The FavonaBoyz showcase their diverse sound as they explore different genres expressed in their Homeland album. In their music, there is a song and sound for every listener.





> "WE JUST WANTED TO SHOW MY LITTLE BROTHERS OR THE ONES YOUNGER THAN US THAT YOU CAN JUST DO WHATEVER YOU WANT BASICALLY."
>
> *- Ola305*

We were able to speak to FavonaBoyz member, Ola305, and he gave us a deep dive on the origins of FavonaBoyz and where they look forward to going in the future. The group formed later on in life, but the boys all grew up together in primary school and have known each other for a little over a decade. Each member of the group grew up wanting to be different things, but they didn't have anyone to look up to showing them how to pursue their dreams so they paved their own way.

In paving their own path, Ola305 was the first one to start rapping and everyone else followed suit combining their own individuality and meshing it all together to create their own unique sound. Their most recent release is All I Need which samples Pualena by Josh Tatofi, and expresses what the reality is of liking a girl. Fyz305 and Ola305 were the main features on the song blending their gifts of singing and rapping.

On their way to breaking their own threshold to share their voice in the music space, they hope to one day perform at stadiums, all while continuing to have fun and stay true to who they are.

"I just want to see us having fun and making songs because music really brought us to each other, see new places, and open doors to meet new people."

- Ola305

Finding music inspirations from every genre and artists all across the world, they were connected with Mr. Musik from Cutthroat Mode. We quickly learned they were also closely related to the FavonaBoyz despite being separated from the Pacific Ocean. With Cutthroat Mode being veterans in the Polynesian rap space, we asked Mr. Musik, 1/3 of Cutthroat Mode to share his thoughts on New Zealand's fresh music boy group.

"They're actually my first cousins so it's pretty cool to see our family across the world pursue the same path as us in the states. Their chemistry is unmatched. You can tell these boys live what they rap about. Different textures of creativity are definitely displayed beautifully within the group. I've had the pleasure of hearing some unreleased music and trust me when I say they have so much more in store for the near future.
If they continue to lock in on their craft, I can see them engraving their footprints in this market before this year ends. 305 to the world."

- Mr. Musik

Cutthroat Mode and FavonaBoyz at Homelands Music Festival in Aotearoa.

With new music on the rise, the blessing from Cutthroat Mode, we are excited to see the journey of Aotearoa's newest boy group.





‘WANT TO’ ACHIEVES OVER 20 MILLION STREAMS!

BY QUEENIE TAUA’A

Do you know that song that goes like, "two shots of you and me make this party for two, I really wanna see you as my future boo?" Well, that song is called "Want To" by Victor J Sefo featuring Josh Wawa. And guess what? Recently, Victor J Sefo happily shared on social media that this track has just hit 20 million streams worldwide. On his Instagram story, he expressed, "Thank you to everyone who played this song. Everyday I'm working debut album. It’s coming. Promise." Released in 2020, four years ago, this song continues to be played daily to this day for many listeners. We congratulate both Victor J Sefo and Josh Wawa on this incredible milestone in their music careers!

UA TAUNU'U

THE ARRIVAL OF SUCCESS WITH TEUILEALEALOFA ROSE-ANNA SAITUMUA TAFAOIALII

BY QUEENIE TAUA'A



AT JUST 25 YEARS OLD, THE DAUGHTER OF THE PACIFIC AND SAMOA HAS ACHIEVED THE REMARKABLE MILESTONE OF EARNING TWO DOCTORAL DEGREES.

At just 25 years old, Teuilealealofa Rose-Anna Saitumua Tafaoialii has achieved an extraordinary academic milestone, earning two doctorate degrees. Born and raised in Magna, Utah, she is the daughter of Rev. Elder Saitumua and Rosa Tafaoialii, and a proud full-blooded Samoan. Her roots trace back to the villages of Vaito'omuli, Palauli Savaii; Lalomanu, Aleipata; Fasito'o-Uta; Fasito'o-Tai; and Vatia, American Samoa.

Growing up, Teuilealealofa's parents, both pastors, prioritized education and church, instilling in her a love for learning. Despite limited resources, she attended private schools throughout her life, starting with Good Shepherd Lutheran School for preschool and kindergarten, then St. Francis Xavier School, where she graduated as valedictorian, and later, Judge Memorial Catholic High School, where she excelled in volleyball, earning all-state honors and serving as team captain.

Her academic journey continued at York University, where she earned scholarships for both volleyball and academics, graduating with double Bachelor of Science degrees in Accounting and Criminal Justice. She then pursued a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis on Forensic Accounting and Tax Law at Westminster University, completing the program in just a year and a half at the age of 22.





Motivated to further her education, Teuilealealofa applied to multiple PhD programs and was accepted to all, including her dream school, the University of Washington. There, she achieved not one, but two PhDs: a Doctor of Accounting and a Doctor of Economics. Her thesis, titled “Ua Taunu’u,” reflects her passion for both fields and the connection between them.

Teuilealealofa attributes her success to her parents' sacrifices and their unwavering support. As the youngest and only girl in her family, she developed a deep appreciation for learning, grounded in her Samoan culture and Christian faith. Her father’s motto, "always finish what you’ve started and do things to the best of your ability," guided her throughout her academic journey.

Despite the challenges she faced in a predominantly white, male-dominated field, Teuilealealofa persevered. She overcame imposter syndrome by reminding herself of her hard work and dedication. She believes her achievements represent a win for Pasifika people, demonstrating that Samoans are more than just athletes or entertainers; they are scholars, capable of excelling in any field.



As an active member of her community, Teuilealealofa hopes to inspire young Samoans to value education and recognize that being educated is not only important but also "cool." She encourages others to excel in their chosen fields and embrace their unique paths, knowing they belong in any room they enter.

"Amaris Leiataua, a Samoan lawyer; Talia Thompson, a Samoan film director: Vaoesea Leota, a Samoan media operator for the WNBA; Courtney Mesi, a Samoan choreographer for the live Moana movie; Maruseana Sititi, a Samoan model— these are a few who have excelled in professions most never seek to look for us as Pasifika people, but I do want them to get their flowers because some little girl needs that representation to know she too can do it. I hope we strive to be more than a statistic, and with God at the forefront of our lives we fulfill our parent's dreams, let alone our own!"

Teuilealealofa's journey continues as she prepares to teach Tax Law to college students while working at one of the top three tax firms in the world. She also serves as the Co-chairman for the C.C.C.S. ekalesia aoao tupulaga talavou, emphasizing the importance of service (tautua) to her family and community. Her aspirations include using her thesis to impact fields of study and inspiring future generations.

Teuilealealofa's story is a testament to resilience, dedication, and the power of education. She is part of a monumental year for Samoan women, and her achievements stand as an inspiration to all.

Congratulations to Teu for this remarkable achievement! We wish her continued inspiration and success throughout her journey! Cheehoo!





"DON'T LET MONEY OR HOW FAR YOUR SCHOOL IS DETER YOU FROM PURSUING A DEGREE. THERE IS ALWAYS HELP, YOU JUST HAVE TO ASK FOR IT AND HOME WILL ALWAYS BE THERE- SO GO FOR IT. ALSO, NETWORK. MEET NEW PEOPLE, FIND MENTORS, SEEK INDIVIDUALS WHO INSPIRE YOU AND ASK QUESTIONS. AT THE END OF THE DAY, YOU ARE IN CHARGE OF YOUR OWN SUCCESS, SO SEIZE EVERY MOMENT. LAST BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, KEEP GOD FIRST IN YOUR LIFE AND LOVE YOUR PARENTS!"

-TEUILEALEALOFA ROSE-ANNA SAITUMUA TAFAOIALII

CHAMPIONING MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH - TETI'S CLUB

BY QUEENIE TAUA'A

WE SAT DOWN WITH MASINI MATAUTIA, A PROUD SAMOAN AND ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF TETI'S CLUB. HE OUTLINED THE CLUB'S ORIGIN, MISSION, VISION AND A SPECIAL CULTURAL EVENT THEY HOSTED FOR UFC LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION ALEX PEREIRA.

Masini spent about ten years immersed in the world of DJing. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, shutting down gigs, festivals, and events, he paused his DJ career for a year and a half. Once events resumed, he transitioned to managing logistics for festivals, driven by his passion for giving back. Masini emphasized that community is at the heart of his efforts, fueled by his deep commitment to service.

This passion for community led to the founding of Teti's Club three years ago. Based in Brisbane, Australia, this non-profit organization is dedicated to creating a safe space for Pasifika and Māori men to connect, support, and inspire each other through meaningful conversations, stories, and experiences. Teti's Club was established by around ten men, including Masini and his older brother Carlos. The idea originated from a difficult conversation Masini had with a sibling facing personal issues. He noted that men, especially within the Samoan culture, aren't often taught how to cope with emotions, and speaking up can be intimidating due to the fear of reprimand.

Within their group, they faced health challenges like high cholesterol and obesity, prompting them to start a six-week gym challenge early on.

"If we have better men in our community, we can have better homes for our families."

This initiative fostered accountability and opened up deeper conversations about personal struggles. They had young fathers and men lacking the experiences of the older members, learning from each other about balancing fatherhood, work, and personal well-being.

The name "Teti," meaning dad in Tongan, reflects their focus on the journey of personal growth and support. He shared that for our people, it's all about the journey. They seek a space of comfort and non-judgment, where they feel like brothers. Masini emphasized that one of the biggest issues with mental health is the lack of trustworthy people to confide in. He learned that many men in our Pacific community are quick to listen to respond rather than to truly understand. He discovered that most men simply want to offload their burdens and that 90% of the time, they just need someone to have a conversation with. They aim to be of service and help change the social norms for our people.

Looking ahead, Teti's Club envisions organizing more conferences and establishing a hub where men can receive counseling, find employment, and seek support. Masini shared his gratitude for the opportunity to serve and his belief in God's faithfulness. For Teti's Club, helping even one person makes their efforts worthwhile. They aspire to create a lasting legacy, ensuring their children understand and continue their mission of supporting and empowering men within their community.

In mid-June, Teti's Club partnered with Tap In Pasifika, a cultural and arts organization based in Logan, Brisbane, led by Li'aifaiva, a skilled tufuga. This collaboration was facilitated by Masini, who received the opportunity through his good friends Maxwell and Chris, in honor of Men's Mental Health Week.

Masini, seizing the chance, approached Li'aifaiva, a family member and the founder of Tap In Pasifika, recognizing the event's significance. "This opportunity," Masini reflected, "was truly a gift." He appreciated Chris's intention to support Men's Mental Health Week, feeling aligned with the event's purpose.

Masini orchestrated a culturally rich experience for Alex Pereira, the current UFC Light Heavyweight Champion and former UFC Middleweight Champion.

The event featured an Ava ceremony and traditional Samoan dances, including the siva, where Pereira actively participated alongside members of the Mr Mr Siva Dance Group. Ropeta, wife of Li'aifaiva, performed a taualuga, a traditional Samoan dance, adding to the cultural immersion. Notably, a special highlight was when Li'aifaiva personally tattooed Pereira's trainer using an 'au, a traditional Samoan tattooing tool, creating a memorable and significant moment during the event.

Reflecting on Pereira's presence, Masini praised his humility and eagerness to embrace Samoan culture, particularly his engagement in the siva dances. Pereira's participation highlighted his respect for his heritage and willingness to learn from others. The event not only promoted cultural exchange but also honored the community, which was the biggest reason of putting this on. Twenty local Pasifika business owners and leaders, including chaplains and champions in their fields, were recognized for their contributions. Masini explained,

"We wanted to celebrate these hardworking individuals who often don't receive the recognition they deserve."

Masini emphasized the importance of checking in on others, even those who appear strong. He acknowledged Enchiro Decor for event styling and Uncle Sam's Catering, founded by Masini's father in 2002 as Brisbane's first Polynesian takeaway, for catering the event.

For more on this event and Teti's Club, visit @tetis.club, @tapin_pasifika, & @liaifaiva on social media.



JUST ICYMI! CHECK IT OUT!



VIDEO CREDIT: @NOORFXS











ZURIEL TAUA'A

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH DANCE AND PERFORMING ARTS

FEATURING SILIA MATELAU

BY KEILANI MAYO







Island Breeze is an on the road performing arts team, sharing stories through songs, dances and chants of the Pacific Islands and other nations to introduce people to God. Island Breeze travels and performs everywhere they feel led to go from doing presentations in professional settings to school assemblies to church services, festivals, and even retirement homes. Based in Kansas City, Missouri, in the United States, Island Breeze was founded in Samoa in 1979. Island Breeze is an extension from the ministry Youth With A Mission (YWAM).

We were able to have a chat with Island Breeze member/dancer, Silia Matelau of Tongan descent, and dive deeper into her experience with Island Breeze.

Island Breeze is composed of a team with different backgrounds and descents, in which they get to travel all around the world to help be a beacon of light and hope to those in attendance. After a 40 year hiatus of performing in the Pacific Islands, Island Breeze's team decided it was time to go back home.

In your words what is Island Breeze?

"So many things to Island Breeze, but a big part about Island Breeze is restoring. Whether it's Island culture or any culture - it's been twisted over time and we're going in with what we do, trying to bring that restoration - or sharing with our Polynesian dances we are bringing back the Beauty and the Dignity of our culture because it has been twisted and over sexualized over the years…"

-SILIA MATELAU

Being Tongan, Matelau shares how having a platform to perform in front of other Pacific Islanders and travel all across the Pacific, she was able to witness that restoration, healing, and unity her Aunty Olepa and Uncle Rudy, leaders of Island Breeze IWT (International World Tour), instills in the team.













What was the most notable experience you've had so far?

Matelau's favorite experience so far has been traveling to American Samoa where she met a young Fijian girl who made an impact on her. Matelau reveals with us the lasting impact COVID has had on American Samoa and how the rise of drugs and suicide rates increased post pandemic. "***Uncle Rudy says our main message everywhere we go is we're called to reach the lost and we don't ignore the furthest. We visited the furthest Village on the island and I think we drove five hours across the island and met the people of the village - no one usually goes that far especially if it's like a performing group…"***

In American Samoa, her and the Island Breeze team witnessed the normalcy of drug raids and suicide upon the people at such a young age. Upon meeting the young Fijian girl, Matelau felt led to speak to her one night, and in doing so Matelau was able to relate to her with a similar testimony. Both Matelau and the Fjian girl experienced similar stories of losing a twin sister at a very young age, and with the passing of their sibling, it brought a lot of internal shame and guilt upon them. The young girl even considered death upon herself too, but she was pulled back by a force and gentle whisper saying "I don't want you to die" which Matelau shared that encounter can only be the power of Jesus saving her. Matelau expressed her own struggles with suicide and how God met her and saved her as well. Now, she is able to testify of the Goodness of God saving her through the darkest times, so she can live to express the life God intends for us to have. The young girl and Matelau shared their testimonies, which then led to freedom and restoration of healing through the power of the Gospel and love of Jesus.

Island Breeze, although it is composed of many different ethnicities and nationalities, every member represents themselves and where they come from. Through production and performances, everyone involved is all about every culture being represented with dignity, authenticity, and purpose! At an event, Silia recalled a time where a youth pastor said *"I want you to see that most of us here aren't even from these islands, but we can do this together, we're one in the body of Christ."* Through the honesty and authenticity of representation Island Breeze has on their team, they're able to be a voice and a beacon of hope to those who are watching and seeking for it. It doesn't matter what island we are from, or if we are mixed, or grew up in the diaspora, we are all connected through our ancestry, the ocean, and most importantly one in the body of Christ.



Island Breeze Missouri

Island Breeze is a non-profit ministry & each member raises their own funds to keep going. If anyone would feel led to support Silia in Island Breeze here's a link to do so:

Support Silia Matelau

To Learn More About Island Breeze or Apply





FROM D2D SALES TO SHORT TERM RENTAL KING

THE JOURNEY OF HAILAME KINIKINI

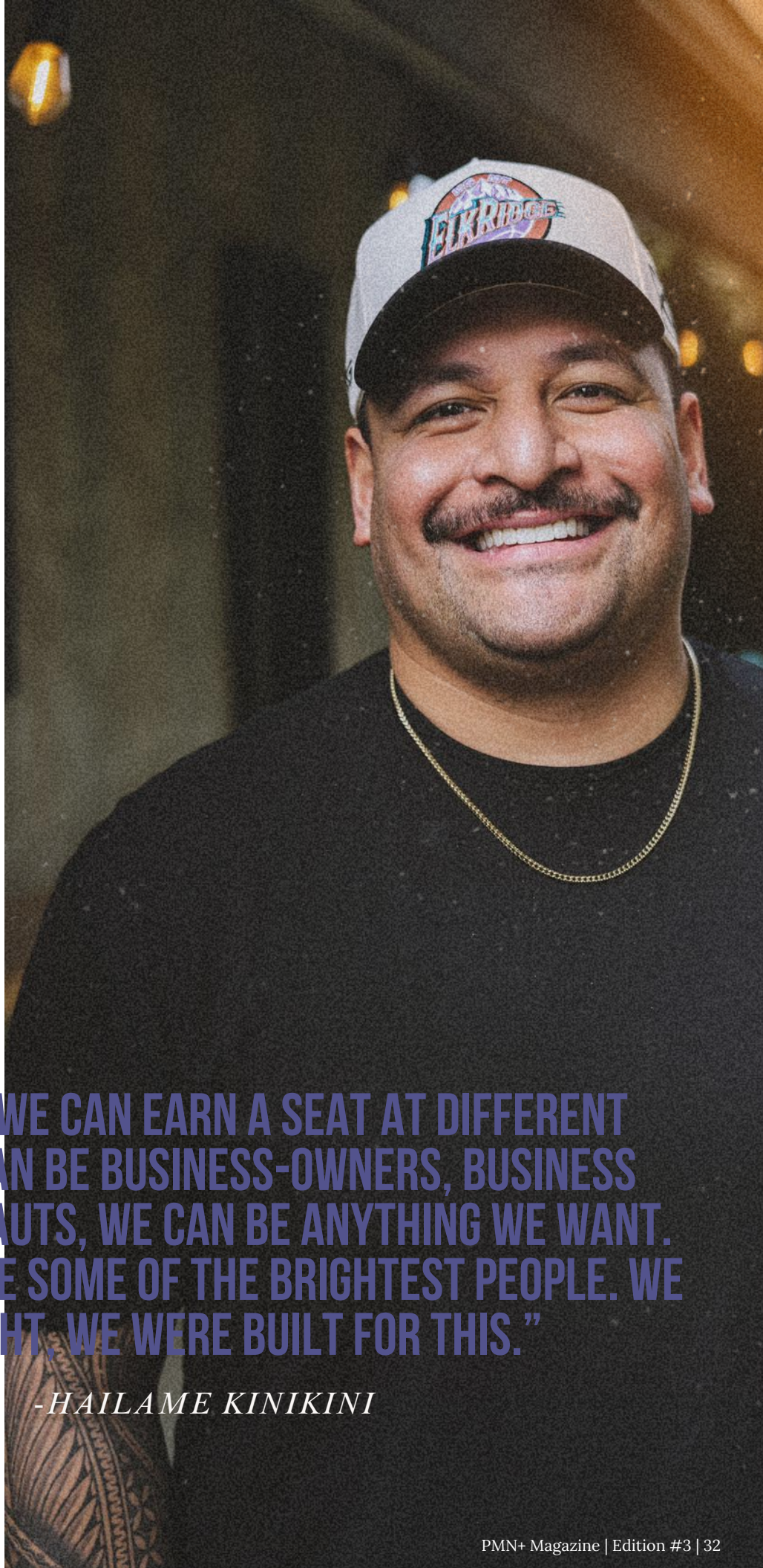
BY QUEENIE TAUA'A

FOUNDER/CEO
ELK RIDGE MANAGEMENT
@hailamek

Hailame Kinikini grew up in a family of ten, including his seven siblings and parents, who were both full Tongan, with grandparents hailing directly from the islands. As the second oldest, Hailame experienced a childhood defined by resilience and adaptability. His father, one of the first full Tongans to earn an MD in the U.S., originally worked in social work, a field that offered little financial stability. Driven by the desire to provide more for his family, he made the bold decision to return to school and pursue medicine, eventually becoming a psychiatrist. This journey was not without sacrifice. Hailame's family often lived in cramped conditions, sharing small spaces, while his father hustled through medical school. With his mother working for Delta, they traveled frequently, following his father's medical rotations across states, which further enriched Hailame's upbringing.

During his teenage years in Bakersfield, California, Hailame attended high school, served an LDS mission after graduating in Ghana, and returned home to a family transformed by his father's completed residency. The experience in Ghana was life-changing, instilling in him a profound appreciation for opportunities back home in America. Upon returning, his family had moved to Elk Ridge, Utah—a significant culture shock but also a blessing, as it was here he met his wife next door. This move inspired the name of his real estate company, Elk Ridge Management. Hailame embraced his college years, playing football at Snow College, later attended Weber State, where he also served as Diversity VP in student government. Later, his wife completed her degree, and unexpectedly, they became pregnant with their first child during her junior year of volleyball. Though she had graduated, she still had one senior year left to play but chose not to continue. He knew he had to provide for their growing family. Balancing responsibilities, he sold security systems, a venture that surprisingly led him to reevaluate his initial goal of becoming a doctor.

As Hailame excelled in sales, earning significant income, he faced a pivotal decision: continue on the medical path or dive into entrepreneurship. Choosing the latter, he dropped out of college and embraced door-to-door sales full-time, which honed his skill set. This transition eventually led him to Houston, where he managed a sales team and launched his real estate venture. In 2018, after buying his first property, he thought about moving again but didn't want the hassle of moving furniture. The idea of turning it into an Airbnb sparked his interest, igniting a passion for real estate. By 2020, with a leap of faith and limited savings, he officially started Elk Ridge Management. The company flourished, growing to over 150 properties and generating millions in revenue. Reflecting on his journey, Hailame emphasizes the importance of investing in oneself and leveraging one's unique background. He urges the Pacific Islander community to recognize their potential beyond traditional paths, embracing entrepreneurship and investing in education. His vision is to inspire others to realize that greatness is within reach, rooted in their heritage and driven by a spirit of exploration and innovation just like our ancestors.



"WE BELONG, WE CAN EARN A SEAT AT DIFFERENT TABLES, WE CAN BE BUSINESS-OWNERS, BUSINESS GURUS, ASTRONAUTS, WE CAN BE ANYTHING WE WANT. POLYNESIANS ARE SOME OF THE BRIGHTEST PEOPLE. WE ARE BRIGHT, WE WERE BUILT FOR THIS."

-HAILAME KINIKINI

HAILAME'S TOP 3 SONGS IN HIS PASIFIKA PLAYLIST

1. 

GOOD DAY
SPAWNBREEZIE

2. 

PUA KIELE
JOSH TATOFI

3. 

LET'S DO IT AGAIN
J BOOG

THIS OR THAT WITH HAILAME

DEVELOPING NEW LAND

HOMES WITH A MOUNTAIN VIEW

LU PULU

RUGBY

HIP-HOP

RESTORING HISTORIC PROPERTIES

OCEANFRONT PROPERTIES

'OTA IKA

FOOTBALL

R&B

RIDING BIG WAVES... WRITING SAMOAN HISTORY

BY KEILANI MAYO

FIRST FEMALE REPRESENTING AMERICAN SAMOA QUALIFYING FOR THE WORLD SURF LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP TOUR IN LONGBOARDING



SIVE MATA'UTIA-JARRARD

WSL

Not only is she Miss Samoa Hawaii 2022-2023, a year later Sivelia Mata'utia - Jarrard creates HERstory by becoming the first female representing American Samoa qualifying for the World Surf League Championship Tour in Longboarding. In the professional surfing community, qualifying for the World Surf League Championship Tour is very competitive and not easy to accomplish. Jarrad qualified at the Local Motion Surf Into Summer At Home In The Hawaiian Islands Longboard competition at the pristine Ala Moana Bowls.

From upon qualifying for the championship tour, Jarrard's next goal is to place well and move up in rankings in the upcoming series so she can can be in the running for a world title! With this accomplishment being a stepping stone into her professional surfing career,

Sive joins her older sister Lucy Jarrard in making currents within the surfing community by representing American Samoa in a sport originated in the Polynesian islands.

A few years ago in 2021, older sister Lucy Mata'utia - Jarrard, became the first Samoan female surfer to represent American Samoa in the International Surfing Association, and was a contender for the 2021 Summer Olympics and competed in the trials for this summer's 2024 Olympics.

Coming from a water family and always living near the water, the Mata'utia - Jarrard sister surfers were raised in Carlsbad, California and currently reside in Oahu, Hawaii. They continue to pay homage to their roots and where they come from, channeling their heritage when they are competing.



WHAT MAKES SURFING SPECIAL AS A POLYNESIAN?

"(Surfing)It's super special because we have an undeniable connection to the ocean and that's what we are – we are ocean people, we are navigators! The ocean was our first home and to go back and share that connection with the ocean is everything! The most important thing is to be in the water and to share the connection with our culture and to keep it going so it is never lost."





ANY ADVICE FOR ANY YOUNG ATHLETES OR ASPIRING SURFERS?

"You can keep dreaming and having all these thoughts, but your dream will never become reality if you keep dreaming, you actually have to do it and make it happen! I have a list and these are my goals - I'm just trying to set goals and not chase dreams. I try to chase my goals!"





WWE

W.W.E. HALL OF FAMER AND FATHER OF ROMAN REIGNS, PASSES AT 79

BY QUEENIE TAUA'A

Sika Anoa'i, a revered figure in professional wrestling and a member of the legendary Anoa'i family, passed away on Tuesday June 25, 2024 at the age of 79, as announced by his nephew Jahrus Anoa'i.

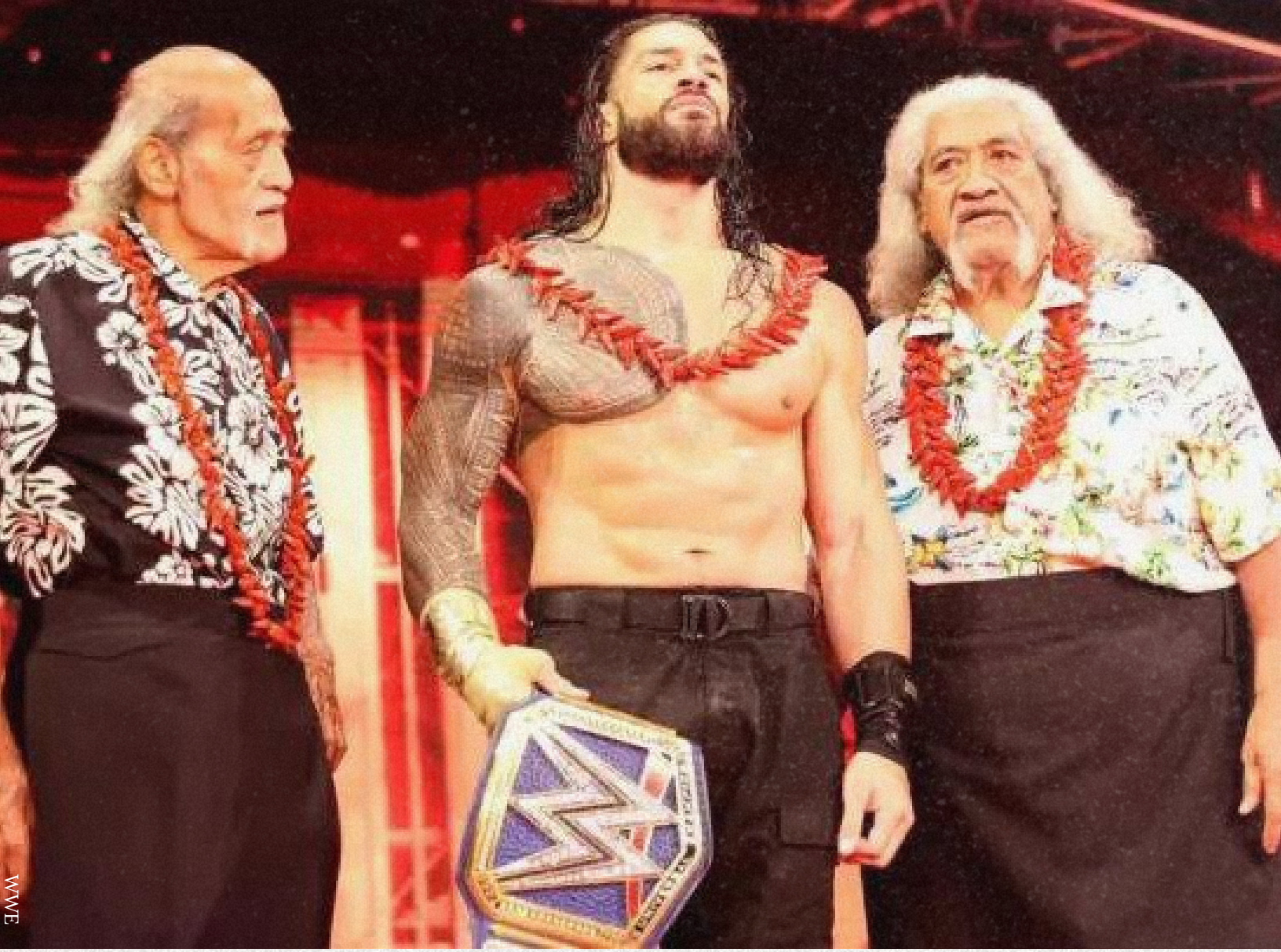
Jahrus shared the news on Instagram, expressing deep sorrow: "It is with profound sadness that I share the news of the passing of Former Hall of Famer, Polaivao Leati Sika Anoa'i," Jahrus posted on Instagram Tuesday. "He passed away peacefully on June 25th. Sika was a celebrated figure whose contributions and legacy have left an indelible mark. His memory will live on through his achievements and the many lives he touched."

Sika, known professionally as part of The Wild Samoans alongside his brother Afa, rose to prominence in the late 1970s. Trained by their uncle Peter Maivia and cousin Rocky Johnson, the duo entered the WWE (then WWF) in 1979, quickly becoming a dominant force.

They secured their first World Tag Team Championship in April 1980, reclaiming it later that year after a four-month reign. They left the WWE in 1980 but returned in 1983, winning the title for a third time. Beyond his in-ring career, Sika participated in the WrestleMania 4 battle royal in 1988 before retiring from active competition in the late 1980s. He transitioned into a respected trainer, influencing numerous wrestling stars including Yokozuna, Rikishi, and Batista over the decades.

Sika Anoa'i was a proud father to Matthew and Joe. Matthew, known as Rosey, wrestled in WWE before his passing in 2017. Joe Anoa'i, under the ring name Roman Reigns, has achieved immense success in WWE since his debut in 2012, including a record-setting reign as Undisputed WWE Universal Champion.

Inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame in 2007, Sika Anoa'i last appeared in WWE in 2020, celebrating his son Roman Reigns' victory at Hell in a Cell alongside his brother Afa. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Sika Anoa'i's loved ones. His legacy, marked by his family's continued impact on WWE and beyond, will endure for generations to come.



WWE

Roman Reigns
@WWERomanReigns

My family and I thank everyone for the outpouring of support in the name of my father, Pola'ivao Leati Sika Anoa'i, who will forever be remembered as one half of The Wild Samoans tag team. My father had a profound impact on my entire family and we are forever grateful for the foundation he built for us. There's no way to fill the void left by his passing but my sisters and I will do our best to represent him and his legacy.

Rest in Power, Dad. We love you.



2024 NBA DRAFT:

PASIFIKA REPRESENTATION IN THE 2024 NBA DRAFT CLASS

BY QUEENIE TAUA'A

Exciting news for Pasifika athletes in the NBA! Not just one, but two players are making waves! First, Rob was drafted early in the 2024 NBA Draft, and now Tolu Smith III has signed with the Detroit Pistons! It's a rare and special achievement to see athletes of Pasifika descent in the NBA, and having two now is incredible!



Two of our Tama Samoa have reached the NBA! Rob Dillingham was chosen early in the 2024 NBA Draft—an incredible milestone we'll never forget.

The draft, held at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, NY at the end of June, was particularly special as Rob's name was called as the 8th overall pick, one of our very own. Initially picked by the San Antonio Spurs, Rob was swiftly traded to the Minnesota Timberwolves. NBA insider Adrian Wojnarowski reported that the Wolves traded a 2031 unprotected first-round pick and a protected 2030 pick swap to acquire Dillingham.

Rob Dillingham, a standout guard from Kentucky, was part of Coach John Calipari's final team at Kentucky and was also a key member of the country's top-ranked recruiting class in 2023. At just 19 years old, Robert Deon Potasi Dillingham has reached this remarkable milestone. Known for his speed and agility on the court, Rob has earned the nickname "shifty" and proudly honors his Samoan heritage. He is the son of Donald Dillingham and Valaaulia Ta'ilele and has three siblings: Fuavea Ta'ilele, Pai Ta'ilele, and Denzel Dillingham.

Rob pays tribute to his Samoan grandparents, Sala Liulamaga and the late Savaii Ta'ilele, who hail from the beautiful Ofu, Manu'a.

We extend our warm wishes to Rob and his family as he embarks on his professional NBA career. This accomplishment holds great significance for our community, and it's wonderful to see the overwhelming support for him. Go Rob!



Mississippi standout and Kahuku's very own Tolu Smith III has signed with the Detroit Pistons! It's incredible to see athletes of Pasifika descent making their mark in the NBA, and now we have two! Tolu, a Kahuku graduate, secured an undrafted free agent deal with the Pistons.

Starting his college career at Western Kentucky and later thriving at Mississippi State, he averaged 15 points and 8.1 rebounds per game as a senior. Coach Chris Jans praised him as a "tireless worker," instrumental in the Bulldogs' consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances in 2023 and 2024, a first since the 2007-08 and 2008-09 seasons.

Despite going undrafted in 2024, the 6'11", 245-pound forward will join the Pistons for the Summer League this July. Congratulations to Tolu and his family—wishing him an outstanding NBA career! Huge congratulations to both Tolu and Rob on their achievements; we can't wait to watch them in the NBA!



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

BY QUEENIE TAUA'A

The Blues have ended their 21-year Super Rugby title drought!

They clinched the championship for the first time in two decades by overwhelming the Chiefs 41-10 at Auckland's Eden Park on June 22, 2024. This victory marked a special moment for Auckland's Blues over Hamilton's Chiefs in claiming the 2024 Super Rugby title. What a moment to savor!

The Blues capped off a stellar season with a 12-0-2 record in the regular season, dominating both the final and semifinal with a combined 55-point margin. This fifth championship win for the Blues breaks the seven-year reign of the Christchurch Crusaders, who had claimed every title from 2017 to 2023 (with no final in 2020 or 2021).

The Blues now firmly hold second place all-time with five Super Rugby titles, while the Crusaders lead with 12 since 1996. Congratulations to the Blues, our Pasifika guys, and the beautiful city of Auckland! The question now is: can they defend their title next year?

BLUES BREAK SUPER RUGBY DROUGHT TO CLAIM 2024 TITLE

FESTPAC 2024

BY QUEENIE TAUA'A



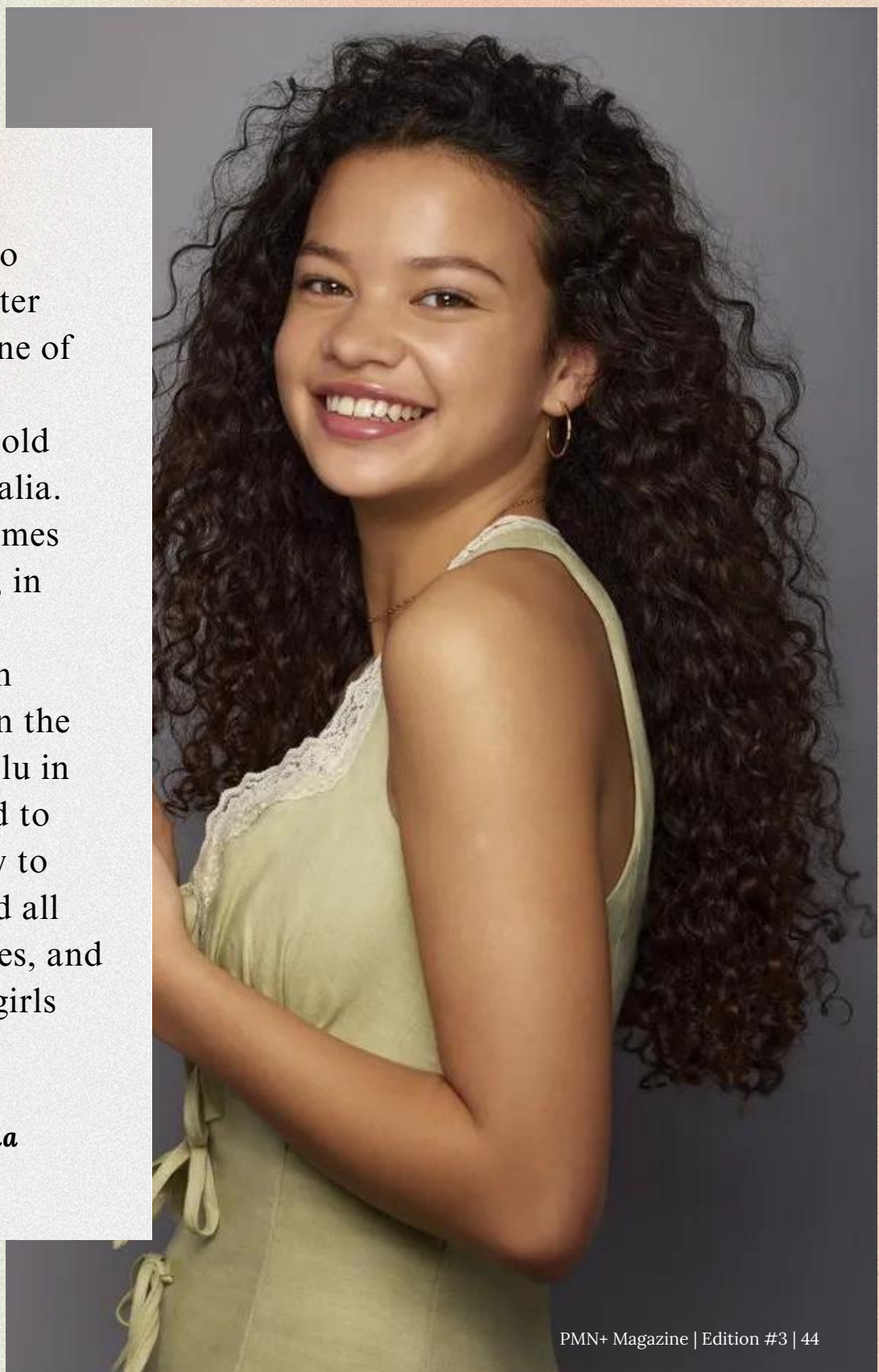
Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture, also known as FESTPAC, the world's largest celebration of indigenous Pacific Islanders, recently took place. This dynamic showcase of arts and culture was launched by the South Pacific Commission (now The Pacific Community - SPC) in 1972 to preserve traditional practices through cultural exchange. The 13th FESTPAC festival was held this year in the beautiful island of Hawai'i, spanning from June 6 to June 16.
Over 2,200 delegates from across the Pacific gathered at the Hawaii Convention Center Festival Village and other venues on Oahu for this 10-day event. It served as a unifying platform for Pasifika, featuring daily cultural performances from various Oceania island groups across stages in Hawaii. a such as cinema and digital art.

FestPAC celebrates Pacific island nations' rich heritage and artistic talents, originating from discussions in the 1970s among Pacific Island nations on the importance of preserving their cultural identities. The event brought together diverse arts including music, dance, chants, and more, highlighting the beauty of the Pacific islands and nations.
The festival concluded with the theme "Ho'oulu Lahui — Regenerating Oceania — 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture, Hawai'i 2024," marking a highly successful two-week gathering. Looking forward, the next FestPac is scheduled for New Caledonia in 2028. Catch up on more via @festpachawaii!

ARRAN ROGERS

DISNEY DISCOVERS CATHERINE LAGA‘AIA TO STAR AS ’MOANA’ IN LIVE-ACTION REMAKE

BY QUEENIE TAUA’A



“I’m really excited to embrace this character because Moana is one of my favorites,” said Laga‘aia, a 17-year-old from Sydney, Australia. “My grandfather comes from Faala, Palauli, in Savai‘i. And my grandmother is from Leulumoega Tuai on the main island of ‘Upolu in Samoa. I’m honored to have an opportunity to celebrate Samoa and all Pacific Island peoples, and to represent young girls who look like me.”

-Catherine Laga‘aia



"This tradition is our mission," as the iconic line from Disney's 'Moana' reminds us, and it resonates deeply in the casting of Catherine Lagaʻaia as Moana in the upcoming live-action adaptation. Alongside Dwayne Johnson returning as Maui, Catherine Lagaʻaia, the Samoan, Sydney, Australia native eagerly steps into the role of Moana.

“I’m really excited to embrace this character because Moana is one of my favorites,” said Lagaʻaia, the 17-year-old from Sydney, Australia. Lagaʻaia and Johnson are joined by John Tui from Auckland, New Zealand, portraying Moana’s father, Chief Tui; Frankie Adams, a Samoan-New Zealand actor, as Moana’s mother, Sina; and Rena Owen from Bay of Islands, New Zealand, playing the revered Gramma Tala.

"The live-action adaptation was announced last April, confirming Johnson’s return as star and producer. "Moana" is scheduled to start filming this summer for its anticipated release on July 10, 2026, under the direction of Thomas Kail (known for "Hamilton" on Broadway and Disney+, "Grease Live," and "We Were the Lucky Ones"). We are thrilled about the Pasifika representation in this highly anticipated film, celebrating our community with an all-Pasifika cast. We eagerly await the day when this cultural celebration comes to life. Best wishes to the cast, crew, and all involved in bringing this project to fruition. As Moana beautifully sings, "My home, my people beside me, and when I think of tomorrow, there we are."



"...the burden of type 2 diabetes in Pacific Island countries has been increasing from 1990 to 2019. Therefore, it is imperative to strengthen disease prevention and control measures in the region."

National Library of Medicine



ARE YOU A PANI POPO GIRL? BECAUSE YOUR SWEETNESS MAKES MY PLAYLIST COMPLETE!

1. 

PANI POPO GIRL
ROSES ON THE MOON

2. 

PARTY
HOUSE OF SHEM

3. 

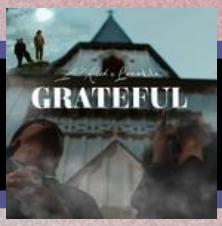
VALENTINE
K'NOVA FT. FIJI

4. 

MY LOVE
IRIE LOVE

5. 

NIGHT NURSE
CUTTHROAT MODE

6. 

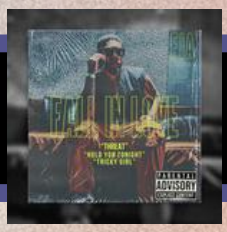
GRATEFUL
LIL RICK FT. LANAKILA

7. 

CATCH THIS VIBE
DATKIDT FT. J GURR & SEEYUH

8. 

LOVE LETTERS
YADHA THE GREAT

9. 

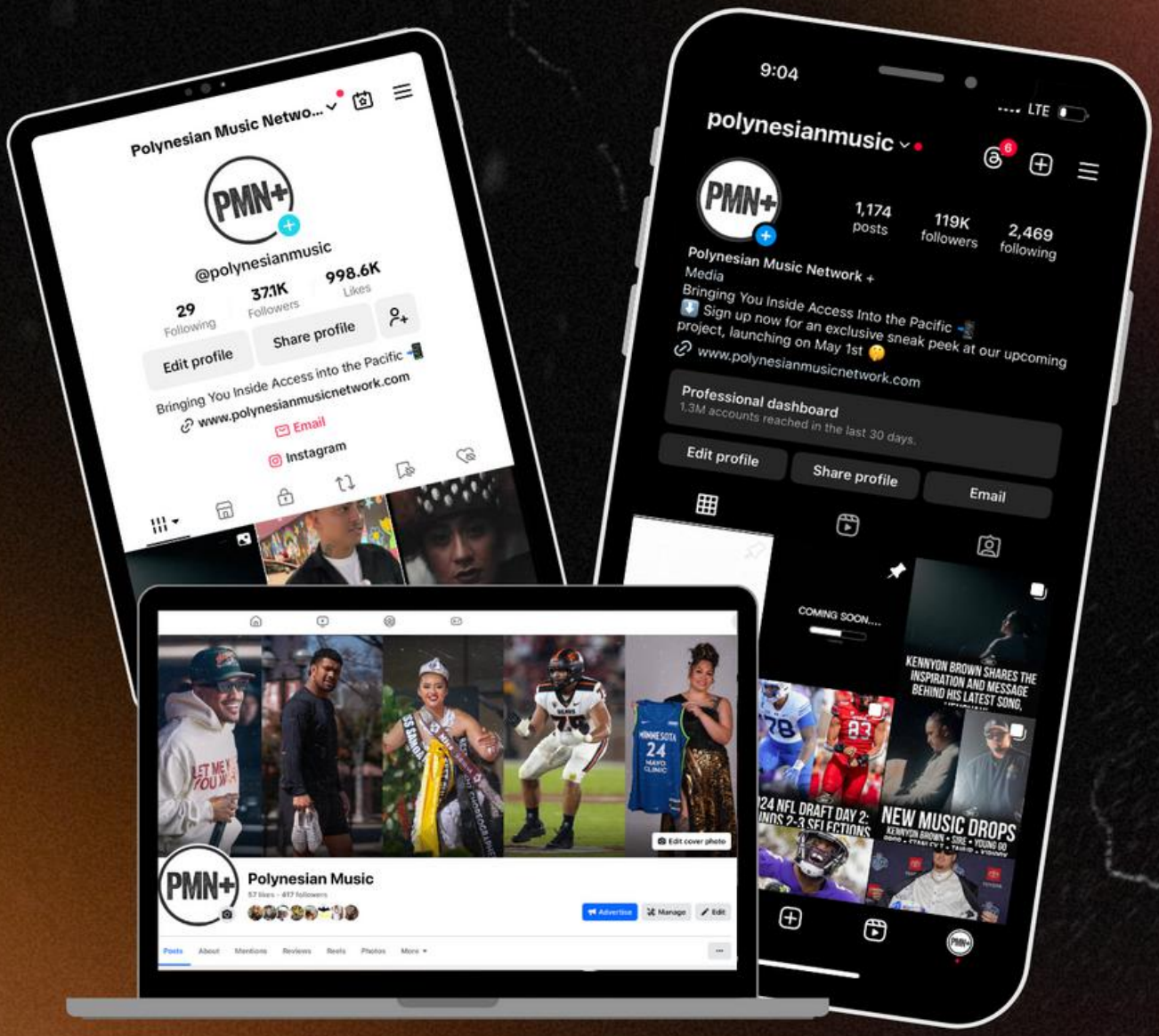
THREAT (FALL IN LOVE)
FIA & THE GREEN

10. 

STAND ON BUSINESS
D-BOY 223 & YFFENDI

Looking to refresh your playlist or revisit some great tracks? Check out our selections for this month's issue! Follow us on Instagram @PolynesianMusic for the latest music drops and features!

THANK YOU!



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

FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS @POLYNESIANMUSIC

ISLAND CITY