

## Production

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## Super Hugh-Man (Auckland, New Zealand)

[SquareSums&Co](#)

1 Mar 2020 - 31 Mar 2021



### **A MAORI BOY'S MUSICAL ABOUT HIS HOLLYWOOD HERO.**

"Super Hugh-Man" is an award-winning\* semi- autobiographical solo show, following the journey of acclaimed Kiwi musical theatre performer Rutene Spooner, influenced by the great Wolverine and Broadway star, Hugh Jackman.

Spooner takes us on his personal journey growing up as a young Maori boy in Gisborne (East coast of the New Zealand North Island) and discovering his hero Hugh Jackman's secret identity. Spooner's journey is presented in the context of his personal obsessions: first with Wolverine's cinematic persona and then Jackman himself, upon learning of Jackman's distinguished stage career as a song and dance man.

As Spooner negotiates his own sometimes difficult path to be a musical theatre performer – from a high school misfit to NASDA alumnus graduating into an unexpected practitioner of musical theatre – we see the profound influence that Hugh plays in his life.

Embracing the qualities that both Hugh Jackman and Wolverine possess helps Spooner get through rough patches of feeling like an outsider and of wanting to fit into a world that he has no blueprint for. He comes to realise that it's OK to be a different kind of man – that he can be strong as well as sensitive, he can haka AND high kick, and he can be fierce AND fabulous.

Directed by NZ theatre veteran Jennifer Ward-Lealand, "Super Hugh-Man" is a shamelessly charming and heartfelt story, intricately weaving together comedy, dance, kapa haka and song into a stunning one-hour world-class musical/cabaret show.

*\* Winner of the "Excellence Award" at the 2017 Auckland Theatre Awards.*

"...Spooner's autobiographical musical is deceptively complex. Honest, uplifting, stirring and hilarious..." –

**THEATREVIEW**

"...fun mix of music and comedy... [with] a lovely message..." – **THEATRESCENES / JAMES WENLEY**

"Haka and High Kicks... a fun, entertaining one-man variety show..." – **PANTOGRAPH PUNCH / JENNIFER MCALISTER**

"...charming, engaging theatre... witty, rousing and just plain fun." – **THEATREVIEW / ROSS MACLEOD**

Rutene Spooner

Rutene Spooner (Original Waiata), with contributions from Te Aihe Butler & Matthew Eller

Jennifer Ward-Lealand (Director), Kate Prior (Dramaturg)

Frith Horan

John Verryt (Set), Amber Molloy (Lighting)

Rutene Spooner

[Cabaret](#), [Comedy](#), [Dance](#), [Drama](#), [Family](#), [Music Theatre](#), [Theatre](#)

Remount required