

27 May 2009

STRANGE RESTING PLACES AT HAWKINS THEATRE

- **Bravery and humanity take many forms**
- **Two night season of acclaimed play**

A play that explores dynamics between soldiers in wartime, *Strange Resting Places*, will feature for a two-night season in July at Papakura's Hawkins Theatre.

Set against the backdrop of World War II, *Strange Resting Places* weaves fiction with history to tell stories inspired by the Maori Battalion in Italy.

Crafted from personal experience and extensive research by writers Paolo Rotondo (*Stickmen*, *Shortland Street* and the smash hit *Little Che*) and Rob Mokaraka (*King and Country*, *Tama Tu*), *Strange Resting Places* shines a light on the three universals that Māori shared with the Italians: family, food and song – not to mention wily cunning, a love of vino and a passion for the ladies.

Performed in Māori, English and Italian, *Strange Resting Places* examines the complex emotional bonds and interactions that of New Zealand's wartime history.

The play is set at the battleground around Monte Cassino in 1944. The Allied advance comes to a grinding halt with the 28th Māori Battalion – as always - in the thick of the fighting.

A young Māori soldier goes out stealing for food. An Italian takes cover in a stable. The two men find themselves trapped in a dangerous face-off, but with Germans just outside their hideout, they realise they will need each other to survive.

Hawkins Theatre manager Graeme Bennett says he has been hoping to secure *Strange Resting Places* for some time.

An Italian-born New Zealander, Paolo is an award-winning actor and writer. A graduate of Philippe Gaulier and John Bolton; actor, writer and director, he has worked in theatre, film and television industry for more than ten years.

Papakura local Rob Mokaraka is of Ngapuhi/Tuhoe descent and has been part of award-winning theatre productions *InSALT* and *Have Car Will Travel* (Bats) for which he won Best Male Newcomer at the 2001 Chapman Tripp awards. Previous works include *Questions* and *Never Never* (Bats) and the NZ Festival hit *King and Country* at Downstage Theatre.



MEDIA RELEASE

Strange Resting Places comes to the Hawkins Theatre as part of Papakura's Matariki celebrations and will be performed on July 1 and 2. Tickets for the performance on July 1 are available through Zonta South Auckland and Drury Rotary. Contact Gwenda Purdy on 09 298 6507. Tickets for the performance on July 2 are available from Papakura Paper Power or from iticket on 361 1000 or www.iticket.co.nz

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