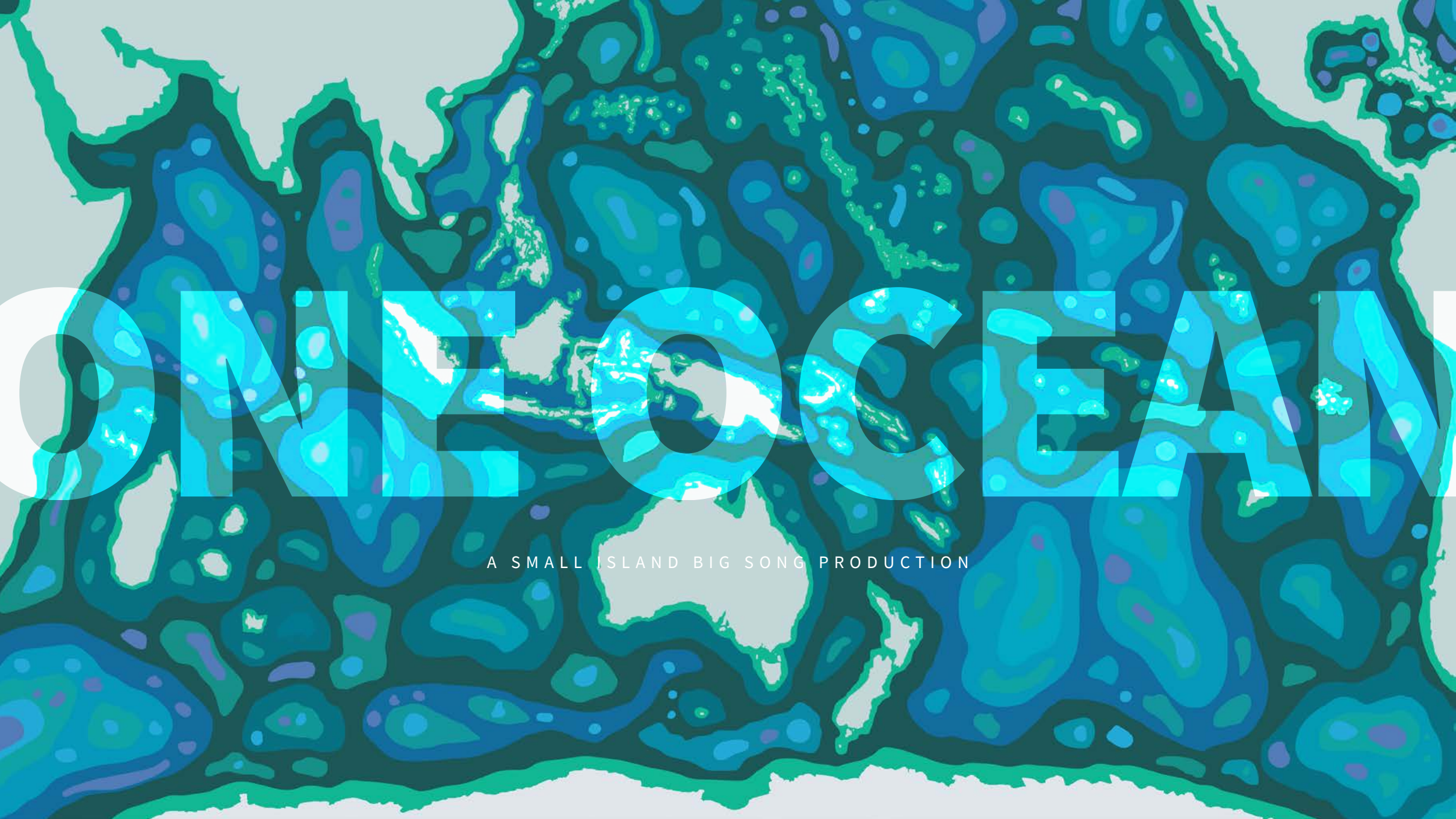




ONE OCEAN

A SMALL ISLAND BIG SONG PRODUCTION

How can we rise to the challenge of our era,
the climate emergency as music & theatre creators ?

OUR STORY

After making a music documentary on the first islands to be declared climate refugees by the United Nations, BaoBao Chen, a Taiwanese theatre producer, and Tim Cole, an Australian filmmaker/music producer with two decades of collaborating with Indigenous artists of Australia & the Pacific, quit their jobs, packed their lives into the back of a pick-up and took to the ocean.

They spent the next three years collaborating with over 100 artists on 16 island nations across the Pacific & the Indian Oceans, musicians who carried the cultural lineage of their islands, in their languages and instruments both shaped over countless generations of living with nature, precious environments now threatened.

These relationships formed the foundations and ongoing inspiration of Small Island Big Song.



Recording with the Yumi Yet Bamboo Band, where rising sea levels are threatening their village in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea.

IMAGE CREDIT: SIBS Archives - Tim Cole

"Album of the week"
Lauren Laverne on BBC Radio 6, UK

"Simply brilliant"
★★★★★ Songlines magazine, UK

*"Beautiful cinematography and incredible music...
one coherent, jaw-dropping piece"*
Billboard, USA

"The most important music documentary you will watch this year"

Beat magazine, AUSTRALIA

"It is the music of the sea"
★★★★★ Sydney Morning Herald, AUSTRALIA

LINK - Project Trailer

WHERE OUR JOURNEY HAS LED SO FAR

2015 – 2018

They journeyed across 16 island nations, beginning a song and then overdubbing onto other songs, all in nature with artists identifying as the traditional custodians.

With sessions taking them to the rim of Kilauea volcano in Hawai'i at dawn to record with Kekuhi, deep into the mangroves of Bougainville with Kowoya, sailing for three days down the west coast of Madagascar to collaborate with the last of the world's sea nomads the Vezo and amongst the last strand of native forest as Horomona Horo & Waimihi Hotere respond to the calls of Aotearoa's ancient natural heritage.

Recording in the field nature was another songwriter, uniting their islands in song - An Oceanic Songline.

2018

ALBUM - 'Small Island Big Song'

Winner - Songlines Music Award (UK) for 'Best Asia Pacific album'.

Nominated - IMA Independent Music Awards (US), 'Best Concept Album & Best Music Platform'.

2018 - 2019

WORLD CONCERT TOUR

With 12 artists from Oceania to 13 countries, 59 shows, mostly large music festivals, including **SXSW** (US), **EtnoSur** (Spain), **Førde** (Norway), **Legacy & World Stage Design** (Taiwan).

2019

FILM - 'Small Island Big Song - An Oceanic Songline'

Screened at 32 international film festivals, broadcast on 4 networks with a theatrical release across 18 Japanese cities.

2020 – 2022

Development of 'Our Island' Theatre Production, Album and Impact Program, all remotely online. (Covid years)

ALBUM - 'Our Island'

Enters the World Music charts at #1

Winner - MUST best 10 albums of 2022

Nominated - Golden Melody Awards (Taiwan) - Best indigenous language album & Album of the year.

2022 – 2024

THEATRE PRODUCTION - 'Our Island' with Impact Program.

Has toured to 42 Performing Arts Centres across the USA (inc' **Stanford, UWA, Penn State, BU & UMASS**) Along with **Italian Capital of Culture** (Italy), **WOMADelaide** (Australia), The Art Center at **NYUAD & COP28** (UAE) and **TIFA** National Concert Hall (Taiwan).

Eight countries, 75 shows, mostly in 800+ seater performing arts centres; large theatres & concert halls, with two to four day Impact Program.

2024 – 2025 - UPCOMING

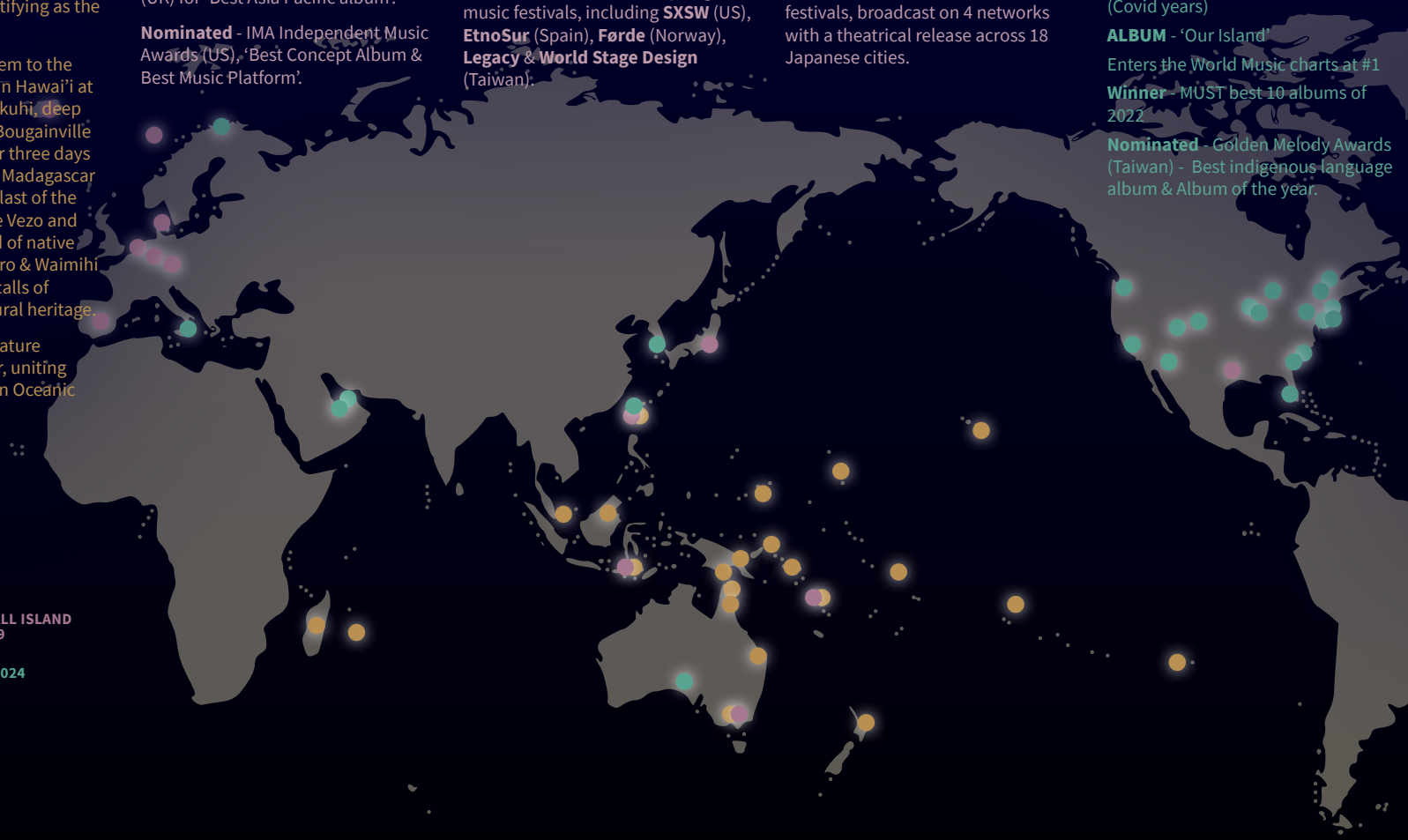
Development of 'ONE OCEAN'; Theatre Production, Soundtrack Album and Impact Program.

PREVIEW 'ONE OCEAN', Holland Festival, June 11th, Muziekgebouw.

2026 -

PREMIERE TOUR - 'ONE OCEAN'. Taking bookings now.

- **FIELD RECORDINGS & FILMING**
- **CONCERT TOUR 'SMALL ISLAND BIG SONG' 2018-2019**
- **CONCERT TOUR 'OUR ISLAND' 2022-2024**



NOW WE RETURN TO THE OCEAN

Over the past decade Small Island Big Song has grown from a couple to an ensemble of seventeen nationalities that has delivered over 100 shows across 21 countries.

A company that now has the resources and agency to envision a bold new production of scale & substance.

ONE OCEAN

Rising to meet the challenge of our era the audience will be enveloped in an epic musical dramaturgy, ever growing as one by one our ensemble unite their traditions of trance and ritual, music & movement, creating an inclusive space where audience and cast together can hold and transform what can't be faced alone.

As ancient beats merge into contemporary trance, the tide rises through a spectacular stage design, both elegant and devastating. On-screen uplifting awe invoking imagery to heart crushing scenes; intimate cinematic testimonies to empowered massed voices all filmed with island communities on their disappearing coastlines.

Then extending our engagement from the stage, we offer a co-curated outreach program sharing island wisdom through food, dance, rhythm and song - and 'inreach' with orchestrated sections in the performance for local guest artists, children's voices and a community choir.

This is an ambitious global collaboration for major venues and festivals.

At this pivotal moment in human history, ONE OCEAN brings together an ensemble of renowned artists from across the oceans. Performing on an extraordinary 'water stage' together they sing of the beauty of their cultures, the eco-systems upon which we depend and the shared existential threat now faced.

Before the written word came, songs held the knowledge, the power.

The songs and dances they perform carry immense power. They are rooted in millennia of Culture and Ceremony, now fused with contemporary performance culture and an urgency to use the traditions which are their birthright, to fight.

Change is born of relationships.

ONE OCEAN seeks to draw the audience into intimate relationships, a visceral feel of a plight that awaits so many peoples and cultures, unless we all embrace change. It is to this that the cast commit themselves.

Refusing the mantle of passive victims, in a spectacular finale we celebrate the resilience of community and the change and adaptation already underway.

A rising chorus of voices, insisting on no longer being marginalised or ignored, leading global initiatives on emissions reduction, reassessing global priorities, re-asserting our connection with nature and saving the ecosystems upon which we all depend.

ONE OCEAN confronts the most pressing issue of our age, through a unique global collaboration, a celebration, a lament, and a powerful call to action.

Nigel Jamieson



*'We must respect our ocean, we must protect our ocean, if there is no ocean, there is no life'
Putad performing 'Lament for a Dying Ocean' from 'Our Island';
Eisenhower Auditorium, Penn State University.*

THEATRICAL ELEMENTS

Led by an Indigenous creative team with internationally renowned director Nigel Jamieson ONE OCEAN will be realised through a traditional islander process of sharing, listening, and collaboration; Talanoa.

STAGING

Two of international theater's most renowned designers - Austin Wang (Stenographer for Cloud Gate's seminal works) and Nigel Jamieson have created an ocean opening across the front of stage, embracing both performers and audience . With designs for major theatres & events featuring water rising across the stage and concert hall stages and tighter get-ins with reflective flooring. Both surrounded with a panoramic screens.

SOUND

Braking convention, the core of ONE OCEAN is a single organic piece of music - ever growing in power throughout the evening. Led by music directors Emlyn Marimutu (Indian Ocean) and Airileke Ingram (Pacific Ocean), ten performers from Madagascar to Rapa Nui/ Easter Island draw on their musical lineages of trance & ritual, united in an epic musical journey, ever evolving, ancient and contemporary, youthful & urgent.

VISUALS

A panoramic screen, water stage/reflective flooring, revealing layers of scrim are surfaces for mapped visuals and lightning design to follow the soundtrack's dramaturge. Nature is our protagonist as awe invoking imagery shot on the artist's islands, interplay with commissioned collaborations from oceanic visual artists. Powerful personal testimonies and massed islander choirs filmed on their homelands join with local community choirs in ONE OCEAN'S overwhelming crescendo.

*Image: 'Mountain' by The Australian Chamber Orchestra,
Directed by Nigel Jamieson, Sydney Opera House (Concert Hall).*

IMAGE CREDIT: Courtesy ACO

CREATIVE DIRECTION TEAM

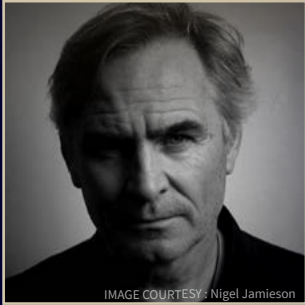


IMAGE COURTESY : Nigel Jamieson

NIGEL JAMIESON

Whilst renowned for spectacular works of huge visual & emotional impact, such as 'Tin Symphony' for the Sydney Olympic's opening ceremony to the arena production 'How To Train Your Dragon'. Nigel also collaborates at the threshold of global change, including, 'Bungul', 'All of me', 'The Theft of Sita', 'Honour Bound' and the spectacular aerial show 'As the world tipped' on the climate crisis. Nigel's theatrical intuition will ensure this production confronting an existential reality faced by countless, will be of significance, substance and sensitivity.

- SYDNEY OLYMPIC GAMES (Opening Ceremony, 'The Tin Symphony')
- MANCHESTER COMMONWEALTH GAMES (Closing Ceremony)
- BUNGUL (GURRUMUL THEATRICAL CONCERT)
- HONOUR BOUND
- AS THE WORLD TIPPED



IMAGE COURTESY : Tony Tsai

EMLYN MARIMUTU

Mentored by Menwar, The Indian Oceans most respected master of traditional Sega, a musical lineage reaching beyond the slave trade to ancestral origins. Emlyn stands proud in her Kreole heritage as one of the first women to master traditional Sega, leading a wave of performers across the Indian Ocean amplifying this unique cultural voice of the Indian Ocean.

- MUSIC DIRECTOR 'OUR ISLAND', SMALL ISLAND BIG SONG
- PROMINANT SINGER-SONGWRITER, DANCER, ACTIVIST OF THE INDIAN OCEAN



IMAGE COURTESY : Airileke Ingram

AIRILEKE INGRAM

Raised equally between Papua New Guinea where he received the traditions of drumming from his villages drum master and in Darwin, Australia where he graduated with B.A in orchestral percussion beginning a career in the Arts leading to him being respected as one of the Pacific Oceans leading authorities of Melanesian and Pacific music, both in knowledge and practice.

- CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE PACIFIC GAMES, 2015 (Opening Ceremony)
- CO-DIRECTOR OF BLAKTIVISM & PASIFIX
- PROMINANT PERCUSSIONIST/DRUMMER OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN

ONE OCEAN THE ENSEMBLE



ABUS *Amis & Bunun Heritage/Taiwan*

Lead Artist, Vocalist, Musician & Composer.



RICHARD MOGU *Magi Heritage/PNG*

Lead Artist, Vocalist, Musician & Composer.
Master of Melanesian Instruments.



AIRILEKE *Motu Heritage/PNG*

Creative Team, Music Director, Lead Artist
& Musician. Master of Pacific Ocean Rhythms.



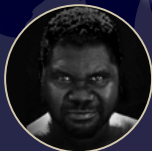
TARIKA SAMMY *Merina Heritage/Madagascar*

Musician, Master of Madagascan Instruments.



ALBERT DAVID *Zenadth Kes/AUSTRALIA*

Coreographer, Dancer & Musician.



YIRRMAL *Yolgnu Heritage/AUSTRALIA*

Lead Artist, Vocalist, Musician & Composer.



YOYO TUKI *Rapa Nui/Easter Island*

Lead Artist, Vocalist, Musician & Composer.



EMLYN *Kreole Heritage/Mauritius*

Creative Team, Music Director, Lead Artist, Vocalist
& Musician. Master of Indian Ocean Rhythms.



MATHIEU JOSEPH *Kreole Heritage/Mauritius*

Coreographer, Dancer & Musician.



HOROMONA HORO *Māori/Aotearoa(New Zealand)*

Lead Artist, Musician & Composer.
Master of 'Taonga Pūoro'.

OUR OCEAN IS UNDER ATTACK

Distant from our dominantly urban lifestyles yet interwoven, our ocean is feeling the pressure of our global lifestyles and could collapse within our generation. Oil spills, bleaching coral, disappearing sea life, warming oceans, rising seas for us of the islands are not scrolled past posts they are our reality.

Once our ocean stops functioning as an interconnected global ecosystem there will be no reviving it.

Hidden beneath the surface coral reefs suffer under extreme temperatures, unable to support sea life.

IMAGE CREDIT: ADOBE STOCK



PRESENTING MODELS

ARTS FESTIVAL

Taiwan, Vanuatu

- 2023 TIFA Taiwan International Festival of Arts

We were commissioned by NTCH, National Theatre and Concert Hall, to produce a production for Taiwan's premiere arts event TIFA, a 3-month long arts festival. We had a full house of 2,000!

SITE SPECIFIC & SPECIAL EVENT

Italy, Dubai, Taiwan, the Norwegian sea, Iceland, and Japan

Curating location and theme related programs that enrich and deepen our engagement with the wider public where we could merge various art forms in our 'artivism'.

- 2022 Italian Capital of Culture, Procida island, Italy

Echoing their island and sustainability theme, we co-curated a week-long program that featured 8 SIBS artists and presented a wide range of events. From an acoustic sunrise concert on the beach, documentary screening, jam & meal exchange, a trash-to-music workshop & climate/culture panels. All building up to our full performance at the harbour.

- 2023 COP28, UAE

As part of the UN's Water program at COP28, we presented an hour-long live concert merging our songs, film and storytelling.

- 2019 Okinawa Film Festival, Japan

We presented a special concert, before premiering our documentary, that features interplay between our film and live musical performances.

- 2019 Kaohsiung Art Museum, Taiwan

As part of the Austronesian Art Awards and Exhibition, we co-curated a two-day opening program that brought the museum alive.

PERFORMING ARTS CENTERS

USA & UAE

- Bing Concert Hall / Stanford Live
- National Concert Hall NTCH / TIFA
- Tsai Performance Center
- Symphony Space / Broadway NYC
- The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi

This now is our principle focus, along with our 90min production 'Our Island' we offer a residency of Impact Programs of 3 to 5 days, on the intersect of culture and environment. We have delivered this to 45 Universities mostly across the US.

This has enabled us to refine and develop our production along with a powerful impact program with input from some of the USA's most respect Universities.

THE OUTREACH

From the perspective of island culture we bring a program of cultural 'activism', sharing the wisdom of island life through food, dance, rhythm and song, viewing your city or festival as an island, activating response, solutions, change, confronting the challenge of our era.

SUGGESTED IMPACT PROGRAMS & SCHEDULE

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

The place we gather has it's own story, here we ask permission to share our stories on your country and launch the weeks activities. With local guest artist and community choir.

MEET THE CREW

An island style evening as the artists introduce SIBS, themselves and their islands through song and movement. With the first workshop for the local Community Choir.

MINI CONCERT & SHARING SCHOOL VISIT

Shaped to the age group in consultation with the school.

TRASH TO MUSIC WORKSHOP

Conversations around consumption as we create instruments from waste.

COOKING EXCHANGE WORKSHOP

In collaboration with a local restaurant we unite our food cultures with a focus on taste & sustainability.

AN OCEANIC SONGLINE FILM SCREENING

Filmed across 16 island nations with over 100 artists recording music in nature. With Q&A from Director Tim Cole and artists of the film.

ART PLAY FOR ECO-ANXIETY WORKSHOP

Transforming the liminal tension of eco-anxiety into action, through traditional dance & drumming.

ARTISTS RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY PANEL

We have all the ways to address the climate crisis but clearly lack the will, we confront our culture.

COMMUNITY CHOIR REHEARSAL

Pre our arrival there is a call out for the local community to come and be apart of show,

SHOW DAY

GET-IN

9AM-5PM

Standard 1 day get-in schedule.

3PM

Guest artist call

4PM

'Community Choir 'called for soundcheck, blocking and tech run.

7PM

Pre-Show talk with founders BaoBao & Tim.

ONE OCEAN

7:30-9:10 PM

Show 1 - Performance - no interval.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - Our current show uses show day as an opportunity for community engagement, by creating a festival feel in the foyer, inviting local artists to exhibit & perform and environmental/cultural groups to table, along with spots in our show for collaboration.

We see each engagement as unique and seek to create a two way dialogue, through outreach into your community and inreach into our performance.

A CATALYST FOR CULTURAL RENAISSANCE

City wide grass roots events led by your community and supported by our impact program to foster sustainable cultural change.



Manchester transformed for a sustainable future.

IMAGE CREDIT: Tim Cole & AI

ONE OCEAN

CO-COMMISSIONED BY
NATIONAL CULTURE & ARTS FOUNDATION, TAIWAN

Seed funding supporting 50% of overall development budget.

HOLLAND FESTIVAL, NETHERLANDS

Supporting a 10-day creative development and preview performances in Amsterdam's prestigious Muziekgebouw.

PREVIEW

2025 JUN HOLLAND FESTIVAL, NETHERLANDS

PREMIERE TOUR

2025 OCT UK

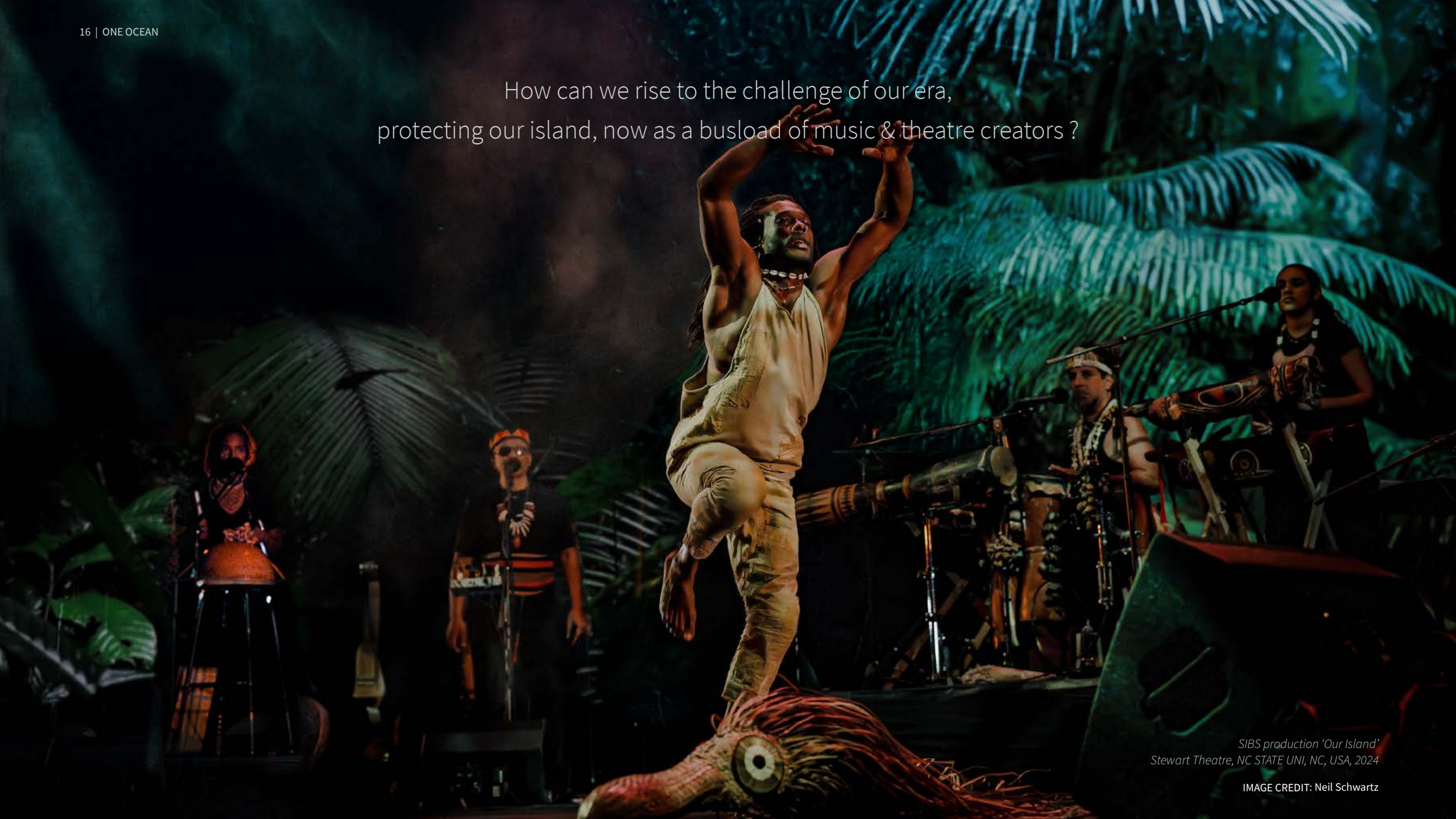
2026 FEB - MAR AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND & TAIWAN

2026 late MAR - early MAY USA & CANADA

*Sailing down the west coast of Madagascar, to collaborate with Vezo musicians.
The Vezo are one of the few surviving sea nomad communities.*

IMAGE CREDIT: SIBS Archive - BaoBao Chen

How can we rise to the challenge of our era,
protecting our island, now as a busload of music & theatre creators ?



SIBS production 'Our Island'
Stewart Theatre, NC STATE UNI, NC, USA, 2024

IMAGE CREDIT: Neil Schwartz

SIBS CO-FOUNDERS



BAOBAO CHEN *Taiwan*

Having produced and managed Small Island Big Song's music, film, performance, and impact programs, including tours to 19 countries across Europe, the USA, Asia and Oceania, BaoBao is one of Taiwan's most prominent producers of cross-cultural arts projects and an ISPA (International Society for the Performing Arts) Fellow 2023-25. Over the past decade, she has led Small Island Big Song from an idea to a performing arts company of 17 nationalities, initiating and managing cross-country co-productions, and collaborating with artists at the frontline of the climate crisis. A vivid storyteller and fluent in English and Mandarin, she has a social media following of 130K+, and has been invited to speak at TEDx, WOMEX, APAP NYC, Stanford Live, and numerous festivals.

- Executive Producer of 'One Ocean'
- Manager of Small Island Big Song
- ISPA (International Society for the Performing Arts) fellow 2023-25
- Member of Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots program



TIM COLE *Australia*

Tim is an Australian music producer and filmmaker who's passionate about cross-cultural arts projects. He has produced numerous albums, films and concerts for Australian aboriginal, Torres Strait islander and Pacifica artists including Archie Roach, Telek, and Shellie Morris. He has also toured internationally with Circus Oz (Company Member) for 8 years as sound designer with seasons on Broadway NYC & West End London. He was a senior music producer at CAAMA - Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association before beginning Small Island Big Song. Cole has received a Churchill fellowship and invitations to speak at the United Nations HQ, APAP NYC, and WOMEX.

- Executive Producer & Audio-Visual designer of 'One Ocean'
- Artistic Director of Small Island Big Song
- Circus Oz (Company Member)
- Not Drowning, Waving (Founding Member)

Small Island Big Song



BaoBao Chen
Producer & Co-founder of Small Island Big Song
An ISPA Fellow 2023–2025
baobao@smallislandbigsong.com

www.smallislandbigsong.com

Small Island Big Song is an inclusive project across gender, age, race, heritage and sexuality

A Small Island Big Song production

Small Island Big Song project is SUPPORTED BY

Taiwan Culture Ministry, TAICCA Taiwan Creative Content Agency,

Australia Council for the Arts, Churchill Fellowship, Ian Potter Cultural Trust, AsiaLink, Creative Victoria



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國家文化藝術基金會
National Culture and Arts Foundation