

Level 3 NCEA DRAMA
91512 (3.1) Resource B
Statement of Intention

Student 2: High Merit
NZQA Intended for teacher use only

Role: Aggie/Kui
Play: Purapurawhetu
Playwright: Briar Grace-Smith

1. Give one key phrase that sums up what you want the audience to understand from your performance.

One key phrase that sums up what I want the audience to understand from my performance is 'pushing down.....and the yellow, my Bubba, gone'. I want the audience to understand a mother's loss and tragedy. The play is concerned with love, hate and revenge, all coming about through loss of one sort or another. My loss of Bubba is a symbol of the wider loss to my people of everything precious to them. I want the audience to see life through Aggie Rose's eyes to feel the pain and grief, to allow the audience to understand from this that she never fully got to mourn over her child.

2. What is the action line of your scene? How does this fit into the larger play?

The action line of my scene is to have closure. I want above all else to find peace and closure, to have the tikanga recognised through the truth of events being told. This fits into the larger play as "Purapurawhetu" tells a story of loss, physically and culturally the threads of my story are woven into the wider story so that out of turmoil can come the ability to move forward."

As Kui/Aggie Rose continuously experiences loss physically as she loses her son, family's ancestral land and her value/belief of trust within others as she was sold by her family and abused by her gum digger husband, why Kui wants the closure so she is able to accept and deal with her losses and move onto a brighter better day, so that once she has passed she is able to reunite with her Bubba. At its heart is the darkness of loss and grief, woven around and throughout it are other characters' experiences of loss. But it is mainly a story of forgiveness and healing which links with my characters super objective but also and what I want to get across to the audience of feeling the loss and pain, but for Aggie Rose/Kui to have closure.

3. Describe your role, including physical and emotional characteristics, action, attitudes and behaviours, and how your role relates to others.

I am performing one scene from the play which is the death of Bubba/Bubba. I am Kui/Aggie Rose, an older lady in her sixties, who has now very poor eyesight and suffers from arthritis. Aggie Rose is the 'memory' of me (Kui) when I was in my youth, tough and vivacious. After the loss of Kui's ancestral land, she was sold to a gum digger. She then fled her life as a slave in the gum fields of Muriwhenua and became transient. Unable to return home, she ended up in Te Kupenga in the 1950's as she was meant to be passing through she jumped off the bus 20 stops to early. Kui then falls in love with a new born son Bubba who she conceived with

Hōhepa the man who's broken heart she steals. Kui throughout her life experiences loss continuously and never truly felt love until she met Hōhepa and had Bubba. Kui/Aggie Rose is very protective, she doesn't let just anyone get close to her, words don't mean anything, Aggie has to gain something out of the relationship. Aggie Rose is a rough, raw character as she had a cruel upbringing. "Let me tell you about this Aggie Rose she didn't get close to nobody" She was tough, but she also enjoyed having a good laugh. Aggie was a great dancer with a sense of glamour and style just like the stars in Hollywood movies; she almost had a fake outer shell to protect herself, posh like, stuck up even slightly. Kui ages rapidly when a tragic event overtakes her life, the death of Bubba, it is not this which transforms her, for the first time Aggie Rose trusts the people around her and she gives this trust completely to Hōhepa her husband. A conflict is then bestowed between Aggie Rose and Hōhepa as he does not allow the truth to be told which then causes her to leave without the acknowledgment of her son going/passing or even a proper tangi. It is this unrequited grief which consumes her. Kui is the same as in her youth except more fragile and more aware of matters, also she has a certain wisdom she carries with her as well. One thing that did change slightly was her tendency to get grumpy, her anger and patience. Kui tends to get grumpy with Romari a lot and thinks of her as almost being useless and with Mata also except she cannot stand him any longer. "he was a greedy tahae" Her relationship with Romiri and Mata is not the greatest and has many conflicts.

5. Describe the situation in the scene you present including key relationships and problems, and how these relate to a key theme of the play as a whole.

The situation in my scene I present is the narration of the death of Bubba. A key theme that relates to the death of Bubba is the theme of loss which link with other themes developed within the entire play, love, jealousy, revenge, healing and forgiveness. Two key relationships between the situation is the conflicts between Aggie Rose and Hōhepa as she is trying to get across her concerns for Matawera's strange behaviour for a 12 year old child like 'when he grabbed a stick from the fire, the end was glowing red...then he tied one of your cattle dogs to the tree and he!' Aggie Rose persists to make Hōhepa aware of this devilish behaviour and do something about it to protect Bubba, but there is no way he wants to believe it as Hōhepa states "he's just a boy, he doesn't understand, know any better". The theme of love and protection plays throughout their relationship as their love for their kids makes them very defensive over their children.