

**Level 3 NCEA DRAMA
91512 (3.1)
Statement of Intention**

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.

The key phrase that sums up what I want the audience to understand from my performance is 'we called him Bubba till he was nearly two years old. Bubba it doesn't even give you a feeling when you hear it' what I want the audience to understand from this phrase is that Aggie/Kui never got the chance to officially or physically name her child with his proper name, I want the audience to understand her grief, her pain and her anger that she felt when Bubba died, how she never properly mourned her son's death and how she blames herself for it.

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

The action line/objective of my scene is both Aggie Rose and Kui want complete closure on Bubba's death, and all the pain, grief and anger they felt in Te Kupenga. I feel this fits into the larger play because Aggie's circumstances growing up were terrible as she was sexually abused and never felt loved or cherished, then going to Te Kupenga and losing the one thing she loved and cherished her son Bubba. I want the audience to understand her pain, grief and anger she feels and also the emptiness she felt when Bubba died.

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

My role is Aggie/Kui. Kui is a woman in her sixties who suffers from arthritis and poor eye sight. Kui carries her weight physically and emotionally in her waist/hip area as over time her emotions of her past and her age have aged her quickly and physically slowed her down. Whereas, Aggie Rose is Kui's memory of herself in her youth when she was a staunch, tough, vivacious young lady. Aggie Rose carries her weight, physically and emotionally in her chest, which represents her tough, vivacious side, it also symbolises a shield which she puts up to protect what she is on the inside. Kui's and Aggie's emotional characteristics are the same as they are the same person and have been through so much pain, grief, anger and sadness throughout the play. Both Kui and Aggie are very protective of themselves, Aggie Rose more so than Kui due to insecurities with trust and feeling like she belongs somewhere. My role I feel relates to Matawera in away as growing up Aggie Rose was sold to a Dalmation Gum digger by her family and was treated horrifically by the gum digger when she was a young girl. Whereas Matawera was left with Hōhepa in Te Kupenga by his mother when he was a baby and never felt loved or accepted by Hōhepa or his mother. Like Aggie who wasn't loved by her family or treated fairly and accepted by the gum digger.

4. What time and place is your play set? How does the setting relate to key social/historical ideas of the time, the theatre form/period, of key ideas still relevant today?

The play I perform my extract from is Purapurawhetu by Briar-Grace Smith. Purapurawhetu is set in the 1990's in a small coastal New Zealand town called Te Kupenga. The play's setting relates to key social ideas of the 1990's as younger Māori generations began to lose understanding of their culture, the language and wanted to get back to their heritage to better their knowledge of it.

Te Kupenga in the 1950's we see through the use of flash backs is a thriving social and happy place to be with its Māori culture alive and well, but over the years and since its whare was burnt down Te Kupenga in the 1990's was stripped of its mana, and its Māori culture and is only slowly putting all the pieces back together.

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.

A situation in my scene is when Kui is telling her story/memory of what Matawera did to Bubba. Aggie speaks about how Matawera stole his father's fishing boat rowed a small distance out to sea with Bubba before throwing him overboard. I believe this situation best relates to the themes of jealousy and revenge, the way Aggie describes Matawera's behaviour towards her and Bubba before he was born indicates that he was not happy with the idea of having a baby brother and when he was born became jealous of the love and attention Bubba received from Hōhepa. The theme of revenge also relates to this as Matawera killed Bubba out of revenge. These relate to the way theme of forgiveness which is throughout the whole play, as it has become time for everyone to come together and really make peace with the past in order to move forward and live life again.