



October 23–November 8, 2020



QUEEN OF MAKAHA RELL SUNN

Written by Bryan Hiroshi Wake

Aloha Theatre

October 23–November 8, 2020

Directed by
Jaquelynn Jeanne Collier

Queen of Makaha Rell Sunn was written for and
originally produced by
Honolulu Theatre for Youth

*Dedicated to the memory of Rell Sunn,
role model, community hero, and surf pioneer*



MAHALO TO OUR SHOW SPONSORS

The Arne and Ruth Werchick
Charitable Fund

Nina Eejima

With Additional Support from

Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts
Kukio Fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation



CAST

Rell Sunn

Kanani Supe

Shelley

Jayden Hall

Carol

Kahaleohu Colburn



PRODUCTION TEAM

Director

Jaquelynn Jeanne Collier

Stage Manager

Raisa Richmond

Assistant Stage Manager

Brooke Aragon

Hawaiian Cultural Specialist

Joshua "Baba" Tavares

Lighting Designer

Jeff Rowand

Lights Operator

Linda Rowand

Set Designer

Debbie Rauhe

Prop and Costume Designer

Shraddha Judd

Sound Designer

Zachary Var

Production Liaison

Stefani Pelletier

Artistic Director

Courtney Booth



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

"The aloha spirit is simple. You give and you give and you give...and you give from here (the heart), until you have nothing else to give." Rell Sunn

The script originally called to me with its unique focus on cancer. In 2016, I lost a student to cancer; I continue to create with Angel in mind. Over the course of reading the script, my boyfriend lost his father to cancer. While being with Zach and his family in Mikey's final days, I witnessed them overcome waves of pain, and the strength of their faith, stubbornness, and love. Through this, I realized QMRS was a chance for audiences to see they are not alone in their battles.

Directing in COVID was like surfing. It started calm, then it was stop, go, fall, get up, distance, and repeat. It took just as much- if not more- thought, communication, and energy as any full-length show I've been involved in, and am grateful for all that was given during this process. The actresses joined QMRS with a variety of experience, personality, and purpose. What an amazing, patient, and talented trio! Wake wrote these characters as real women going through real things, providing an opportunity to experience bringing "truthfulness" to the stage. I would especially like to thank our Hawaiian Cultural Specialist Joshua "Baba" Tavares, who gave cast and production volunteers an opportunity to listen, unlearn, and relearn. Our cast, crew and advisor gave an astounding level of research and commitment to create these characters, and hope you find something to connect with in each of them. I also want to give a round of applause to QMRS stage manager, Raisa, who shared endless time and talent to our journey.

QMRS shines a light on how inspirational Rell was, both on and off her board. The script celebrates Hawaiian culture and language, while exploring universal themes from day-to-day life. Rell was an inspirational female hero of mine since my youth, and it's an honor to use the arts to share stories like hers. I hope this show gives audiences near and far the inspiration to keep riding their own waves with a new dose of mana'o'i'o (faith). On behalf of the cast and team, I am proud to share that Queen of Makaha Rell Sunn is full of Rell's version of aloha. I hope you enjoy this locally-made production during these times when entertainment like music, coloring books, and show-streaming are critical to supporting our mostly indoor lives. Mahalo nui loa for sharing your time, energy, and aloha by supporting this show.

Jaquelynne Jeanne Collier



OUR BRAVE NEW WORLD

Theatre is about human connection. It actively exercises empathy muscles helping us to see different points of view. It is a personal connection that happens between actor and audience, which is why performing arts during a pandemic is so difficult. But challenges born out of necessity are now opportunities for us to reimagine theatre. We recognize that theatre is not solely tied to theatres; the existence of our building is not a necessity for our performance. We are grateful to discover alternate forms of theatre, and we strive to make quality performances more accessible. This pandemic has forced us to seek new ways to share the work we do here in Kainaliu with audiences across the nation. This is a chance for us to create an awareness of not only who we are but of the substantial work that we do here. We are grateful to discover alternate forms of theatre, and we strive to make quality performances more accessible. Thank you for your continued support as we openly explore new avenues of delivering theatre.

Mahalo,

Courtney

CAST

JAYDEN HALL - SHELLEY



Jayden is back and ready to share this incredible story of Rell Sunn in Aloha Theatre's new production *Queen Makaha Rell Sunn*! Performing credits are: *Elf the Musical Jr.* as the Macy's Manager, *Into the Woods* as Snow White, and "96,000" in "Passing the Torch."

Jayden is a superhero fanatic who loves surfing, tap dancing, singing, and reads books whenever she can. She wants to thank her cast mates and everyone working on this production for being amazing magical people. Jayden dedicates this show to her grandpa- I love you- and anyone else that has fought cancer.

CAST

KAHALEOHU COLBURN - CAROL



This is Kahaleohu's first production with the Aloha Theatre. She is a teaching assistant at Kamehameha Preschools, and enjoys working in her māla (garden), learning to kilo (observe) and going to the beach. Kahaleohu would like to thank Joshua "Baba" Tavares for encouraging her to audition, and her daughter Keala for helping her run lines and create her audition video. Kahaleohu sends a huge Mahalo to family and friends for their support in this new life experience.




CAST

KANANI SUPE - RELI SUNN



Kanani Supe began sharing her gifts in the theatre a few years ago. She's played a wide array of roles; an Oompa Loompa, French Governess, Hawaiian Woman, and a few other pidgin speaking roles. With the role of Reli Sunn, Kanani is reminded of 'Ohana and being thankful for one of her dad's wise words, "You only live once, make your choices in life, and do it with all diligence so that you won't have regrets." And, her mother's words, "whenever you meet people, always try to help them and make them better when they leave you because you will be blessed by it." This is her very first play with Aloha Theatre, and she is excited to be working with the director, crew, and cast and the innovative creativity that will manifest. Kanani wants to thank her children for putting up her creative shenanigans.





MAHALOS

Bath & Body Works Kona
Big Island Now
Big Island Pulse
Donna and Josie at Josie's Salon
HiCo Coffee Company
Hospice of Kona
Jasmine Beavins
JayMoon Collective
Jennifer Kau'i Young
Kaya's Coffee
Nicole Gour
OfficeMax Kona
Ola Brew Company
Pink Mocha Cafe
Queen's North Hawai'i Community Hospital
Resonate Hawaii LLC
Sarongs Hawai'i
Virginia Thurlby



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Courtney Booth, Artistic Director

Jaquelynn Collier, Education Director

Stefani Pelletier, Operations Manager

MISSION VALUES VISION

Mission Statement

The mission of the Aloha Theatre is to enrich the lives of Hawaii residents and visitors by providing quality live theatre, performing arts education, and a venue for artistic expression.

Value Statement

The Aloha Theatre strives to live up to our name by fostering the feeling of 'Ohana. We are committed to cultivating a respectful, inclusive environment. Together we aspire to present high quality programs, embracing diversity which reflects the rich culture of our Hawai'i home and celebrating individual artistic endeavor to ensure positive experiences for artists, patrons, volunteers, and staff.

Vision Statement

The Aloha Theatre will be an anchor in West Hawaii for shared artistic experiences in our historic space, which will be preserved and renewed for the use of future generations. We will be recognized for our commitment to our diverse home culture, enabling participation in the creation, understanding, and appreciation of the arts for all, regardless of background, experience, or ability. The Aloha Theatre will be a catalyst for growth by presenting high-quality performing arts, and we will nourish the growing needs and interests of our community by integrating comprehensive arts education for all ages into every aspect of our work.

