



KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tickets: (425) 893-9900; <http://www.kpcenter.org/performances/te-vaka>

The South Pacific adrenaline powered

Opetaia's Te Vaka **U.S. Tour 2015**

Saturday, October 17th, 8:00pm, Kirkland Performance Center

Te Vaka News: Disney announced this August

Te Vaka soundtrack for new animated feature Moana

Te Vaka, which means "The Canoe", is due to embark on its first major tour of the United States since 2011. Hailed by critics as "A stereotype-smashing glimpse into the soul of the South seas" (*Wired Magazine*), "the finest South Pacific roots band" (World Music Central) and "one of the greatest South Pacific bands of all time" (Fiji Times), Te Vaka is an original voice in the contemporary music of the Pacific. Led by award-winning singer-songwriter **Opetaia Foa'i**, [pronounced OH-PEH-TIE-YA FOE-AYE], Te Vaka's infectious melodies, Polynesian drums, and world beat rhythms draw on its roots in the cultures of Tokelau, Samoa, Cook Islands, and New Zealand Maori as well as today's funk, pop, and rock sensibilities.

On August 14, Disney announced at its sold-out fan expo D23 that Opetaia Foa'i is composing the songs for the new Disney animated "princess" feature *Moana* (scheduled for November 2016 release). The musical team includes Tony-winner Lin-Manuel Miranda (lyrics) and Grammy-winning composer Mark Mancina ("Tarzan" "The Lion King") (film score). **Te Vaka started to record these songs for the soundtrack in August.**

Te Vaka will perform in Kirkland for a concert at Kirkland Performance Center on October 17th. Tickets on sale now at the KPC Box Office and online.

The Maui News called Te Vaka "adrenaline-powered, bare-midriffed, percussion-pulsed, infectiously happy, beautiful people bringing ancient traditions into the modern world." With Opeteia on vocals and lead guitar, using open tunings often associated with slack key techniques, the band brings its lively energy to a mix of traditional and modern instruments, from log drums to electric guitar, bass, and keyboards. The beauty of the rich vocal harmonies, dancing that evokes Pacific traditions, and the poetry of lyrics in Tokelauan and Samoan languages belie the serious intent of many of the songs, which address current issues in the Pacific including climate change, family and cultural displacement, the more recent tolls of the tsunami in Samoa and drug culture among indigenous youth, as well as lighter fare. Yet, the band delivers up a rocking, joyful evening as the multi-talented musicians and singers double as dancers and chanters (Pacific-style). The music is life-affirming, every concert a celebration.

Te Vaka has performed in 38 countries around the world, including Europe, Asia, and the Pacific, and released 7 albums and one live performance DVD to date. Opeteia Foa'i and the band are working on their 8th release this summer.

Boasting an international following, Te Vaka has appeared at London's Royal Albert Hall, at the Beijing Olympics, headlined music festivals throughout Europe, and been favorites at WOMAD festivals around the world. They have received numerous awards, including Best Polynesian Music Award at the 2011 Hawai'i Music Awards, Best Pacific Group twice at the Pacific Music Awards as well as awards for Best Pacific Language Song for their newest CD *Haoloto* (2010) and Best Pacific Album for *Tutuki* (2008).

Opeteia voiced his sentiments at the release of Te Vaka's last CD, which can easily serve as the motto for the band: "Once the canoe got rolling with all on board, there was a feeling that we were heading for somewhere special". And now Kirkland audiences can hop on board.

What the Critics are Saying About Te Vaka

"Opetaia Foa'i continues to guide with ease what can only be described as one of the greatest South Pacific bands of all time - Te Vaka." --*Fiji Times*

"The modern music style and South Pacific drumming sounds highlight Te Vaka's strengths and diverse cultural connections...The music is filled with vivacity and richness. The lyrics are in Samoan, Toakelaun, Tuvaluan, and English... a breeze of fresh, South Pacific air." --*Inside World Music*

"The infectious rhythms and flowing melodies are strong lures to both the diehard and casual fan, the power of the Pacific rhythms telling stories of its own." --*NZ Musician Magazine*

"One of the most dynamic live experiences I have ever witnessed" --*Guardian Newspaper, UK*

"Te Vaka's forceful rhythms, inspired melodies, and heartfelt songwriting offer a long - overdue, stereotype-smashing glimpse into the true soul of the South Seas." -- j.poet, ©[Wired Magazine](#)

"The sustained standing ovation at the conclusion of the show ... spoke volumes about the power this band has to talk across culture." --*Bay of Plenty Times NZ*

Tickets on-sale now

Ticket prices: \$40

Box Office location: 350 Kirkland Ave, Kirkland, WA 98033

Box office phone: 425-893-9900

For more information, theater website: <http://www.kpcenter.org/performances/te-vaka>

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