cares about his aiga. When his father dies in Samoa he doesn't go home and his downfall is terrifying to watch. His family stand aside, powerless to help and unable to stop the tragedy unfolding.

Ete Eteuati's portrayal of Ioane was a powerful and riveting performance. A second-year student at the New Zealand Drama School he is a good example of what can be achieved when explosive talent is carefully nurtured and directed by the excellent teaching received from the staff of the school. Onstage, Ete displays that rare quality, a magnetic stillness.

I was strongly reminded of the great Polynesian orators all around the Pacific who command attention by their presence and their stillness.

Moka Tamapeau as the anxious mother and aunt was a delight. The three cousins in the family played by David Saena, Phillip Patau and Ramona Tiatia were most convincing as the new generation of Polynesian adolescents caught in the crossfire of obligations to aiga here and in Samoa. Their natural relaxed style onstage heightened the dangers of rashly adopting the best and worst features of a palagi lifestyle, thus becoming estranged from their own cultural roots like their cousin Ioane.

I found the parallels to maori/pakeha situations painful to watch, for their experience has been our recurring nightmare since we left our rural kainga to establish new lives in the cities and towns.

Jamie Brown as the villain of the story gave a strong performance as the ambitious, ruthless and nasty real-estate agent. Helen Jarroe, Stephen Sinclair and Jamie together provided a strong contrast to the laid-back style of the Polynesian actors. Individually they were excellent and as a group they provided much-needed wit, humour and a crisp hard edge to the action.

Musical accompaniment for the production was a group-directed effort by Samson Samasoni. I liked the way Samoan songs and dances were used throughout the story, for we witnessed the dances in context and not in the isolation of a concert hall. Lighting for the production was provided by the New Depot and the technician Peter Mattiassi works at the Arts Centre.

"Le Matau" ran for a three-week season totalling ten performances in front of eight hundred people. Overall I enjoyed this play but there were moments in the story when I was not certain what some of the people in the story actually did for a living. Tougher

editing will correct these minor flaws.

My warmest congratulations to all who were involved with "Le Matau", especially Helen Jarroe for her sympathetic and skilful direction. All I ask is that the story of Ioane continues because he must not be left floundering about. It is a story waiting to be told.

Directed By
Stephen Sinclair and Helen Jarroe

Musical Arrangement By
Samson Samasoni

Cast:

Ioane	Eteuati Ete
Auntie	Moka Tamapeau
Iosefa	David Saena
Siosi	Phillip Patau
Ruta	Ramona Tiatia
Agent	Jamie Brown
Friend	Stephen Sinclair
Secretary	Helen Jarroe

Musicians	**Lighting Design**
Samson Samasoni	Paul McInnes
Danny Goddard	**Lighting Operator**
Stage Manager	Peter Mattiassi
Kate Walker	
Assistant Stage	
Manager	
Claire Morgan	