**Cat Ruka Biography - 2019**

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| **Bio (200 words):** |
| Cat Ruka is the Artistic Director of Aotearoa's Tempo Dance Festival and has extensive experience working in Aotearoa’s arts sector. Cat began her career as an independent performing artist after completing her Bachelors degree, Post-Graduate Diploma and Masters degree through the University of Auckland’s Dance Studies programme. She has won multiple awards for her work and has attended invitational arts residencies in Auckland, Bundanon, New York, New Jersey, Jakarta and Berlin. Cat is also an award-winning tertiary arts educator and worked at MIT's Faculty of Creative Arts where she became Programme Leader of Performing Arts for eight years. Cat has also taught in the dance departments of Unitec and University of Auckland. Cat has a strong and innate passion for seeing rangatahi succeed, and now has a reputation for being one of the most sought-after mentors for Māori and Pasifika performers. Most recently, she has mentored rangatahi and developed educational programmes for acclaimed youth organisation, Ngā Rangatahi Toa. Cat is on the board of Basement Theatre and is undertaking her PhD in decolonial leadership in the arts. She also continues to create unique work that now encompasses choreography, live-art, installation, image and film. |
| **Bio (150 words):** |
| Cat Ruka is the Artistic Director of Aotearoa's Tempo Dance Festival and has extensive experience working in Aotearoa’s arts sector. Cat began her career as an independent performing artist after completing her Bachelors degree, Post-Graduate Diploma and Masters degree through the University of Auckland’s Dance Studies programme. She has won multiple awards for her work and has attended invitational arts residencies in Auckland, Bundanon, New York, New Jersey, Jakarta and Berlin. Cat is also an award-winning tertiary arts educator and worked at MIT's Faculty of Creative Arts where she became Programme Leader of Performing Arts for eight years. Cat now has a reputation for being one of the most sought-after mentors for Māori and Pasifika performers. Cat is on the board of Basement Theatre, and is undertaking her Phd in decolonial leadership in the arts. She also continues to create unique work that now encompasses choreography, live-art, installation, image and film. |
| **Bio (50 words):** |
| Cat Ruka is the Artistic Director of Tempo Dance Festival. She is also an award-winning artist and has ten years of experience as a tertiary arts educator. Cat is currently on the board of Basement Theatre, and is completing her Phd in decolonial leadership in the arts. |