

CHECKLIST

Brown eyes	✓
Unruly hair	✓
Big boned	✓
Speaks a Pacific language	
Can perform a Pacific dance at will	
Pacific Island mother	✓
Pacific Island father	
Born in a Pacific Island (not including New Zealand)	
Raised in a Pacific Island (not including Waiheke)	
Emigrated from a Pacific Island in formative early years	
Attends a Pacific Island church or has church-based affiliations (autalavou, aufaipese etc.)	
Owens several seasonal Pacific garments (puletasi etc.)	✓
Three or more weekly occurrences of tying back one's hair into a tightly oiled bun (fa'apaku etc.)	✓
Owens an uku comb (manual lice detector)	
Owens and/or commonly wears Pasifika/Pacifika/Pacifica jewellery, defined as comprising, in whole or part thereof, raw materials manufactured within, or popularly purported to be originating from, the Pacific. These include shell, bone, coconut husk and/or fibre, and tapa cloth	✓
Laughs like hurricane rain on a tin roof	✓
Has an unusually strong parental bond, born out of alofa and a sense of duty, oftentimes manipulative in nature	✓
Lives with extended family (equal to or greater than 9 members)	✓
Nurtures kinship ties in non-traditional settings	✓
Weathers the judgement of other Pacific Islanders regarding the authenticity of one's cultural identity	✓
No longer cares about the above	✓

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Please ensure all questions have been answered to the best of your validity.
Thank you.

ALL THE SMALLEST ONE

for Daniel S

Five dusky maidens standing in a row one took off her mask the rest went home to paint the man who tataued on canvas and bled his stories on the Feltex then felt so pressed as to wash his hands over and over in a ritualistic manner left palm over right knuckle over caftans and Masaccio's plans for perfect dimensions the perfect reader it's the line over the hill through the face the fish the gold coin the right eye the placid waters the curved wooden door the stark frame the ABC of story and disrupted temporality as they hook arms all the smallest one can ask is does my hair look OK?

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TEACHING PACIFIC LITERATURE

Yeah, he's the Once Were Warriors guy right?

No, that's Duff.

Oh, I thought he was the Whale Rider guy.

No, that's Ihimaera.

But doesn't he do Howard Morrison's gigs too?

He has written an operetta, and is known to sing on occasion.

Did he start way back in that TB movie with all the flies?

No. That's Albert Wendt. The film was an adaptation of his book *Flying*

Fox in the Freedom Tree. He published his seventh novel last month.

Oh, I thought he was dead.

No, he just moved to Hawai'i.

Oh, is that gonna be on TV?

'Scuse me.

Yes, at the back, a question?

Nah, it's just an observation really.

Yes?

I thought Sione's Wedding was such a good film –

all my Sumowan friends are just like that.

Like what?

Y'know, happy-go-lucky and shit.

OK. Let's do some sober realism then. Take out Figiel's *Where We Once*

Belonged.

We look at her in light of Trask's 'Writing in Captivity'.

'Scuse me.

Yes?

Aren't you running the risk of silencing the Pakeha male critic's voice?

Yes.

EMAILING ALBERT

There's no pictures on the door. I need pictures on the door!

my mokopuna wears nike

How come nobody laughs around here?

my mokopuna wears nike

Maybe they're scared of me. Have you made them scared of me?

my mokopuna wears nike

Maybe they think I'm here because of Equity. Am I here because of Equity?

my mokopuna wears nike

Did they push me through because of you?

my mokopuna wears nike

Have they pushed me out because of you?

my mokopuna wears nike

Do they think I'm gonna spit the 'R' word at them in the staffroom?

my mokopuna wears nike

Nobody looks like me. Nobody looks like they like me.

my mokopuna wears nike

No windows here. Can't breathe.

my mokopuna wears nike

Can't think. Do they think I can't think? Is that what they think?

my mokopuna wears nike

How'd you do it? For over twenty years! How?

my mokopuna wears nike

Can't do this. Too hard.

my mokopuna wears nike

Why? Why? Why does he wear Nike?!

just do it

AFAKASI ARCHIPELAGO

Articled fa'a Samoa
arrows kanak art
– snarling intelligentsia.

Arson flagons aerate
kaleidoscopic angels
– simnel incense.

Asteroid factotum asphyxiate
kakariki airways
– siphoned inanga.

Augur fades
austere karmic authors
sky-impregnate.

Anthelmintic faiths,
avatar kaumatua
abridge skulduggerous ichthyology.

Awaiting false awakenings
kneeling alfresco
salve inertia.

Awkward farcical
Aztec kete
alarm sloven idols.

Azure fans,
azimuthal kelpfish
– aphrodisiac's smorgasbord ignite.

Anklet, fertile anarchy
kinsfolk amulet
– soothsayer's infidel.

Anaemic fibres
ambivalent kia oras
air-soar intimate.

Agate foetus
amid kudos acolyte
sours intuition.

Abyss,
filthy abstemious knoll,
acacia's sole invective.

Aboriginal fire
abnegates kumquat abodes
spindrifted irony.

Abacus fuselage
awaits kaikomako's
spinal itch.

Afakasi flags
awaken Kiwi –
agile sine qua non inter-islanders.