

# Bernard Mangakahia

## Mana - The Spirit of Polynesia



*"An outstanding performance...the BEST show ever"* Princes Hill PS

*"Sensational! The package of culture, personal story and dance was the best thing we have seen."* Lumen Christi PS

*"An hour isn't long enough! Bernard's message and performance were spellbinding!"* Lalor East PS

*"The most powerful and inspirational show we have had."* Kingswood College

*"Absolutely the best performance we have seen. FANTASTIC! Had all students enthralled from Kinder to Year 12."* Lavers Hill P-12 College

*"Students absolutely spellbound, enjoyed every second and would have sat for more. Very interactive, absolutely relevant to curriculum and student interests. FANTASTIC – will book you again!"* Sacred Heart Booval

Bernard traces his family history and the culture of the Pacific Island region through story and dance.

Travelling through Polynesian cultures including Native American Indian, New Zealand Maori, Hawaiian and Samoan, Bernard discovers with each the idea of family, challenges and pride. Each culture is celebrated through breathtaking dance, music and full audience participation. Bernard ends the performance with funky modern Australian hip hop.

**Mana: The Spirit of Polynesia** embodies dance, music, multicultural themes, history, geography, the importance of learning about heritage and the power of self belief and respect.

**MANA is the inner strength and confidence that comes from a sense of identity. Bernard Mangakahia inspires everyone to discover their own MANA.**

If your students are studying *Whale Rider* Bernard can include a discussion on the film following his performance. Bernard also offers dance workshops.

**Suitability:** Kinder – Year 12    **Minimum audience:** 120 students  
**Cost:** \$4.50 per head    **Workshops:** \$150.00

**NEXUS**  
**ARTS**

**Bookings & Enquiries:**  
Nexus Arts [www.nexusarts.com.au](http://www.nexusarts.com.au)  
(Ph) Phone: (00 614) 3 9528 3416  
Fax: (00 614) 3 9523 6866  
Email: [nexusarts@netspace.net.au](mailto:nexusarts@netspace.net.au)

Follow this link to get a  
YouTube sneak peek:

<https://youtu.be/n3azS9h152k>



# Mana Feedback from New Zealand

Students thoroughly enjoyed it. Engaged & captivated! **Best show we've had!**  
**Very deep cultural & family heritage messages.** Thank you. Zain Thompson, **Avondale PS**

The **best show ever.** Would want to see this again. I recommend it for all levels of the school. The students were enthralled with his skills. Cheryl Ritani, **Timaru South School**

Fantastic. The whole show was high energy, interactive and incredibly inspirational. All students at the show were engaged and were very positive about the whole experience. The 'life' skills Bernard imparted were very relevant to our young people. Check out this link for some photos and an article by a student:

[http://www.nis.school.nz/extra\\_curricular/cultural/index.htm?articleId=69](http://www.nis.school.nz/extra_curricular/cultural/index.htm?articleId=69)

Lou Taylor, **Napier Intermediate School**

Amazing – totally captured children & adults. Lots of storytelling, good resources, related to the topics we were studying and related to the backgrounds of children. Great audience participation with students invited to join in and act out what he was going. Bernard was truly fantastic. Linda Birch, **St Michael's School**

The students were captivated throughout the whole performance. It was great to have student involvement right the way through. It was a real pleasure for our students to see a live performance and to have the chance to take part. Bernard's voice was captivating – it was quiet, however his stories were said in a way that drew his audience into what he was saying. Bernard gave us his YouTube link, which our students have watched... and watched... and watched. Many of them have spoken about the talents of his boys. It was great to hear a 'Dad' speak with such pride about his children.

**The message of 'believe in yourself' really hit the nail on the head with our school's message.** Huge thanks to Bernard for coming to TAPS, we LOVED having him here. Kim Tautarai-Scott, **Te Awamutu PS**

Best performance we have had at the school in the past years. For the hour and a quarter performance, the students were captivated and **completely absorbed by the entire show.** They loved the dances and their stories after showed that they had been captured by Bernard's original way of telling his story.

It was so refreshing to see the students so involved and to witness the true enjoyment they got from the entire show. At the conclusion, they still wanted to dance and have the opportunity to talk to Bernard. Diane Gudsell, **Te Awamutu PS**

Great! Loved it! Excellent! Culturally inspiring, educational, well presented and interactive with the tamariki.

Captivated the audience – kept students engaged so well, the whole time, at all levels!

Tamariki loved it, exciting, buzzing, and were inspired to try to dance with hoops.

Positive, loved the interaction and the power of his messages. Great messages for our tamariki e.g. believe in yourself, set goals. Senior girls were able to retell Bernard's messages.

Very impressed by his professionalism, calm manner & amazing knowledge of the world, dancing ability & humour.

Junior, Kea, Kakapo & Kea Teams, **Waipa School**

We believe Bernard is the best solo performer we have had at our school in years!

Mike Pilette, DP, **Fitzroy School**

A great show. Bernard had the kids captivated! Dave Appleyard, Principal, **Rata Street School**

Bernard's show was stunning!

Our children were captivated by it and are still abuzz with talk about his dancing and his music. As staff we were really impressed not only with the rapport he established with our children (aged between 5- 11) but the wonderful messages he included throughout his performance. We were just sorry we didn't have enough room to have parents attend as well, as we felt it would have been great for some of our parents to hear his messages also!

Thanks for sending such a wonderful performer our way! We would love to host him again if he decided to brave the cold and head to the south island of NZ again!

Emily Keenan, **Aorangi School**

Best performance and performer we have had! Bernard had the children entertained, engaged and enthralled. Students were completely captivated from the moment he started.

Thank you for sharing your passion for life and your wonderful messages with us.  
Vicki Kleinschafer, **Oaklands PS**  
Outstanding, very interactive, good relevant messages. Karen Wheeler, **Linwood College**

"It was totally awesome!" said a year 5 boy. Teachers and children raved about it. Please come back.  
Kate McMillan, **Burwood School**

Students loved it! Inspiring messages and empowering dance. You left us feeling like we could achieve anything we set our minds and hearts to. Thank you Bernard. Michael Sharp, **St Margaret's College**

Just superb!!! Exceptional show. Excellent morals and values being promoted.  
Student comments – "Really amazing", "Just awesome", "Can't take your eyes off him."  
Would definitely recommend. K. Murdoch, Year 7 & 8, **Chisnallwood Intermediate School**

Students were totally involved in a thoughtful & excited way. Through sharing his own quest Bernard gave a sense of the possibilities and places to start on a pathway towards excellence & personal best  
Lizzie Cook, **Christchurch South Intermediate School**

Fantastic Amazing Cool Dancing Great show Awesome!! were comments from students  
WOW! What an excellent way of teaching our children about the cultures that are so close to us. An outstanding presentation. The children & teachers were spellbound. FANTASTIC!!!!  
Rhonda Aitken & Becks Murphy, **Banks Avenue School**

Most impressed. The children were captivated by Bernard. I hope I get the opportunity to see him again.  
**St Josephs PS, Papanui**



## Mana Feedback from Australia

I have been inspired to email you after our performance this morning by Bernard Mangakahia.  
**What a powerful presence he has!** His passion for sharing his culture through dance, song and action was truly spiritual. The students and staff were entirely captivated by his generosity and talent. Some staff were moved to tears, including me. **Bernard has left me with a long lasting impression that anything and everything is still possible.**  
What an amazing man - one that all people should meet. I am indebted to you Sue, for discovering his talent and nurturing him to remain with Nexus. Sincerely, thank you. **St Bernard's PS, Coburg, VIC**

"I liked the way he believed in us!" Student from **Mole Creek Primary, TAS**

**What a great man ! What a great show !** The kids were totally captivated and will remember it forever. How great it is for a man of his standing to show the boys in particular **what it is to be a real man in a real culture.**  
And the examples set by he and his sons will no doubt resonate with many for years into the future.  
**I would have sat through more than 100 such performances at schools over the years and his is the best by far.** A huge thankyou to Bernard...and to you guys for promoting such an inspiring visit. **Donnybrook DHS, WA**  
Your advertising material doesn't even come close to conveying what a wonderful, uplifting, encouraging, challenging, inspiring performance *Mana* is. Bernard continued to inspire long after he left the stage.  
**Calvary Christian College, QLD**

Incredible! Engaging. Entertaining. A brilliant experience for students and adults alike.  
**Sacred Heart College, TAS**

What began quite conventionally soon became extraordinary, and the students were feeling it. Bernard delivered cultural information and personal challenges that left us all feeling positive, with an enlightened mixture of emotion, and the thought that you had just been in the presence of a beautiful human being. He was able to disarm everyone in the theatre within minutes – calmly and skilfully sharing a powerful story. Through family histories, personal challenges and demonstrations of skill and cultural meaning, Bernard's charming, no frills approach made it easy for students to want to pay attention and participate when required. With confidence I would say,  
'Book him if you can, you'll be so glad you did'.

**Alec Cimera, Daylesford Secondary College, VIC**

Students raved about the show back in the classrooms. We got so much positive feedback from the secondary students. Absolutely the best performance we have seen. FANTASTIC! **Lavers Hill P -12 College, VIC**

You could have heard a pin drop in our hall. The boys were transfixed from the first moment. Bernard was outstanding both in his repertoire of skills and also in the positive messages which he delivered. Thank you.

**St Joseph's College Nudgee, QLD**

Utterly enthralled! Bernard had the students eating out of his hand. Boy/girl interaction was excellent. Just one of the best I have ever seen. **Williamstown HS, VIC**

Students were captivated and very receptive to Bernard's "words of wisdom" and activities. I was impressed with the emphasis on personal heritage. **Haileybury College VIC (Year 9 boys!)**

Absolutely the best performance we have seen. FANTASTIC! Had all students enthralled from Kinder through to Year 12. Participation was 100%. **Lavers Hill P-12 College, VIC**

Loved the personal qualities he brought to the show. **Hounville HS, TAS**

Loved it – blown away – total engagement from tiny tots to teens. **Melbourne Girls Grammar, VIC**

Student response was terrific – very involved and interested. Bernard was outstanding. His energy and enthusiasm in conjunction with his knowledge made the session a true success. FANTASTIC! **Woodleigh School, VIC**

The boys in my class were particularly inspired by Bernard's strong message and skill. I had parents absolutely amazed because their boys had come home after the show wanting to learn to dance! A brilliant show. Thank you Bernard. **Cornerstone Christian Community School, QLD**

Never before have I had so many supervising teachers tell me how much they had enjoyed a performance. He was fantastic. **Lalor Secondary College, VIC**

Awesome, cool, magic! The boys were enthralled and so were their teachers!

**The Southport School, QLD**

Many teachers expressed their praise for this performance. "The best I've seen" was a common phrase used and many were surprised at the wonderful follow up lessons that came from Bernard's presentation.

**St Eugene School, QLD**