

Alaula

a full-length play
by Justina 'Ōlalimākiaikalauaki Mattos

Winner, 2024
Kumu Kahua Theatre Playwriting Competition
Resident Division

Synopsis: a young part-Hawaiian woman ravaged by chemotherapy struggles to interpret her troubling dreams, where an alluring stranger urges her to join him in the afterlife.

TIME: The Present

PLACE: O'ahu, Hawai'i

SETTING:

The play shifts between reality and Aurora's dream world. In reality, various locations on O'ahu are represented: Aurora's middle-income family home in Makakilo, her college dorm room, hospital room, a nightclub, a street front, and ocean shore. Her dream world is bare and dark, with lights and props used to suggest mood. Symbols portending doom may appear in this world, such as a canoe on the rocks, or a broken water gourd.

NOTE:

The script contains some scenes that use Hawaiian language. In those scenes, English words inserted in brackets are only for the benefit of actors & crew to understand what is being said, and should *not* be spoken aloud. The Hawaiian proverbs and poetic sayings in this script were found in Mary Kawena Pukui's book: *'Ōlelo No'eau*. If they are noted as (VO), this means they are pre-recorded and played as voice-overs, rather than spoken aloud.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

AURORA 18 year-old part-Hawaiian girl with long dark hair. Pale and thin, but pretty. College freshman. (For scenes 24-39, her hair is still long in her dreams, but very short in her daily life.)

GARY Aurora's father. A handsome part-Hawaiian man In his early to mid 40s.

EILEEN Aurora's mother. A non-Hawaiian woman in Her early to mid 40s.

RENEE 21 year-old surfer-girl. Fit, tan, sexy, With sun-bleached hair. Aurora's college roommate.

ALEX A sweet, effeminate 18 year-old local Filipino boy. Aurora's best friend.

DREAM LOVER A handsome, charismatic Hawaiian man

DREAM TALKER #1/DOCTOR A Hawaiian man (dances hula kahiko)

DREAM TALKER #2 A young Hawaiian man (dances hula kahiko)

DREAM TALKER #3 A young Hawaiian woman (plays ipu And chants)

DREAM TALKER #4/NURSE A Hawaiian woman

(Note: All four DREAM TALKERS speak Hawaiian. Their suggested secondary casting - doctor, nurse, hula dancer, chanter - can be interchanged, depending on the needs of the production.)