



# Life of Māui: a Hī Hā school production

This production is suitable for junior/middle school upwards. Please note, music rights for public performance are not included. Schools should hold the standard One Music Schools Licence.

*The Life of Māui show has begun, but the show hosts are stressed out – the guest of honour is nowhere to be seen, and the days are so short, they're running out of time! Perhaps the Māori Atua can help out until Māui arrives, or perhaps they can find someone to slow the Sun – but who?!*

## **StoryDances** (tamariki move freestyle to audio):

*Birth of Māui, Māui Finds His Mother, Māui Brings Fire, Māui Finds His Father, Māui's Great Fish, Māui Slows the Sun*

## **Choreo dances:**

Kōtare (Aro); Peke (Te Nūtube: Atareta Milne & Te Haakura Ihimaera-Manley); Tahī Rua Toru (Anika Moa); Kererū (Aro) OR use your own Kapa Haka item; Pūkeko (Aro); Taniwha in the Sun (Duan & Only/Aunty Bea)

## **Costumes:**

Dance groups: coloured T-shirts (Life of Māui Tees available for purchase, or use your own)

Robin & Meremere: glitzy evening wear

Māori Atua: coloured korowai (cloaks) – see instructions

Rūaumoko also wears a nappy

American Superheroes: capes/masks

## **Props:**

Cowboy hats for Māui, Māui's Tuākana and (optional) Kōwhai Dance Group (hidden in a box under Lady in Audience's seat)

Signs for sign-waver: Pakipaki! (Clap!); Hurō! (Cheer!)

'Life of Māui' sign and decorations

## **Sound Effects:**

Drumroll (can be made with hands)

Jazzy music (optional)



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## **DANCE GROUPS:**

Kahurangi (blue); Mā (white); Whero (red); Māwhero (pink) OR Kapa Haka group; Kākāriki (green); Kōwhai (yellow) (*Groups may be divided or combined depending on numbers.*)

## **CHARACTERS:**

Robin Tūreiti (show host)

Meremere Makarauna (glamorous assistant)

Atua/gods (male + female): Tangaroa (m) (sea); Tāne Mahuta (m) (forest, birds & insects); Tāwhirimātea (m) (wind & weather); Tūmatauenga (m) (war);

Rūaumoko (m, baby) (moko & earthquakes); Hineraukatamea (f) (entertainment); Hineraukatauri (f) (music)

American Superheroes: Batman; Wonder Woman; Superman

Māui

Lady in Audience

Māui's Tuākana (Older Brothers): Brother 1 (Māui-mua); Brother 2 (Māui-roto); Brother 3 (Māui-taha), Brother 4 (Māui-pae)

Sign-waver

## **SETTING:**

The 'Life of Māui' Show. A sign, decorations.

### ***[Audio 1: Mihi]***

## **ALL DANCE GROUPS:**

Ko te hau o mihi

E rere ana ki a koutou

Kia whakapiri mai

Kia whakarongo mai

Kia puta ki te whaiao

Ki te ao mārama.

Tihei mauri ora!

***[A drumroll. Jazzy music (optional.) Enter ROBIN]***



**ROBIN:** Kia ora koutou! Nau mai, haere mai! Welcome to our show! I'm your host Robin Tūreiti, and this is the amazing, the fascinating, the incredible... LIFE OF MĀUI!

**[SIGN-WAVER waves sign: 'Pakipaki!' ALL clap]**

Thanks, but let's move on; we don't have much time. The days are so short! If only we knew how to slow down the Sun... but who could do that? **[Shrugs.]** Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, please welcome my glamorous assistant, the one-and-only Meremere Makarauna!

**[A drumroll. Jazzy music (optional.) Enter MEREMERE.]**

**SIGN-WAVER waves sign: 'Pakipaki!' ALL clap]**

**MEREMERE [blowing kisses]:** Thank you! Thank you!

**ROBIN:** Meremere! Stop mucking around and hurry up! Kia tere!

**MEREMERE:** Calm down, Robin, Māui's still not here. Where *is* he?

**ROBIN:** Pātai pai! Good question! Where are you, Māui?

**DANCE GROUPS:** Kei hea koe, e Māui?

**[A drumroll. Enter TANGAROA]**

**TANGAROA:** Tēnā koutou. I am not Māui. Māui's busy flying kites. He said to go on without him; he'll be here soon.

**ROBIN:** Who are you, then? Ko wai tō ingoa?

**KAHURANGI DANCE GROUP [stage-side]:**

Roll, waves, roll! **[Action: hands rolling]**

Swirl, sea, swirl! **[Action: body swirling]**

Swim, fish, swim! **[Action: swimming]**

Whirl, current, whirl! **[Action: spinning around]**

The sea and its creatures are my domain.

Tangaroa is my name.



**ROBIN:** He pai te tūtaki ki a koe. Great to meet you! **[They hongī.]** I don't suppose you could slow the Sun?

**TANGAROA:** Kāo. But I could help you with Māui's story.

**ROBIN:** Ka rawe! Thank you! Hurry up, everybody! Kia tere!

**[StoryDance: Audio 2: Birth of Māui**

**Kahurangi Dance Group dances freestyle on stage, as guided by the story.  
Other Dance Groups perform limited actions stage-side.]**

**AUDIO 2:** *This is the story of the Birth of Māui. When Māui was born, he was so tiny and so still, his mother thought he was dead. In great distress, she cut off the topknot of her hair, wrapped him up in it, and threw him into the ocean. The wave children of Tangaroa and Hinemoana rock-rock-rocked him. They rose up – ki runga! – and dropped down – ki raro! Ki runga! Ki raro! They swayed from side to side, to the right, to the left, ki te matau, ki te mauī, ki te matau, ki te mauī. They swirled and whirled and twirled in tiny circles, round and round: hurihuri, hurihuri. “Waaa! Waaa!” cried the tiny pēpi, but nobody heard. Long strands of seaweed wrapped tenderly around him. They rock-rock-rocked him. They rose up – ki runga! – and dropped down – ki raro! Ki runga! Ki raro! They swayed from side to side, to the right, to the left, ki te matau, ki te mauī, ki te matau, ki te mauī. They swirled and whirled and twirled in tiny circles: hurihuri, hurihuri. “Waaa! Waaa!” cried the tiny pēpi, but nobody heard. The gentle ocean breezes of Tāwhirimātea rock-rock-rocked him. They rose up – ki runga! – and dropped down – ki raro! Ki runga! Ki raro! They swayed from side to side, ki te matau, ki te mauī, ki te matau, ki te mauī. They swirled and whirled and twirled in tiny circles: hurihuri, hurihuri. “Waaa! Waaa!” cried the tiny pēpi, but still, nobody heard. At last, the friendly tide washed him onto the shore. But a swarm of buzzing flies made a circle around him. Round and round they went: hurihuri, hurihuri. Jellyfish tried to protect him, but birds were already circling in the air, manu ready to peck him to pieces: hurihuri, hurihuri. “Waaa! Waaa!” cried the tiny pēpi, and at last, somebody heard. The great ancestor Tamanui-ki-te-rangi ran across the beach, waving his arms. “Haere atu! Go away!” he cried, and the manu and the flies scattered and flew. He took the tiny pēpi to his whare and hung him high in the rooftop to warm. And that is how Māui was saved. Thanks to the spirits of the sea and the sky, and to Tamanui-ki-te-rangi, Māui grew into a boy with special*



*powers. Thanks to them, he lived to walk and to run, to laugh and play tricks, to fish, to explore... and even... to dance.*

***[Choreo dance: Kahurangi Dance Group performs Kōtare by Aro  
SIGN-WAVER waves sign: 'Pakipaki!' ALL clap]***

**MEREMERE *[blowing kisses]*:** Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!  
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

To be continued....