

BLAINE KIA - A MAN

Kumu Hula -Blaine Kamalani Kia



Blaine Kamalani Kia was born on July 31, 1963, in Honolulu, Hawaii. The youngest of nine children, Kia studied Music Theory and Composition Writing at Leeward Community College and the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Since then, Mr. Kia has passionately dedicated his life to perpetuating Hawaiian traditions. A cultural icon recognized throughout the islands for his expertise, Mr. Kia is a devoted husband and father of three, an accomplished Kumu Hula (hula teacher), a cultural director and consultant, and a talented musician and actor.


Mr. Kia attended the Leeward Community College majoring in music theory and a minor in business for several years and went on to the University of Hawaii Manoa for two more years pursuing his ambitions in music, business, and the Hawaiian culture and the arts. As a multi-task, multi-talented individual, Mr. Kia was destined to be in demand for his god given talents at a very young age.

Currently, Kia is a Kumu Hula for “The Ladies of Halau Ka-Waikahe-Lani-Malie” and “The Men of Halau Ka-hulali-wai,” which have hula institutions based on Oahu, Kauai, Sacramento, Antioch, Stockton, Montana, Japan, Canada, and Tahiti. Blaine’s hula lineage began in 1979, but started dancing hula at the age of 5, while attending Ka’iulani Elementary School, and began the discovery and exploration of his hidden talents in high school at McKinley, class of ’81. He began his own hula school in 1987, and redefined his teachings and foundation in 1997 following the passing of his kumu, the late Darrell Lupenui.

Mr. Kia happily married in 1997 to wife, Kaleonani Nicole Kia in 1997 and now they have three beautiful children, Daughter Lei’opualani, Daughter Mahiehiehua, and Son Kikau. Because of his beloved wife and children, Blaine Kia has been able to broaden his values, ethics, and way of life through his many experiences in all facets of his life in which to draw from.

Mr. Kia has worked in the entertainment industry for over 20 years and owns and operates KIA Enterprises, a Hawaiian entertainment company. He is also the founder and president of the Ka Laua’e Foundation. A non-profit organization with a sound mission to promote the preservation, conservation, and perpetuation of the “hula.” He once worked as a road manager and booking agent for Henry Kapon Enterprises and C&K for three years, a cultural consultant and entertainment advisor for private and corporate companies has given Mr. Kia a wide range of experiences and mastery to work with.

He has held a successful acting career for more than 23 years starring in such




films and television series as “Aloha Summer,” “Behold Hawaii,” “Jake and the Fatman,” “Island Son.” “Marker,” and “Magnum P.I.” as well as over 30 local and 15 national commercials. He has been an active member of the Screen Actors Guild and Kathy Muller Talent Agency for over 25 years. His most recent work was becoming the musical consultant and acting role in the 2008 film, PRINCESS KAIULANI.

Mr. Kia’s musical talents have produced six CD releases between 1997 and 2008. His music has widely become a “house-hold name” and continues to gain favoritism as an acclaimed Hawaiian musical artist of his generation. Mr. Kia continues to exercise his musical talents in collaborative cultural projects in pure Hawaiian and island contemporary music. Kia is currently working on a seventh CD project to be released in 2009.

Some of Mr. Kia’s other professional affiliations include various specialist and directing positions for the Aloha Festivals, Queen Liliuokalani Children’s Center and Very Special Arts Hawaii. He is a cultural director for the Queen Liliuokalani Children’s Center where he organizes special youth programs on the island of Kauai. He is also the founder of E Pili Kakou I Ho’okahi Lahui, an annual hula retreat held on the island of Kauai, Japan, Canada, Tahiti, and Sacramento, CA., now in its 11th successful year. Truly one of Hawaii’s ambassadors, Kia has worked for the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau representing Hawaii in various overseas conventions around the globe.

In addition to his already impeccable resume, Kia has won awards for his accomplishments in several recognized hula competitions including the Moki-hana Festival, the Merrie Monarch Festival, Pleasanton Hula Festival (‘Ia ‘Oe E Ka La), Washington Hula Festival (‘Onipa’a), and the King Kamehameha Hula Competition. Mr. Kia has supported the Aloha Festivals for over 25 years and is an active board member. He recently received the honorable Kahili award for perpetuating the native songs and dances of Hawaii. Kia received a Pele award in partnership with Lynda Ching photography, a Keep It Hawaii award with the Waikiki Beach Walk, and Kia also served as the halftime pageantry director for the KODAK Hula Bowl from 1990-1995, receiving an award each of the five years for his carefully orchestrated Polynesian segment compilations.

Mr. Kia is vastly becoming a renowned Hawaiian cultural specialist/advvisor producing and directing cultural programs and Hawaiian shows. He currently holds this position for the Outrigger Hotels on the island of O’ahu, at the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, and for independent film (A/V) companies and documentaries. Kia was also on the advisory board for the first ever, WORLD HULA EXHIBIT for the Bishop Museum and museums worldwide. He also has produced and directed cultural programs and show productions for the Kauai Historical Society. Kia is currently with the Outrigger Hotels and the Waikiki Beach Walk.



Now, as an active and practicing kumu hula, Blaine Kamalani Kia owes much to his hula lineage. Blaine was a hula pupil with the Men of Waimapuna from 1980 to the passing of his kumu, Darrell Ihi'ihilauakea Lupenui in 1987. Blaine Kia competed and performed throughout his growth and humble beginnings with Darrel. Now, with all the experience under his belt, Mr. Kia has also become a hula competition judge throughout the islands being recognized for his work and contributions made from his generation.

Shortly following the death of Darrell Lupenui, Kia continued his tutoring under the late kumu hula, John Kaimikaua from 1988 to present and retained a wealth of knowledge and wisdom to sustain a growth much needed after losing Darrel Lupenui. Through this tutoring from John Kaimikaua, Blaine also sought out the teachings from kumu hula, Frank Kawaikapuokolani Hewett from 1990 to the present. These two kumu hula would be the ones to mode and shape who and what he has become in the hula world today, making an impact and making a difference.