



Biography - Moemoana Safa'ato'a Schwenke

Moemoana Safa'ato'a Schwenke is the current Miss Samoa and Miss Pacific Islands, and a dedicated advocate for children and youth, culture, education, and the environment across Samoa and the broader Pacific. Raised in Samoa, New Zealand, and Australia, Moemoana works tirelessly to preserve and promote Pacific cultural heritage. In her professional capacity, Moemoana has significantly impacted Pacific performing arts and cultural preservation as a Senior Tutor at the Matavai Pacific Cultural Arts Centre and as a Pacific Consultation and Research Officer at The Australian Museum. At present, she works with Samoa Tourism to advance sustainable tourism initiatives. Her work as Founder and Director of Tā Fesilafa'i Creative and Performing Arts Initiative has engaged over 1000 young people in Samoa, using cultural arts to address societal challenges and empower future generations. Her initiatives and professional work collaborate with local villages and engage with high-level government and international bodies. Moemoana has represented Samoa as a Youth Government Delegate at COP26 in Glasgow and COP28 in Dubai, and many other international platforms to advocate on the effects of climate change on Pacific Islands. She is an acclaimed performing artist and Siva Afi (fire knife) performer, celebrated for her participation in Pacific regional cultural festivals and competitions and as a pioneer in the World Fire-Knife Championships. Moemoana holds a Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Studies and Environmental Humanities from the University of Wollongong. Moemoana is also an emerging writer and director, with her production 'Motu of Western Sydney' and the upcoming short film 'Fetuilelagi.' Empowering the next generation is at the heart of Moemoana's service to her Country and region, she remains strong in her commitment to community and cultural engagement.