*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 12, 2019. For more information: Bill Kimball,* *bill@publicenergy.ca* *705-745-1788*

**Public Energy’s Spotlight on Indigenous Dance from Australia continues**

with

**Victoria Hunt’s *Copper Promises: Hinemihi Haka*
at the Market Hall Performing Arts Centre, February 19, 2019 at 8pm**

**Come early for a pre-show chat with curator Patti Shaughnessy**
and a film about Victoria Hunt’s work at 7pm in the Market Hall lobby.

**Stay late for a Q&A with Victoria Hunt**
on the Market Hall stage following the show.

**VICTORIA HUNT,** a leading figure in Australian contemporary dance, has performed to critical acclaim around the world and is now coming to Peterborough for the first time. Hunt’s signature work, *Copper Promises: Hinemihi Haka*, is on tour across Canada with stops at Vancouver’s prestigious PuSh Festival, the national Arts Centre in Ottawa, and Public Energy in Peterborough. Hunt’s engagement is one of two indigenous dance programs from Australia organized by Public Energy’s guest curator, Patti Shaughnessy, a member of Curve Lake First Nation.

A queer indigenous feminist artist, Victoria Hunt is Australian-born and a Maori of mixed descent (Te Arawa, Ngāti Kahungunu, Rongowhakaata, English, Irish and Finnish). The work they have created, *Copper Promises,* is a stunning production that was ten years in the making; Hunt’s mesmerizing stage presence and potent physicality, combined with stunning lighting, sound and visual effects, generate a work of fierce energy and emotional power.

*Copper Promises: Hinemihi Haka* embodies the cultural and physical journey of Hinemihi – a female ancestor, but also a ceremonial meeting house connected with Maori cultural heritage: a carved ancestral house which was ‘acquired’ and transported to Britain after a devastating volcanic eruption in 1886. Hinemihi’s story is interwoven with Hunt’s own, tracing themes of reconnecting with family and culture, and learning from the land. The dance is at once organic, suggestive of primordial times, and electrifying. It is as if Hunt is channelling the spirits of their ancestors and the very land they come from.

The journey Hunt undertook to create *Copper Promises* is as impressive as the final product: a decade of embodied research across three countries. Hunt travelled from Brisbane to Auckland, Rotorua to Minto and Sydney to Surrey over time, collecting video imagery, recording sound and interviews and making a series of short dance works. They’ve written, danced and dreamt this material and has now shaped it into a work that merges feeling and gesture as they echo across landscape and through time. In the final stages of creating the work Hunt brought some important collaborators to create the spellbinding imagery and soundscape for the work: lighting by Clytie Smith, sound by James Brown and video/lighting by Boris Bagattini. All three of these artists are with Victoria Hunt on the Canadian tour, guaranteeing that audiences will feel the full impact of this multi-media tour de force.

*Public Energy presents part two of our Spotlight on Australian Indigenous Dance*

**Victoria Hunt with *Copper Promises: Hinemihi Haka***

**February 19, 2019 at 8pm**

**Market Hall Performing Arts Centre, 140 Charlotte St, Peterborough**

**pre-show chat and film with curator Patti Shaughnessy** **at 7pm in the Market Hall lobby**

**Post-show Q & A with Victoria Hunt on stage following show**

Tickets\*: $22 / $12 for students and underwaged / $7 high school students
Available at the Market Hall Box Office and online at markethall.org
\*plus service charge where applicable