Best Fiction Short Film – Melbourne International Film Festival 2005
1st Prize, Short Film Competition – Stockholm International Film Festival 2005
1st Place, Best Live Action – Palm Springs International Short Film Festival 2005
2nd Place Audience Award – National Geographic All Roads Festival 2004
Special Jury Prize Honourable Mention – Panorama Berlin International Film Festival 2005
Jury Award - Aspen ShortsFest 2005
Coopers Award for Best Film – Flickerfest 2006

Tama Tū
Written and Directed
By Taika Waititi

PRESSKIT

Even at war... boys will be boys.

w w w . t a m a t u . c o . n z

INTERNATIONAL SALES
Juliette Veber, NZ Film, PO Box 11 546, Wellington, N Z
Tel: 64 4 382 7686 Fax: 64 4 384 9719 juliette@nzfilm.co.nz

N E W  Z E A L A N D  F I L M
PRODUCTION NOTES

Director
Taika Waititi

Producers
Cliff Curtis & Ainsley Gardiner

Production Company
aio films limited

35mm Dolby Digital Colour 18mins 1:2.35

LOGLINE

Even at war...boys will be boys.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Tama Tū (Sons of Tū: The God of War)

6 Maori Battalion soldiers wait for night to fall in the ruins of a ruined Italian home. Forced into silence they keep themselves amused like any boys would, with jokes and laughter. As they try and ignore the reminders of war around them, a tohu (sign) brings them back to the world of the dying.

They gather to say a karakia (prayer) to unite their spirits before they head back into the dark of war.

28 (Maori) Battalion

Every culture has its stories and its heroes. For us, the men of the 28 (Maori) Battalion are legendary. These were soldiers who owed no allegiance to a flag but fought and died in their thousands because they were warriors at heart. When they fought they fought for their own lands and their own families, and whilst they encountered racism from their own within the army, their name and their faces became legendary on both sides of the War.

There have been numerous books written and documentaries made on the 28 (Maori) Battalion. Tama Tū is the first drama told of our men and that war. What’s more, it is not a typical, sombre war story. It captures the humour and heart of these soldiers as well as the tragedy of the time. It is a tribute to all of those soldiers of 28 Battalion who were lost and to the mana (status) and lives of those who were not. It is a film made by us for them that we now take to the world in their honour.
**DIRECTOR’S NOTES**

This is not a film about war, it is a film about the vitality of life.

With *Tama Tū*, I wanted to capture the feeling that in the darkest of situations there are some events that stand out, brief moments that show how we humans seek out the light, the joy in life, regardless of our surroundings or situation.

The story of the soldiers is simple. They are a bunch of young men, all Maori, from rural New Zealand (possibly some are related), who have a special bond, strengthened by their character, their culture and each other. They are a tight unit, they know each other and care for each other, they are brothers, but most of all, they are young boys.

**DIRECTOR’S BIOGRAPHY**

Taika is of Te-Whanau-a-Apanui descent and hails from the Raukokore region of the East Coast. He has been involved in the film industry for several years, initially as an actor, and now focusing on writing and directing.

As a performer and comedian, Taika has been involved in some of the most innovative and successful original productions seen in New Zealand. He regularly does stand-up gigs in and around the country and in 2004 launched his solo production, “Taika’s Incredible Show”. In 2005 he will stage the sequel, “Taika’s Incrediblerer Show”. As an actor, Taika has been critically acclaimed for both his Comedic and dramatic abilities. In 2000 he was nominated for Best Actor at the Nokia Film Awards for his role in the Sarkies Brothers’ film “Scarfies”.

He currently has 3 feature films in development. He will be attending the Sundance Writers Lab in January 2005 with *Choice*, a feature loosely based on the hugely successful *Two Cars, One Night*.
PRODUCTION COMPANIES – AIO & DEFENDER FILMS

AIO FILMS LTD was started in early 2004 by Cliff Curtis and Ainsley Gardiner. Cliff, a talented character actor, came home from Hollywood with the expectation that after ten years away the Maori Film Industry would be flourishing with a diverse range of characters for him to play!! The reality inspired him to start a company devoted to creating a home for indigenous storytelling that would in turn encourage an aspect of the industry informed by tikanga Maori.

Ainsley Gardiner was in the process of securing funding for Taika’s second short, Tama Tū, and was also inspired to change the direction of Maori filmmaking in NZ.

Aio Films Limited’s business plan is founded on the premise that indigenous peoples have a story to tell and that proactive steps must be taken to ensure that these stories do not perish through neglect by the dominant cultures or through our own failure as indigenous peoples to take steps to ensure the survival of the rich heritage that it ours. This includes supporting different narrative and stylistic structures that arise from who and what we are.

The company is currently developing 3 first features, including Taika Waititi’s, due to start production in 2005. The aim is to fast track writing in creatively and culturally relevant environments, effectively infusing the script with the principles that will be followed through from its development to its production.

DEFENDER FILMS LIMITED was started by Taika Waititi and Ainsley Gardiner in 2003 to produce TWO CARS, ONE NIGHT. The nature of the process, the spirit in which the film was shot and the subject matter that has been key to making TWO CARS, ONE NIGHT such a beautiful short are all key to the philosophies and aspirations of DEFENDER FILMS LIMITED.

DEFENDER FILMS LIMITED, primarily involved in the development of Taika and Ainsley’s films, is now working in tandem with AIO FILMS LTD.

With Two Cars, One Night an Academy Award nominee 2005, international attention is focussed on this exciting creative team and their companies.
PRODUCERS BIOGRAPHIES

AINSLEY GARDINER is of Te Whanau-A-Apanui, Ngati Pikiao and Ngati Awa descent. She began her involvement in film in 1995 with the Avalon Film and TV production course. The course included work placement with Kahukura Productions, one of NZ’s most prolific film production companies. She maintained a close affiliation with them including producing many of the company’s projects, which has seen her emerge as one of New Zealand's most promising young producers.

As well as producing 3 features before she was 28, she also produced a 26-episode comedy for television. She has also produced short films and worked on commercials, shorts and corporate videos in production and as an assistant director for other companies.

As a creative producer she is closely involved with script and story development as well as casting and talent development. She has recently directed a documentary “Turangawaewae – He Korero” and a technology series “Cyberworld” for the Maori Television Network. She is also currently developing her own scripts.

CLIFF CURTIS is of Ngati Pikiao of Te Arawa descent. A graduate of New Zealand’s premiere acting school, Toi Whakaari, Cliff’s film career has been prolific. He has worked with New Zealand’s and Hollywood’s finest, from Vincent Ward, Lee Tamahori and Geoff Murphy locally, to Ted Demme, Frank Darabont and Martin Scorsese internationally.

His decision to return home was initially to continue his acting career making films from his own experiences and background. What has transpired is that his skills as an actor in character, story and script, and as a communicator and deal-maker better suited at this time to the generation of those sorts of projects.
FESTIVAL AWARDS:

2004 2nd Place Audience Award - National Geographic All Roads Festival, USA
2005 Best Fiction Short Film - Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia
2005 Honourable Mention in Short Film Making - Sundance Film Festival, USA
2005 Special Jury Prize, Honourable Mention, Panorama - Berlin Film Festival, Germany
2005 Special Jury Prize - Aspen Shortsfest, USA
2005 Linda Mabalot New Director's/New Visions Award - VC LA Asian Pacific Film Festival, USA
2005 1st Place, Best Live Action – Palm Springs International Short Film Festival, USA
2005 Honourable Jury Mention – St Tropez Film Festival, France
2005 1st Prize, Short Film Competition – Stockholm International Film Festival, Sweden
2006 Cooper's Award for Best Film at Flickerfest 2006 – Flickerfest, Australia
2006 Audience Choice Award – Magma Short Film Festival, Rotorua, New Zealand

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS:

2004 National Geographic All Roads Festival,
2005 Berlin International Film Festival, Panorama Section, Germany
2005 Sundance Film Festival-Official Selection, USA
2005 Martha’s Vineyard Independent Film Festival, USA
2005 Message Sticks Film Festival, Sydney, Australia
2005 Worldwide Film Festival, Toronto Canada
2005 Melbourne International Film Festival – Official Selection, Australia
2005 Hawaii International Film Festival, Hawaii
2005 VC LA Asian Pacific Film Festival, USA
2005 Indianapolis International Film Festival, USA
2005 Aspen Shortsfest, USA
2005 Museum of Modern Art-Sundance Screening, New York, USA
2005 Newport Beach Film Festival, USA
2005 Los Angeles Film Festival, USA
2005 Heard Museum Film Festival, USA
2005 Montreal International Film Festival, Canada
2005 The New Zealand Film Festival, New Zealand
2005 Brisbane International Film Festival, Australia
2005 Motovun Film Festival, Croatia
2005 Cinema Jove, Spain
2005 Provincetown Film Festival, USA
2005 Wairoa Maori Film Festival, New Zealand
2005 Edinburgh International Film Festival, Scotland
2005 Rhode Island International Film Festival, USA
2005 Palm Springs International Film Festival, USA
2005 Mill Valley Film Festival, USA
2005 Indigenous Film and Arts Festival, USA
2005 Aarhus Film Festival, Denmark
2005 Taipei Golden Horse Festival, Taiwan
2005 ImagineNATIVE Film and Media Arts Festival, Canada
2005 Leeds International Film Festival, UK
2005 Stockholm International Film Festival, Sweden
2005 Rio de Janeiro International Short Film Festival – Curta Cinema 2005, Brazil
2005 Prague Short Film Festival, Czech Republic
2006 First Night Film Program – Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA
2006 Flickerfest International Short Film Festival, Australia
FESTIVAL SCREENINGS CONTINUED:

2006 Moviefone Short Film Festival, USA
2006 River Run International Film Festival, USA
2006 Portland International Film Festival, USA
2006 Afrika Pasikika Festival, Australia
2006 Aarhus Festival of Independent Film, Denmark
2006 Weeneebeg Aboriginal Film & Video Festival, Canada
2006 San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival, USA
2006 Ashland Independent Film Festival, USA
2006 The Cinematic Pacific Film Festival, Honolulu
2006 Sami Film Festival, Norway
2006 Embassy Film Festival, Tokyo, Japan
2006 Montreal First People’s Film and Video Festival, Canada
2006 March to Victory: Honouring the Maori Battalion, The New Zealand Film Archive
2006 New Zealand Film Festival, China
2006 San Diego Asian Film Festival, USA
2006 Screen on the Green – Queenstown Jazz Festival, New Zealand
2006 Magma Short Film Festival, New Zealand
2006 All Roads Film Festival, National Geographic, USA
2006 Native Cinema Showcase, USA
### CAST

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<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
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<td>JEREMY RANDERSON</td>
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### CREW

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Writer/Director</td>
<td>TAIKI WAITITI</td>
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Production Designer
Art Director
Props Buyer
Standby Props
Painters
Art Dept Assistants
Art Dept Runner
Key Makeup
Makeup Assistant
Wardrobe Mistress
Wardrobe Assistant
Military/Weapons Advisor
Military Training
Armourer
Animals supplied by
Animal Trainers
Uniforms Supplied by
Location Manager
Catering
Coffee
Location
Location Liaison
Mainzeal Site Liaison
Nikau Construction
Videographer
Camera Equipment
Grip Equipment
Lighting Equipment
Vehicles
Accommodation

CHRIS HILES
KAYNE HORSHAM
SVEN WIIG
DONNA PEARMAN
BRETT LARSEN
TROY HANNETT
RUBEN ALLEN
MEIHANA DURIE
VINCENT DECAISSOLE
MIKE MURPHY
JEFF GOLDFINCH
FRANKIE KARENA
ANGELA MOOAR
REBECCA HAMPTON
JESS REEDY
MALCOLM (JOE) EVANS
ALBIE WIRITANA
BRAD MCMILLAN
HERO ANIMALS LIMITED
JAMES DELANEY
CAROLINE GIRDELSTONE
JEREMY RAE
NICK BATES
RACHAEL ROPATA
PHILM PRODUCTIONS
HUIIA LAMBIE
CAFFE L’AFFARE
WELLINGTON HOSPITAL
MARK HUGHES
CARLHAM LATTIMORE
JOHN PENGALLY
GRANT TAYLOR
JOHN MATAPARAE
JOHN PAUL STIL
JOHN & DIANA STIL
TARA DURRANT
PANAVISION
LOVE YOUR GRIP
THE LIGHTIN’ UP COMPANY
PAUL SAWTELL, FILM TRANSPORT CO
PORTLAND TOWERS HOTEL
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