

**UNDER  
THE  
MOUNTAIN**

**PRESS BOOK**

## CONTENTS

|    |                       |
|----|-----------------------|
| 2  | Fact Sheet            |
| 3  | Synopsis              |
| 5  | About the Production  |
| 8  | About the Cast        |
| 11 | About the Film Makers |
| 15 | Presentation Credits  |
| 17 | End Credits           |

# UNDER THE MOUNTAIN

## FACT SHEET

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>Genre</b>    | Sci-Fi Adventure |
| <b>Format</b>   | 35mm             |
| <b>Duration</b> | 91 minutes       |
| <b>Ratio</b>    | 2.35:1           |

### **Starring:**

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Sam Neill</b>          | Mr Jones       |
| <b>Thomas Cameron</b>     | Theo           |
| <b>Sophie McBride</b>     | Rachel         |
| <b>Oliver Driver</b>      | Mr Wilberforce |
| <b>Leon Wadham</b>        | Ricky          |
| <b>Matthew Sunderland</b> | Wilberforce    |

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Director</b>                       | Jonathan King                                     |
| <b>Screenplay</b>                     | Matthew Grainger & Jonathan King                  |
| <b>Producers</b>                      | Richard Fletcher, Jonathan King, Matthew Grainger |
| <b>Production Companies</b>           | Index Films/Liberty Films                         |
| <b>Based on the novel by</b>          | Maurice Gee                                       |
| <b>Executive Producers</b>            | Chris Bailey, Chris Hampson, Trevor Haysom        |
| <b>Director of Photography</b>        | Richard Bluck                                     |
| <b>Editor</b>                         | Chris Plummer                                     |
| <b>Music</b>                          | Victoria Kelly                                    |
| <b>Sound Design</b>                   | Tim Prebble                                       |
| <b>Production Design</b>              | Ralph Davies                                      |
| <b>VFX Supervisor</b>                 | Charlie McKellan                                  |
| <b>Creature &amp; Make-up Effects</b> | Weta Workshop                                     |
| <b>Costume Design</b>                 | Kiri Rainey                                       |
| <b>Casting</b>                        | Stu Turner  |

Financed by: New Zealand Film Commission, NZ On Air, Footprint Investments LLP, 120dB Films, Fulcrum Media Finance.

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

When teenage twins Rachel and Theo Matheson investigate the creepy old house next door, they discover the Wilberforces – shape-shifting creatures that lurk beneath Auckland’s ring of extinct volcanoes. Guided by the mysterious Mr Jones and with the help of their older cousin Ricky, the twins must rekindle the unique powers they once shared if they are to destroy this ancient evil – before it destroys them.

## SYNOPSIS

Teenage twins Rachel (Sophie McBride) and Theo (Tom Cameron) travel to Auckland to stay with relatives following the sudden death of their mother. Where there was once a psychic bond between them, now there is a rift as Theo, particularly, refuses to confront his grief. Rachel reaches out to him, but is rebuffed.

Staying with their Aunt Kay (Michaela Rooney) and Uncle Cliff (Matt Chamberlain) on Lake Pupuke, the twins are fascinated by the volcanic lake and the creepy old Wilberforce house around the shore. They visit Mt Eden, where Theo sees Mr Jones (Sam Neill), a strange old man from whose hands fire seems to glow. When it seems the twins are being watched – and that the Wilberforces can smell them – Theo resolves to investigate the Wilberforce house. Inside, he and Rachel find what can only be an alien environment. They overhear Mr Wilberforce talking about something stirring beneath the ground. He says he will kill the twins if they find “the fire-raiser”. Rachel is alarmed and reaches out to Theo but, terrified of getting close to anyone since his mother’s death, he pushes her away and sets out alone to find the fire-raiser – the man he saw on the summit of Mt Eden.

As Theo makes contact with Mr Jones they are observed by a Wilberforce on Mt Eden. Mr Wilberforce knows that the twins have made contact with Jones and attacks Rachel, alone in the house, by transforming and disguising himself as a policeman. When Jones discovers that Theo is a twin – and that his sister is alone – he hurries them back to the house, where they find Rachel injured. Using a healing fire, Jones heals Rachel and transports them to his own house. Here, he tells them the truth about the Wilberforces: they are in league with giant creatures imprisoned beneath Auckland’s volcanoes - creatures that will soon wake and destroy all life on Earth. The only weapons that can destroy them are stones created by Mr Jones’s people. They must be thrown into Rangitoto, but only by twins, joined by the psychic bond that Rachel and Theo once shared. As Theo holds his stone and is energised by its power, Rachel finds herself unable to hold her own.

When a neighbour alerts the police to the mysterious man in the company of two teens, the twins and Jones are taken to the police station. The twins are taken home, while Mr Jones is held for questioning. Theo plans to go after the Wilberforces later in the night but Rachel is woken first by what seems to be Mr Jones calling her. She is drawn to the Wilberforce house, where it is revealed that it is Wilberforce who is leading her. Just as Wilberforce is about to take Rachel, Theo appears and beats him back with the power of his glowing stone. Wilberforce chases them down into the network of tunnels below the lake, where they encounter a gargantua – one of the Wilberforces’ gigantic creatures. With the Wilberforces closing in, Theo beats them back with a burst of fire from his stone. The twins make a narrow escape and are rescued by Mr Jones and their cousin Ricky (Leon Wadham).

Hiding out in the tunnels of North Head, Mr Jones reveals that Rachel is unable to hold her stone because Theo has lost faith in their bond – it is Theo who is the weak one. But Rachel fails in a last-ditch attempt to reconnect with Theo, who believes he can destroy the Wilberforces alone. Meanwhile, Ricky steals Cliff's boat to transport the twins to Rangitoto, and must escape from the Wilberforces in order to get back to North Head with the boat. Arriving there, Ricky finds Theo waiting for him, and is convinced to take him to the mountain alone.

Rachel and Mr Jones pursue Theo, Mr Jones sacrificing himself to transport her to the top of the mountain. But Mr Wilberforce is waiting for her and Theo arrives to find Rachel near death. Realising that his worst fears have come to pass because of his own actions, Theo reaches out for Rachel, re-establishing their bond. Rachel is revived and the twins throw their stones, defeating the Wilberforces. Auckland's volcanoes light up with supernatural fire as the twins race back to the boat. They are reunited with Ricky and set off for home and as the skies above Rangitoto Island burn blood red.

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

*Under the Mountain* is a motion picture adaptation of Maurice Gee's best-selling novel of the same name. Principal photography commenced on Monday August 11, 2008 and was completed on Wednesday October 1, 2008.

*Under the Mountain* is a science-fiction adventure story about teenage twins who battle dark forces hidden beneath Auckland's volcanoes. The film was shot at various stunning locations around Auckland, New Zealand – including the iconic Rangitoto Island – as well as other dormant volcanoes such as Mt Eden, Lake Pupuke and the North Head of Auckland harbour.

*Under the Mountain* introduces two talented newcomers to the big screen, Sophie McBride and Tom Cameron as red-headed twins Rachel and Theo. Sam Neill (*Dean Spanley, The Piano, Jurassic Park*) stars as Mr. Jones, a mysterious loner who helps the twins. Oliver Driver (*Black Sheep*) plays the evil Mr Wilberforce. The 28-member Kiwi cast of *Under the Mountain* includes other well-known New Zealand actors Nathaniel Lees, Madeleine Sami and Matthew Sunderland.

The film is directed by Jonathan King. It was produced by Jonathan King and Matthew Grainger of Index Films and Richard Fletcher of Liberty Films. Chris Hampson, Chris Bailey and Trevor Haysom are the Executive Producers. The screenplay is by Grainger and King, based on the much-loved classic book by New Zealand author Maurice Gee.

"After *Black Sheep*," says director Jonathan King, "Matthew Grainger and I discussed what we would like to do next. *Under the Mountain* was a dream project for us both. Matthew had been working on an adaptation of the book in the past and we knew there was a great movie there waiting to be made. Our next port of call was to Richard Taylor at Weta Workshop, who jumped at the chance to be involved in the project."

"Richard Taylor had read the book when he was younger," Grainger says. "He had a great understanding of the kinds of worlds and creatures that Maurice Gee created, and saw the opportunity to update a classic story and create a uniquely New Zealand sci-fi adventure film." Jonathan King says, "The team at Weta produced some concept art images early on that really got the ball rolling on the film quickly."

Producer Richard Fletcher says, "Apart from the strength of the script, other elements that sparked early interest in the project included the involvement of Weta Workshop and the fact that this is Jonathan King's second feature film after *Black Sheep*. Together with the proven skills of New Zealand crews with past successes such as *Narnia, Bridge to Terabithia* and of course *Lord of the Rings*, this production is a compelling package and when Sam Neill joined the production, that sealed it!"

"Weta Workshop's designs for the Wilberforces and their environment were like nothing we'd ever seen before," says Grainger. "They rose effortlessly to the challenge of bringing those designs to life physically, and then our talented computer VFX team took over in post production and completed the realisation of that design work, adding all kinds of tentacles, creeping mud and other elements."

Director Jonathan King says, “We’ve produced a scary and exciting adventure for teenage audiences, one that contrasts its contemporary Auckland city setting with a fantastic subterranean world beneath.”

## A CLASSIC TALE

*Under the Mountain*, written by Maurice Gee, has been continuously in print since it was first published in 1979. The book has been a much-loved classic for many generations. This best-selling novel was Gee’s first written especially for teenage readers. In 2004 the novel won the Gaelyn Gordon Award for a Much-loved Book. This annual Children’s Literature Foundation of New Zealand award honours a New Zealand book that did not win an award at time of publication but has remained in print and won favour with readers.

Filming *Under the Mountain* proved to be a uniquely challenging experience as the novel is very close to home for many of the filmmakers and actors involved in the project. The novel and later the 1982 television series were indelible experiences for young New Zealanders at that time.

Sam Neill, who plays the mysterious Mr. Jones, says: “I read *Under the Mountain* years and years ago – probably in the course of parenthood. I enjoyed it very much. Every New Zealander loves Maurice Gee and he’s a national treasure, and pretty much everyone I know has a favourite Gee novel – you have to consider yourself lucky to be working on this kind of material.”

Director Jonathan King’s inspiration dates back to his youth: “Growing up, I loved the book and, in fact, I even played the part of Theo in a Radio New Zealand adaptation of it when I was 14! When Matthew Grainger and I met, one of the first things we found we had a common interest in was *Under the Mountain*.”

Screenwriter Matthew Grainger says, “The movies that I grew up with that had young protagonists were mostly American sci-fi and fantasy films. Then *Under the Mountain* came along. It was a story that felt like one of those Hollywood stories – but it was about me and my peers, set in our backyard. The enduring nature of the novel meant we approached the script from two perspectives, writing both for fans both young and old and for audiences who are approaching the story fresh without having read the book. There will be a few surprises – but we took great care to keep everything in the spirit of Maurice’s telling of the story.”

Director Jonathan King cites the inspiration as also being a challenge: “On one hand it’s great to be working on a film that everyone has a connection to – but on the other, it’s a terrifying responsibility! Our mission was to make a film that delivered what everyone knew a film of *Under the Mountain* had to have, while taking you on a ride you haven’t had before. Our version adapts the book for contemporary audiences, while recognising the iconic nature of the story – readers will find the iconic moments they remember, though not necessarily in the way they expect them. Viewers new to the story will find a world of creepiness and creatures like nothing they’ve seen on film before.”

“My age-group grew up with the television series,” says Producer Richard Fletcher. “Nowadays a lot of us have kids of our own who were too young for the series, so this spurs you to think about what appealed to you as a child and what will appeal to today’s generation. And ultimately, *Under the Mountain* is a really fantastic adventure story.”

## TAKING THE STORY TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Screenwriter Matthew Grainger says, “Our film really takes *Under the Mountain* to the next level, with the sophisticated CGI and production values that today’s cinemagoers expect to see. Thanks to the talented creatives at Weta Workshop, who created our amazingly scary Wilberforces, and Production Designer Ralph Davies and his amazing team, we can deliver an all-new, updated interpretation of the classic story for a new generation of audiences.”

*Under the Mountain* takes audiences to all the familiar locations from the original story, including the modern mansion on the shore of Lake Pupuke, the dilapidated Wilberforce house, the underground tunnels and caverns where the Wilberforces’ giant gargantua reside, and the viewing platform above the crater of Rangitoto. These locations are brought to life using a state-of-the-art combination of real locations, sets and digital visual effects. All of the film’s VFX work was undertaken in New Zealand.

“We wanted the sets and creatures to have a tangible quality to them,” says director Jonathan King. “We didn’t want to fall back on digital solutions, so we chose to build the Wilberforce house for real, on the edge of Lake Pupuke – to give our young actors a real creepy place to investigate. Our underground caverns were also physical sets, which were then extended digitally to give the impression of cavernous spaces. And many of our creatures were present on-set – suits and makeup effects designed and built by Weta Workshop, that were then augmented and enhanced by our VFX team.”

## THE NEW ZEALAND LANDSCAPE OF UNDER THE MOUNTAIN

“We were determined to show on film an Auckland you’ve never seen before, “ says director Jonathan King. “We always had an eye to how Rangitoto should be seen in the background: we asked ourselves, what lens will make it loom closer or brood in the distance? We wanted this modern landscape – that we all take for granted – to be looked at afresh as a place where fantastic and frightening things can happen.”

Screenwriter Matthew Grainger says the spectacular New Zealand landscape and geography are a key feature in the story. “New Zealanders have an inherent understanding of the threat of geological or geothermal phenomena. In Wellington where I live, we’re constantly away of the threat of earthquakes and how The Big One is overdue. In Auckland the focus is on the volcanoes – they’re a constant visual reminder of how the Auckland landscape was formed. As a New Zealander, you take the power of the natural landscape seriously – and the film plays upon those fears.”

Producer Richard Fletcher adds, “*Under the Mountain* brings a fresh perspective to urban Auckland, but doesn’t focus on its man-made developments – instead, the film takes audience to spectacular natural landmarks like Rangitoto island. Landscape is an important part of what shapes many NZ films, such as the long gravel road in *An Angel at my Table*, the West Auckland beach of Kare Kare in *The Piano* ... most of our films have a rural environment, but *Under the Mountain* is different – it is set in an urban environment, and yet beneath that, it’s all about the landscape.”



## ABOUT THE CAST

### SAM NEILL – MR JONES

Since his New Zealand screen debut in Roger Donaldson's *Sleeping Dogs* in 1978, and his breakthrough film role in *My Brilliant Career* opposite Judy Davis, Sam has appeared in over 80 film and television productions. A recipient of an Order of the British Empire for Services to Acting and an Distinguished Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit, Sam Neill is internationally recognised for his theatrical contributions.

He is perhaps best known for his roles in the award winning film *The Piano* and the blockbuster *Jurassic Park*. His other film credits include *Skin*, *Dean Spanley*, the Australian film *How to Change in 9 Weeks*, Working Title's *Wimbledon*, *Yes for Orlando* director Sally Potter, the New Zealand thriller *Perfect Strangers*, Australian writer/ director David Caesar's *Dirty Deeds*, the Czech production *The Zookeeper* and two of the *Jurassic Park* films.

Sam has received many accolades for his work in film, including a 1993 AFI (Australian Film Institute) Award nomination for Best Actor in a Supporting Role for his performance as the detached husband in Jane Campion's classic *The Piano*. Also in 1993, Sam was named New Zealand Entertainer of the Year. In 1991 he received an AFI nomination for Best Performance by an Actor in a Lead Role for the feature *Death in Brunswick*. He won the award in 1989 for his performance in Fred Schepisi's dramatisation of the Lindy Chamberlain story *Evil Angels* (aka *A Cry in the Dark*).

Sam's television roles have received high praise, earning him a total of three Golden Globe nominations. In 1998 he received Emmy and Golden Globe nominations for the title role in the NBC miniseries *Merlin*. He also received a Golden Globe nomination in 1992 for his performance opposite Judy Davis in the war drama *One against the Wind* and in 1985 for his performance as British spy Sidney Reilly in *Reilly: the Ace of Spies*, which also starred Leo McKern. The British Academy of Film and Television honoured Sam's work in the miniseries by naming him the Best Actor on British Television in 1984. For his performance in the big budget 2004 Australian drama *Jessica*, Sam received an AFI Award for Best Actor. His television appearances also include Granada's epic miniseries *Doctor Zhivago*, *To the Ends of Earth*, Showtime's *The Tudors* and *Crusoe*.

Sam has also worked behind the camera and his directing credits include the Channel Seven tele-feature *The Brush-Off*, starring David Wenham.

Sam produces an excellent New Zealand pinot noir called *Two Paddocks*, in the Otago region of New Zealand's south island. He is also active in a number of environmental causes.

### OLIVER DRIVER – MR. WILBERFORCE

Oliver Driver is a New Zealand actor, director, broadcaster and television presenter. In 2006 he starred in the hit horror comedy film *Black Sheep*, directed by *Under the Mountain* director Jonathan King. Driver has also appeared in *A Death in the Family*, *Topless Woman Talk About Their Lives*, *Majik and Rose*, *Snakeskin* and *Toy Love*.

He currently hosts the early morning news show Sunrise with Carly Flynn and previously hosted the TVNZ arts programme *Frontseat*.

Driver had a core cast role in the popular New Zealand drama *Shortland Street* as well as starring in a TVNZ comedy *Serial Killers* and has appeared in several roles in long-running TV series *Power Rangers*.

In theatre Oliver Driver enjoys an illustrious career as an actor and director, he starred in the play *The Pillowman* at the Maidment Theatre, Auckland and in a season of Harold Pinter's *Betrayal* for the Silo Theatre. He has also directed numerous productions for Auckland Theatre Company.

## **SOPHIE McBRIDE – RACHEL**

Sophie McBride makes her acting debut in *Under the Mountain*.

At present a university student studying Art History and English, Sophie has a strong interest in the arts, having studied painting and music (she won her High School talent quest singing a solo accompanying herself on piano).

Although *Under the Mountain* is Sophie's first professional acting engagement, she has been around acting and actors since she was born. Her mother, Michele Hine, is a professional actor, director and acting teacher.

## **TOM CAMERON – THEO**

*Under the Mountain* introduces audiences to Tom Cameron.

Tom was exposed to performing at a young age through dance group BoyZdance and continued in school productions at a more senior level, most recently pursuing his love of acting with Auckland's Aspiring Young Actors.

Tom's experience playing Theo in *Under the Mountain* have cemented his desire to continue acting and he will be seen in the upcoming TV series *This Is Not My Life*.

## **LEON WADHAM – RICKY**

Leon Wadham has been working as an actor since finishing high school in 2006. *Under the Mountain* is his first feature film.

He is currently studying at Toi Whakaari: The New Zealand Drama School and developing his play *Live at Six*, recipient of the 2009 STAB commission.

## MATTHEW SUNDERLAND – WILBERFORCE DRONE

Matthew Sunderland is a graduate of Toi Whakaari: The New Zealand Drama School. He has received acclaim for his searing performances on the screen and on the stage, notably his portrayal of mass-murderer David Gray in Robert Sarkies' *Out of the Blue*, for which he won the Best Actor award at the NZ Film Awards in 2008.

He was also awarded Best Actor in a Short Film for his role in *Nature's Way* (in competition, Cannes, 2006). Matthew featured in the films *Christmas* and *A Song of Good* for director Greg King, and has appeared in the films *Woodenhead*, *The Strength of Water* and *Stringer*. He has performed in such plays as *The Cherry Orchard*, *Trainspotting* and *Fool for Love* on the New Zealand stage.

## ABOUT THE CREW

### JONATHAN KING – DIRECTOR/WRITER/PRODUCER

Jonathan King wrote and directed *Black Sheep* in 2005. The film debuted at the Toronto International Film Festival, went on to sell to more than 50 countries and is among New Zealand's highest grossing films internationally.

The cast included Oliver Driver and Nathan Meister, who both feature in *Under the Mountain*, and the project established King's relationship with Weta Workshop, whose effects for the comedy-horror won Best Make Up at the NZ Film Awards.

In 2007 King and Matthew Grainger wrote *The Tattooist*, directed by Peter Burger and released in the USA by Sam Raimi's Ghost House Pictures. The pair collaborated again on the screenplay *Under the Mountain* and have future projects in development.

Before the release of his first feature, King had made short films, TV commercials and more than 100 New Zealand music video clips.

### MATTHEW GRAINGER – WRITER/PRODUCER

Matthew Grainger is a screenwriter, producer and script consultant based in Wellington, New Zealand.

Raised in London, Wellington and Brussels, Matthew Grainger got his start in screenwriting working for TVNZ's children's department. Following that he worked in film, television and advertising, winning numerous international awards for his copywriting work for Saatchi & Saatchi Wellington's interactive team.

Grainger was script editor on Jonathan King's film *Black Sheep*. In 2007, he co-wrote several episodes of the TVNZ drama series *The Market*, and co-wrote the horror feature *The Tattooist* with Jonathan King, released in the USA by Sam Raimi's Ghost House Pictures.

Grainger and King are currently developing future projects through their Wellington-based production company, Index Films.

### RICHARD FLETCHER – PRODUCER

Richard is the founder and principal of Liberty Films, an independent film production company and consulting firm based in Wellington, New Zealand.

He is currently an Associate Producer on *The Volcano* and was recently the Executive Producer on the NZ/German co-production *The Strength of Water* and the financing Producer on the NZ/UK co-production *The Ferryman*. Prior to founding Liberty Films, Richard was Head of Production for

Silverscreen Films for whom he was Co-Producer on the NZ/UK co-production *River Queen* and Production Executive on Geoff Murphy's *Spooked*.

Previously he spent more than three years at the New Zealand Film Commission as Head of Business Affairs responsible for negotiating and contracting all co-production, financing, distribution, and sales deals. He was also responsible for the set-up and day-to-day operation of the New Zealand Film Production Fund.

Richard previously worked in distribution for Australian sales agent and distributor Beyond Films heading up its Australian and New Zealand distribution operation and as Operations Manager for the UK independent distributor Feature Film Company.

Richard is heavily involved in screen industry policy matters as President and previously Vice President of SPADA (the New Zealand Producer's Association), chairing its Film Policy Group and is a former board member of the New Zealand Screen Council and member of its Tax Working Group.

He is a frequent speaker on film to industry groups including the Asia Film Market and Conference Media Financing Forum, the Film Business School, the SPADA Conference, Strategic Partners, the Vancouver International Film Festival Film & Television Trade Forum and Victoria University.

## **MAURICE GEE – AUTHOR**

Maurice Gee is one of New Zealand's most distinguished and prolific novelists who has written 29 novels and 13 short stories. In 2003 his novel *In My Father's Den* was made into an internationally acclaimed feature film written and directed by the late Brad McGann. In 2003, Gee was among ten of New Zealand's greatest living artists named as Arts Foundation of New Zealand Icon Artists. Maurice Gee grew up in the Auckland suburb of Henderson, attended Avondale College and University of Auckland (MA in English 1954).

The Book Council of New Zealand describes his style of writing: "Each of Maurice Gee's novels bountifully gives us a rich vision of some region and aspect of New Zealand life, and of human life in general. Each is peopled with a variety of intensely living and unique personalities together with lush images of the natural and social worlds. Taken together his books can overwhelm us with their wealth, density and complexity of life. Yet there is always an awareness of living at the edge of an abyss: one false move and we shall leave this abundance for nothingness".

Maurice has won many New Zealand literary awards, including the Wattie Award, the Montana Award and the New Zealand Fiction Award. He has also won the Children's Book of the Year Award, and the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement. His books have been sold in many countries.

Maurice lives with his wife Margareta in Nelson and has a son and two daughters.

## **RICHARD BLUCK – DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

Richard Bluck has more than 25 years' experience as a cinematographer, camera and Steadicam operator and focus puller. Richard was 2<sup>nd</sup> Unit DOP and 2<sup>nd</sup> Unit Miniatures DOP on Peter Jackson's *King Kong*.

*Black Sheep* marked Richard's feature film debut as a cinematographer, and he followed that as DOP of *Second Hand Wedding*.

From 1999, he worked on Peter Jackson's Lord of the Rings trilogy as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Unit Director of Photography, Main Unit A camera and Steadicam operator. He shot the boat miniatures for *Master And Commander: The Far Side Of The World* and the train miniature sequence for *The Legend Of Zorro*.

## **CHRIS PLUMMER – EDITOR**

Chris Plummer has edited a number of New Zealand feature films and short films directed by some of the country's most outstanding directors, including most recently *Dean Spanley* starring Peter O'Toole and Sam Neill, and *No. 2* starring Ruby Dee – both directed by Toa Fraser. He edited *In My Fathers Den*, directed by Brad McGann and Vincent Ward's personal odyssey *Rain of the Children*. He is currently editing Taika Waititi's *The Volcano*.

This is Chris's second collaboration with Jonathan King, having edited Jonathan's first feature *Black Sheep*.

His short film credits include *Possum*, directed by Brad McGann, and *Sure to Rise* directed by Niki Caro, which was selected for competition at Cannes. Chris was also the Associate Editor for *The Quiet American*, directed by Phillip Noyce, one of Australia's most accomplished and internationally recognised directors.

His television credits include editing the telemovie *Riverworld* and numerous other television shows including *Cover Story*, *Power Rangers*, *Cleopatra 2525* and *Stingers*.

## **VICTORIA KELLY – COMPOSER**

Victoria Kelly is an award winning film composer and musician. After completing her undergraduate degree in Auckland, New Zealand, she completed post-graduate studies in film scoring at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, under the tutelage of Elmer Bernstein, David Raksin and Christopher Young.

Although her focus is film composing, Victoria also works as an arranger, performer and producer. She has collaborated with some of New Zealand's most renowned artists including SJD, Nathan Haines and Shapeshifter.

Her contemporary classical music has been commissioned, performed and recorded by many of New Zealand's leading performers and ensembles including NZTrio, the New Zealand String Quartet,

Stroma and Michael Houstoun. For her work in film and television, she has received numerous nominations and won two New Zealand Screen Awards.

Her most recent work has included composing the scores for *Black Sheep* and *Under the Mountain* for director Jonathan King, composing the score for *Out of the Blue* for director Robert Sarkies and collaborating as an arranger and orchestrator on *The Lovely Bones* for Fran Walsh and Peter Jackson.

## **RALPH DAVIES – PRODUCTION DESIGNER**

Ralph Davies has designed numerous New Zealand-based international productions including *Riverworld*, *Young Hercules* and *Wendy Wu: Homecoming Warrior*.

He was nominated for an Emmy Award for Art Direction for *Ike: Countdown to D-Day*.

## **KIRI RAINEY – COSTUME DESIGNER**

Kiri Rainey has designed costumes for numerous film and television productions including the feature film *We're Here to Help* and the short film *The Freezer*. She has also designed costumes for television series *Orange Roughies*, *Doves of War*, *Skin and Bone* and *Street Legal*.

She has assisted designers on such films as *Underworld 3*, *In My Father's Den* and *Hercules*.

## **STEVEN BOYLE – CREATIVE PROJECT DESIGNER, WETA WORKSHOP**

Steven Boyle is a creature technician, designer and special makeup effects artist currently residing in New Zealand and working for Weta Workshop in Wellington.

Steven's has produced creature and makeup effects for such films as *30 Days of Night*, *Lesbo-A-Go-Go*, *Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones*, *King Kong* and *Undead*. Steven also acted in front of the camera in *Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones* as Ask Aak.

Steven was the lead creature designer on the forthcoming *Daybreakers*, featuring Sam Neill, Ethan Hawke and Willem Dafoe.

## **WETA WORKSHOP**

The creature effects and unique look of the Wilberforces was produced by the creative wizards at the Academy Award winning facility Weta Workshop in Wellington, New Zealand. Weta Workshop is responsible for effects in the Academy Award winning Lord of the Rings films and King Kong and is co-owned by a team of Academy Award-winners that includes director Peter Jackson, effects specialist Richard Taylor and editor Jamie Selkirk.

NEW ZEALAND FILM COMMISSION  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH

NZ ON AIR

FOOTPRINT INVESTMENTS LLP

120dB FILMS

FULCRUM MEDIA FINANCE  
PRESENT

AN INDEX FILMS  
PRODUCTION

A LIBERTY FILMS  
PRODUCTION

TOM CAMERON      SOPHIE MCBRIDE

OLIVER DRIVER

LEON WADHAM

AND  
SAM NEILL

# UNDER THE MOUNTAIN

CHELSEA McEWAN-MILLAR

NATHANIEL LEES

NATHAN MEISTER

MATTHEW SUNDERLAND



CASTING  
STU TURNER

COSTUME DESIGN  
KIRI RAINEY

CREATURE AND MAKE-UP EFFECTS  
WETA WORKSHOP

VISUAL EFFECTS SUPERVISOR  
CHARLIE McCLELLAN

PRODUCTION DESIGN  
RALPH DAVIES

SOUND DESIGN  
TIM PREBBLE

MUSIC  
VICTORIA KELLY

EDITOR  
CHRIS PLUMMER

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY  
RICHARD BLUCK

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS  
CHRIS BAILEY, CHRIS HAMPSON, TREVOR HAYSOM

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY  
MAURICE GEE

PRODUCED BY  
RICHARD FLETCHER, JONATHAN KING, MATTHEW GRAINGER

SCREENPLAY BY  
MATTHEW GRAINGER & JONATHAN KING

DIRECTED BY  
JONATHAN KING

## Cast in Order of Appearance

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Johan / Lenart        | Nathan Meister        |
| Mr Jones              | Sam Neill             |
| Theo                  | Tom Cameron           |
| Rachel                | Sophie McBride        |
| Country Policeman     | Toi Iiti              |
| Richard Matheson      | Bruce Hopkins         |
| Ricky                 | Leon Wadham           |
| Clementine            | Chelsea McEwan-Millar |
| Aunt Kay              | Micheala Rooney       |
| Uncle Cliff           | Matthew Chamberlain   |
| News Reader           | Miriama Kamo          |
| Mr Wilberforce        | Oliver Driver         |
| Wilberforce Drone 1   | Matthew Sunderland    |
| Wilberforce Drone 2   | Gareth Reeves         |
| Wilberforce Drone 3   | Jon Cummings          |
| Wilberforce Drone 4   | Wayne Gordon          |
| Wilberforce Drone 5   | Allan Smith           |
| Wilberforce Drone 6   | Matt Gillanders       |
| Neighbour             | Bill Johnson          |
| Mr Jones's Neighbour  | Kirsty Wilkinson      |
| Constable Green       | Colin Moy             |
| Constable Wood        | Madeleine Sami        |
| Detective Gray        | Nathaniel Lees        |
| Desk Sergeant         | David Weatherly       |
| Johan / Lenart Double | Reuben King           |
| Stunt Coordinator     | Tim Wong              |
| Stunt Performers      | Augie Davis           |
|                       | Clint Elvy            |
|                       | David Muzzerall       |
|                       | Steve Reinsfield      |
|                       | Allan Smith           |
|                       | Bronson Steele        |
|                       | Hayley Stent          |
|                       | Karen Thompson        |
|                       | Stuart Thorp          |
|                       | Mark Trotter          |

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Line Producer              | Susan Parker |
| First Assistant Director   | Liz Tan      |
| Second Assistant Directors | Amand Weaver |
|                            | Emma Hinton  |

|                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Production Design          | Kim Sinclair   |
| Art Director               | Nick Bassett   |
| Set Decorator              | Verena Jonker  |
| On Set Art Director        | Andy McLaren   |
| Art Department Coordinator | Anna Graves    |
| Art Department Assistant   | Alice Taylor   |
| Lead Set Dresser           | Milton Candish |
| Set Dressers               | Kate Hennebry  |
|                            | Ben Whale      |

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Script Supervisor | Pat Robins |
|-------------------|------------|

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| First Assistant Camera | Brenden Holster |
| Clapper Loader         | James Rua       |
| Video Assist Operator  | Jay Weston      |

|                                      |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Steadicam/Underwater/Aerial Operator | Murray Milne |
| Steadicam Operator                   | Dana Little  |
| B Camera Operator                    | Rob Marsh    |
| Helicopter Pilot                     | Tony Monk    |

|                                    |                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Costume Design                     | Kirsty Cameron     |
| Standby Costume                    | Pip O'Brien        |
| Standby Costume Assistant          | Naomi Campbell     |
| Costume Buyers                     | Emma Skudder       |
|                                    | Cecilie Bridgeford |
| Machinist / Costume Pattern Cutter | Fiona Nichols      |
| Art Finisher                       | Steven Starkey     |
| Costume Runner                     | Katerina Fatu      |
|                                    |                    |
| Key Makeup Artist                  | Jane O'Kane        |
| Makeup Artist                      | Vanessa Hurley     |
|                                    |                    |
| Gaffer                             | Thad Lawrence      |
| Best Boy                           | Merlin Wilford     |
| Lighting Assistants                | Dion Anderson      |
|                                    | Sam Jellie         |
|                                    | John Enright       |
|                                    | Troy Finan         |
|                                    | Kerry Peck         |
|                                    | Thoran Tobiasson   |
|                                    | Mike Toki-Pangari  |
|                                    | Terry Joosten      |
| Key Grip                           | Kayne Asher        |
| Dolly Grip                         | Blair Muschamp     |
| Company Grips                      | Tim Watson         |
|                                    | Johnny Wheeler     |
| Tracking Vehicle Grip              |                    |
|                                    |                    |
| Production Sound Mixer             | David Madigan      |
| Boom Operator                      | Hugo Tichborne     |
| Additional Boom Operator           | Matt Daniel        |
|                                    |                    |
| Special Effects Supervisor         | Brendon Durey      |
| SPFX Senior Technicians            | Richard Schuler    |
|                                    | Victor Beksinski   |
|                                    | Gavin Ravlich      |
| SPFX Assistant                     |                    |
|                                    |                    |
| Location Scout                     | Charlotte Gardner  |
| Location Manager                   | Jared Connon       |
| Assistant Location Manager         | Mathew Gordon      |
| Location Assistant                 | Tim Harrow         |
| Unit Manager                       | Boris Kunac        |
| Unit Assistants                    | Tim Hope           |
|                                    | Nik Carbines       |
|                                    | Tony Graham        |
| Tea Lady                           | Simon Noakes       |
| Production Coordinator             | Angela Thomas      |
| Production Secretary               | Ben Dailey         |
| Production Assistants              | Serena Higgins     |
|                                    | Reuben King        |
|                                    |                    |
| IT Support                         | Ashley Seabright   |
|                                    |                    |
| Production Accountants             | Phillip Gore       |
|                                    | Susie Butler       |
|                                    | Alex Cole-Baker    |
|                                    | Janine Alexander   |
| Assistant Production Accountant    | Kristi McLaren     |
|                                    |                    |
| Construction Manager               | Murray Sweetman    |
| Construction Lead Hands            | William Schmidt    |
|                                    | Graham Harris      |
| Carpenters                         | Reg Ferguson       |
|                                    | Chris Dent         |
|                                    | Peter Stapleton    |
|                                    | Ryan Sweetman      |
|                                    | Alaric Smith       |
|                                    | Graham Collins     |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | Dwayne Griffiths<br>Antony Cattermoul<br>Gareth Courtney<br>Bruce Allan<br>Glen Jensen<br>Adrian Chilton<br>Troy Carey   |
| Hammerhands   |  |
| Lead Fabricator<br>Fabricators  | Shayne Radford<br>Aran Sisley<br>Hannah Wilson<br>Anthony Allan<br>Nicola Campbell<br>Ant Freeman<br>Kate Lang<br>Giles Smith<br>Tane Griffin<br>Etienne Harris<br>Glenn Altman<br>Paul Ny<br>Alex Doyle<br>Sam Tack   |
| Scenic Artist<br>Set Finishers  | Louis Koti<br>Matt Bauckham<br>Roger Allen<br>Jason Mummery<br>Tobi Muir<br>John Landrigan<br>Andrew Cook  |
| Brush Hands   |  |
| Greens Supervisor<br>Greensman<br>Greens Labour   |  |
| Graphics Designer   | Brad Goff  |
| Set Designer  | Nick Conners   |
| Property Master<br>Standby Props<br>Art Dept Runners  | Paul Dulieu<br>Adam Bilik<br>Matt Bauckham<br>Tom Holden   |
| Picture Car Coordinator<br>Picture Car Assistants   | Nigel Tweed<br>Corey Blackgrove<br>Paul Worley   |
| 3rd Assistant Director<br>Additional 3rd AD<br>On Set PA<br>Stand In  | Bryan Hudkins<br>Brent Holden<br>Joey Vaessen<br>Michael Hall  |
| Casting Associate<br>Casting Assistant<br>Acting Coach<br>Safety Supervisor & Marine Coordinator<br>Marine Safety | Joe Fisher<br>Linda McFetridge<br>Miranda Harcourt<br>Karl Koller<br>Chris Griggs<br>Jeff Hales<br>Lloyd Herbert<br>Mitchell Johnson<br>Daniel Lacy<br>Pete Mesley<br>Damian Molloy<br>Danny Tenhevel<br>Adam Wickes<br>Diana Goulding<br>Kirsty Griffin<br>Leo Woodhead |
| Unit Publicist<br>Stills Photographer<br>Documentary Director   |  |

#### Additional Pre-Production

|                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Line Producer              | Judith Trye                     |
| First Assistant Director   | Joe Nolan                       |
| Production Coordinator     | Jo Tagg                         |
| Production Secretary       | Andrew Marshall                 |
| Production Runner          | Sean Duffy                      |
| Set Designer               | Ben Barrett                     |
| Art Department Assistant   | Sally Ford                      |
| Set Decorator              | Jill Cormack                    |
| Set Dressers               | Amber Richards<br>Eliza Meldrum |
| Key Makeup Artist          | Linda Wall                      |
| Construction Manager       | Nik Novis                       |
| Construction Leading Hands | Francis Askwith<br>Marc Larsen  |
| Carpenters                 | Jason Johnson<br>Bedwyr Davis   |
| Hammerhand                 | Seth Key                        |
| Lead Fabricator            | Graham Ashton                   |
| Fabricator                 | Jan Carter                      |
| Property Master            | Melissa Spicer                  |
| Props Buyer                | Francie McGirr                  |
| Vehicle Wrangler           | Robin Allen                     |
| Locations Assistant        | Donna Wezel                     |

#### Miniatures and VFX Shoots

|                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Production Manager      | Kristian Eek                  |
| Focus Pullers           | Pete Cunningham<br>Sean Kelly |
| Video Split             | Dean Thomas                   |
| Loader/Video Split      | Andreas Mahn                  |
| Gaffer/Grip             | Adrian Greshoff               |
| Gaffer                  | Adrian Hebron                 |
| Best Boys               | Sam Marshall<br>Kerry Peck    |
| Lighting/Grip Assistant | Mike McCauley                 |
| Lighting Assistant      | Hansel Verkerk                |
| Grip                    | Dion Hartley                  |
| Stunt Assistant         | Winham Hammond                |
| Production Coordinator  | Mareena Facoory               |
| Unit/ PAs               | Simon English<br>Robin Gee    |

#### Miniatures, Prosthetics and Creature FX by Weta Workshop New Zealand

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Creative Designer & Supervisor | Steve Boyle     |
| Makeup Effects Supervisor      | Samantha Lyttle |
| Design & Effects Supervisor    | Richard Taylor  |
| Workshop Manager               | Tania Rodger    |
| Workshop Supervisor            | Gareth McGhie   |
| Production Coordinator         | Melissa Dodds   |
| Production Assistant           | Sarah Morris    |
| Design Room Coordinator        | Kate Jorgenson  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Designers   | Christian Pearce<br>Nick Keller             |
| Makeup Department Head  | Frances Richardson                          |
| Key Sculptors   | Ben Hawker<br>Greg Tozer                    |
| Prosthetic Technicians  | Antony McMullen<br>Sean Foot<br>Dordi Moen  |
| Molding Department Head   | Michael Wallace                             |
| Molding Technicians   | Masa Minoura<br>Brian Stendebach            |
| Creature Suit Fabricators   | Nadine Jaggi<br>Cathy "Tree" Harris         |
| Animatronics Supervisor   | Bill Thompson                               |
| Animatronics  | Philip Sharpe<br>Pietro Marsden             |
| Animatronics Crew   | Chris Covich<br>Matt Mills<br>James French  |
| Paint Department Head   | Sourisak Chanpaseuth                        |
| Painter   | Johnny Brough                               |
| Costume Department Head   | Matt Appleton                               |
| Miniature Environment   | Ian Ruxton<br>Greg Allison                  |
| FX Makeup Artists   | Sean Foot<br>Andrew Beattie                 |
| FX Makeup Assistants  | Tanya Howard<br>Mark Knight                 |
| FX Makeup Trainee   | Kate Wilcox                                 |
| Post Production Supervisor  | Rosemary Dority                             |
| 1st Assistant Editor  | Heidi Freeman                               |
| Dialogue Editor   | Chris Todd                                  |
| Sound Effects Editor  | Matthew Lambourn                            |
| Foley Editor  | Simon Riley                                 |
| Assistant Dialogue Editor   | Emile De La Rey                             |
| Foley Artist  | Carolyn McLaughlin                          |
| Foley Recordist   | Robyn McFarlane                             |
| ADR Mixers  | Nigel Scott<br>Buster Flaws<br>Vedat Kiyici |
| Re-recording Mixers   | Gethin Creagh<br>Gilbert Lake               |
| Laboratory Services / Sound / DI by<br>Park Road Post Production, Wellington, New Zealand |   |
| DI Colourist  | Clare Burlinson                             |
| DI Editor   | Shanon Moratti                              |
| DI Assistant  | Meetal Gokul                                |
| Dailies Colourist   | Matthew Wear                                |
| Lab Liaison   | Andy Wickens                                |
| Data Wrangler   | Natalie Best                                |
| Park Road Post Producer   | Tracey Brown                                |
| Park Road Post Coordinator  | Alison Ingram                               |
| Park Road Post Head of Picture  | Nathan Wellington                           |
| Film Scanning & Recording   | WETA Digital                                |
| Digital Imaging Manager   | Peter Williams                              |
| Imaging Supervisor  | Nick Booth                                  |
| Film Scanning & Recording Technicians   | Daniel Ashton<br>Stephen Roucher            |

Title Design Marcus Ringrose & Bevan Tonks  
seven.co.nz

On Set VFX Supervisor Paul Dickson  
VFX Production Coordinators Sally-Ann Louisson  
Birgitta Nilsson  
VFX Editor Heidi Freeman

#### Digital Post

VFX Designer & Compositor Paul Dickson  
VFX Compositors Matt Westbrooke  
James Schoning  
Melanie Langlotz  
Oliver Faldo  
Anita Levering  
Stuart Bedford  
VFX Producers Fiona Webb  
Lisa Eversden  
VFX Asset Management Benn Morrison  
Matt Cunningham

#### Goodlight Pictures

Matte Painter Nick Cattel

#### 3DCGI

VFX Supervisor John Sheils  
VFX Producer Gina E Ross  
Lead Animator Euan Frizzell  
Animators Brad Lincoln  
Preston McNeil  
John Shearlock  
Modeler/Rigger (Creaturehaus) Michael Asquith  
Texture Artist (Creaturehaus) Greg Tozer  
Lead Compositor Danielle Norgate  
Compositor Emyrs Plaisted  
Rotoscoper Michael Sheils  
Technical Director Erlend Cleveland

#### PRPVFX

VFX Producer George Port  
VFX Supervisor George Ritchie  
VFX Coordinator Carol Petrie  
Lead Animator Lars Cawley  
Lead Compositor Pania Williams  
Lead TD Jon Thorsen  
3D Animator Kristin Wright  
2D Artists Jacob Leaf  
Stephanie Staunton  
Caleb Thompson  
Meow Wannasri  
Jess Lu

Auditors Kerry Price  
Grant Thornton  
Business Affairs Advisor Lloyd Meiklejohn  
Camera Panavision  
Catering BJ Brown  
Wild Wild Kitchen  
Completion Guarantor Anni Browning  
Film Finances  
Film Stock Kodak  
Financial Advisors Greg Thompson  
Grant Thornton  
Insurance Tim Groenestein  
Fraser Macandrew Ryan  
Lighting Equipment FAT Lighting

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Conductor                  | Marc Tadei                                       |
| Orchestration              | Ricky Edwards                                    |
| Additional Orchestration   | James K Lee                                      |
| Additional Music Copying   | Ewan Clark                                       |
| Music Editor               | Phil Brownlee                                    |
| Score Performed by         | The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra               |
| Music Recorded at          | The Michael Fowler Centre Wellington             |
| Music Contractor           | Rachel Hyde                                      |
| Score Recorded & Mixed by  | Graham Kennedy                                   |
| SADiE Operator             | Darryl Stack                                     |
| Protools Recordist         | Nigel Scott                                      |
| Technical Crew             | Brian Mahoney<br>Brett Stanton<br>Andrew Dalziel |
| Music Engineering Services | Radio New Zealand                                |
| Music Preparation          | Mabel Wong                                       |

Financing and Distribution Services – Cinetic Media

Legal and Business Affairs Services - Matt Emery, Emery Legal

World revenues collected and distributed by Freeway CAM B.V.

Thanks to

The staff and board of the New Zealand Film Commission and their advisors

The staff and board of NZ On Air and their advisors

Lloyd Homer / GNS Science - Image no. GNS 19029

Hydrographic Charts used as set dressing and props sourced from  
Land Information New Zealand data. Crown Copyright Reserved.

Leslie Adkin / Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa

New Zealand National Maritime Museum Te Huitēananui-A-Tangaroa

Produced with the assistance of the staff of the Auckland Area Office of the  
Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai New Zealand

KiwiRail and the staff of The Overlander

THE FILMMAKERS WISH TO THANK

Their families, colleagues and their friends whose support made this film possible.

Phil Aitken, Russell Allen, Kathleen Anderson, John Barnett, Nigel Bluck, Paul Brennan, James Brookman, Mara Bryan, Philippa Campbell, Ed Clarke, Stephen Cleary, Robert Crockett, Neil Cross, Claude Dasan, Paul Davis, Jonathan Evans, Paul and Anne Firth, Maurice & Margareta Gee, John Gilbert, Peter Graham, Alex Hamilton, Rosella Hart, Steven Hays, Matthew Horrocks, Roger Horrocks, Phil Hunt, Ruth Harley, Peter Jackson, Richard Jackson, Vicki Jackways, Zak Kadison, Lisa Lambert, Adam Levine, Matt Littin, Martin McCourt, Will Machin, Graeme & Geraldine Markwick, Aimee McCammon, Greg McGee, Sharon Menzies, John Murray, Robert Newman, Barrie M. Osborne, Nigel Palmer, David Quli, Ray Richards, Jamie Selkirk, Andrew Shaw, Michael Shyjka, John Sloss, Andrew Smith, Roy Snow, Sebastian Solberg, Bruce Spence, Nigel Stanford, Jason Stutter, Seth Talley, Richard Taylor, Geoff Walker, Darryn Welch, Matt Wilson, Michael Wrenn



This film is dedicated to our friend  
Charlie Ireland

© 2009 RedHead Films Limited  
All Rights Reserved

RedHead Films Limited is the author of this film (motion picture) for the purpose of copyright and other laws.

This motion picture photoplay is protected by copyright and other applicable laws of the  
United States of America and all other countries throughout the world.  
Any unauthorized duplication, distribution and/or exhibition of this motion picture photoplay  
or any part thereof may result in civil liability and criminal prosecution.

The characters and incidents portrayed and the names herein are fictitious. Any similarity to the name,  
character or history of any person or to actual events or buildings or products is entirely coincidental and unintentional.

Filmed in Auckland, New Zealand.

No animals were harmed in the making of this film.