

KARMA

"What goes around, comes around"

PRESSKIT

I N T E R N A T I O N A L S A L E S

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NEW ZEALAND FILM

Essential Information

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Writer/Director | Damon Fepulea'i |
| Producer/s | Rachel Jean |
| Production Company | Isola Productions |
| Technical Information | 35mm /Dolby Digital |
| Running Time | 11 minutes |
| Country of Production | New Zealand |
| Date of completion | June 2005 |
| Genre | Black comedy |
| Sales | Juliette Veber, New Zealand Film Commission email juliette@nzfilm.co.nz Tel: +64 4 382 7686 |

Log Line

"What goes around, comes around"

Short Synopsis

When Colin commits what he thinks is a harmless crime, he inadvertently sets in motion a chain of events, and soon discovers that what goes around, certainly does come around.

Long Synopsis

In the journey of life, we each follow many paths towards our final destination. Along those paths we all make choices that alter our direction and we each affect others as they affect us.

When Colin commits what he thinks is a harmless crime, he inadvertently sets in motion an unlikely chain of events. When the forces of luck, destiny, fortune and fate collide, he soon discovers that what goes around, certainly does come around.

FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

2006 Mill Valley Film Festival, USA
2006 Antipodes St Tropez Film Festival, France
2006 Hof International Film Festival, Germany
2006 In the Bin Film Festival, Australia
2006 Ourense Film Festival, Spain
2007 Alaska Native Film Festival, Alaska

Director's Notes

Karma is a morality tale that plays on the ideas behind old proverbs such as “what goes around comes around” and “you reap what you sew”. When a young man commits what he thinks is a harmless crime, he unknowingly sets in motion a chain of events that ultimately lead to his own demise.

Running beneath the surface of the main storyline, is the idea that, in life, we are all connected, and that the actions of one person can affect the path of another. We see the doctrine of fate as the result of cause and effect, and the theory of inevitable consequence.

Each character's journey is shown as a small slice of everyday life. The narrative drifts from one character to the next, showing how one course of action or a single decision leads to a change in the path of the next person, until the journey runs full circle. This is also represented as metaphor with the rain drops falling into a puddle causing ripples of water. As more raindrops fall, the ripples overlap each other causing new patterns to form, just like the paths of people, which cross over and change as they interact.

Each character's story is short and almost self-contained, like a collection of TV commercials that run together to form a whole story. The stories, like life, are varied in their moods. Some are tragic, some dramatic, and others humorous.

Director's Bio: Damon Fepulea'i

Damon Fepulea'i studied filmmaking at the Unitec TV and Film course in 1993 and 1994 where he achieved the Unitec Trust Award for highest achievement of that year. He has since worked as both a director and as an editor on a variety of programmes and formats.

In 2001 he Directed and co-wrote the New Zealand Film Commission funded 35mm short film *Watermark*. He also travelled with the film to festivals in Clermont Ferrand in France and to Rotterdam in Holland where the film was in competition. *Watermark* has played in at least 20 overseas film festivals, on television in Europe and is still continuing on the festival circuit.

Watermark also won the first prize for best short film at the 2003 Drifting Clouds film festival in Wellington. Judges included Alfonso Cuarón (Y tu mamá también), Sir Alan Parker and Michael Serensin.

Damon was a director at Kids TV for 2 years working on a range of children's programmes that were both field and studio based including a 2 hour live to air children's show.

He has also edited many different projects as both an online and offline editor. These projects include documentary, drama, lifestyle shows, children's programmes, sports shows, music videos and commercials.

Damon's goal is to direct feature films and as a Samoan he is especially keen to tell stories about Pacific Islanders in New Zealand. Having a background in both writing and editing has helped give him a strong sense of understanding story structure, narrative and shooting to edit. He has also trained and worked in lighting and camera operating for both video and film.

Production Company: Isola Productions – Rachel Jean

Having produced six short films and run one of the NZFC Short Film Tenders for two years, I thought my days of producing short films was over. But when Damon Fepulea'i sent me the script of "Karma", I have to say I was immediately interested. Quite simply it would have made the short list of my own tender. It is a simple, well-structured, cinematic script that will entertain audiences in New Zealand and around the world. That is if the right director tells it, and having executive produced Damon's previous NZFC short film *Watermark* with Owen Hughes under our Short Film Tender, I know he has the ability.

I had a long working relationship with Damon as an editor on several documentaries including one I produced and directed myself. We have spent hours arguing and philosophising in edit suites and I believed he was capable of achieving the vision the *Watermark* script promised. He did not disappoint.

Since he made that film I have continually encouraged him to find another project to move his directing career forward. I believe he has what it takes to become a feature film director and would like to help him on that path

Producer: Rachel Jean

Rachel Jean has been producing drama and documentary for large and small screen for more than a decade. Working in New Zealand, for many of the leading production companies, she has spent time on the WIFT executive (Women in Film & TV Association) and has been on the SPADA executive committee (Screen Production and Development Association).

Her experience in production has ranged from short films, corporate videos, commercials, television drama and documentaries to feature film production.

In 1995 Rachel line-produced three one hour dramas, Niki Caro's *Plain Tastes*, Jonathan Cullinane's *Trifecta* and Jess Hobbs' *Overnight*, and was associate producer on another drama, Fiona Samuel's *Home Movie* which immediately proceeded being associate producer on Niki Caro's (*Whalerider*) first feature *Memory & Desire*.

During the last decade Rachel has produced a broad range of short films. *Old Bastards* directed by Niki Caro, *Black Bitch* directed by Annalise Patterson

and *Testdrive* directed by Mark Summerville, were all funded by Creative New Zealand. *Headlong* directed by Simon Raby, *The Road Back* directed by Annalise Patterson and *Philosophy* directed by Geoffrey Cawthorn were funded by the New Zealand Film Commission.

Rachel also Executive Produced with Owen Hughes a Short Film Tender for the New Zealand Film Commission over two years, producing seven films; *Trust Me*, *Camping With Camus*, *Falling Sparrows*, *Watermark*, *The hill*, *Honey*, and *Waterwoman*.

Since then Rachel has produced a one-hour television drama for TV3, *Love Mussel* directed by Michael Hurst and starring Kevin Smith. And 2 seasons of a half-hour children's drama series *Secret Agent Men* for Greenstone Pictures, a total of 22 episodes. Rachel is currently producing a 13 part drama series called 'The Market' for TV2.

In September 2001 Rachel began Isola Productions Limited, an independent production company specialising in television documentaries, drama and feature films. Recent productions include;

- *The Market* – a Drama Series for TV2
- *Songstar* – a TV2 music special on songwriters
- *Are You Ready?* – a two hour special on Civil Disasters
- *Field of Dreams* – a series on the history of illicit drug use in NZ for TV3
- *Dawn Raids* – a doco on the dawn raids of 1976 for TV1
- *Deadly Business* – a doco on the death industry for TV2
- *First Division* – a series on Lotto winners for TV2
- *New Year Resolutions* – a doco on peoples New Year Resolutions for TV1
- *Quarter Acre Dream* – a series on house building for TV3
- *Alien Investigation* – a doco on New Zealanders experience of UFO's
- *DIY Obsessions* – a doco on New Zealanders obsessions with DIY for TV3

Rachel is committed to developing directors of drama, towards a long-term goal of feature film production, and currently has a few feature films in development. The projects have Peter Wells, Murray Keane, and Christine Rogers as writers for the directors Christine Parker, Murray Keane and Geoff Cawthorn. Isola is also co-developing a feature project with Murmur Films, written and to be directed by Fiona Samuel, and one with Wild Films written by Peter Wells and to be directed by Christine Parker.

KEY CREW

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|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Written by | DAMON FEPULEA'I |
| Directed by | DAMON FEPULEA'I |
| Produced by | RACHEL JEAN |
| Executive Producer | N/A |
| Production Designer | EMILY HARRIS |
| Sound Designer | MARK STOREY |
| Director of Photography | NIC FINLAYSON |
| Music Composer | TOM MCLEOD |

CAST

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|--------------|----------------------|
| COLIN | GEOFF HOUTMAN |
| Dame Fortune | JUSTINE SMITH |
| Mr Brown | JOHNNY BOND |
| Mrs Brown | BERYL TE WIATA |
| Big Ern | MURRAY KEANE |
| Chole | FLOYD ALEXANDER HUNT |
| Daniel | JAMES HOBBY |
| Marie | MARION SHORTT |
| Dr Dave Ford | NIAL GREENSTOCK |
| Chris | AJAYSHRI VASISHT |
| Penelope | JAN SAUSSEY |
| Kuso | ROBSON TAVITA |

CREW

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|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Director of Photography | NIC FINLAYSON |
| Editor | JONATHAN VENZ |
| Art Director | EMILY HARRIS |
| Location Sound | MARK STOREY |
| 1st Assistant Director | MOE HOBBS |
| 2nd Assistant Director | PIP LOVELL-SMITH |
| Focus Puller | JASON WHITE |
| Clapper Loader | SAMATHA MILNER |
| Gaffer | PAUL EVERSDEN |
| Key Grip | ADRIAN GRESCHOFT |
| Grip | RUSSELL LLOYD |
| Continuity | GUY STRACHAN |
| Make Up Artist | GLENNYS JOHNS |
| Wardrobe | SCOTT BAULCOMB |
| Stunt Coordinator | MARK HARRIS |
| Unit | KENDALL FINLAYSON |
| Gen Op | KIMBERLY PORTER |
| Production Assistant | BRONWYNN WILSON |
| Runners | SARAH MURPHY |
| Processing Facility | THE FILM UNIT |
| Telecine | IMAGES POST |
| Digital Intermediate | ATLAB |
| Negative Matching | ATLAB |
| Sound Mix and Tracklay | ECHO PRODUCTIONS |

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| Sound Engineer | LUKE TOMER |
| Dolby Sound Mix | INSIDE TRACK |
| Sound Manager | CHRIS BURT |
| Grading | ATLAB |
| Titles and Subtitles | ATLAB |
| Camera Equipment | METRO FILMS |
| Film Stock | KODAK |
| Others | DRIFTING CLOUDS FILM FESTIVAL |