

# Kerosene Creek



## PRESSKIT

I N T E R N A T I O N A L   S A L E S

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**N E W   Z E A L A N D   F I L M**

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## Essential Information

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Writer/Director	Michael Bennett
Producer	Catherine Fitzgerald
Production Company	Blueskin Films Ltd
Technical Information	35mm                      1:1.85                      Dolby SR
Running Time	13 minutes including titles
Country of Production	Aotearoa/New Zealand
Date of completion	November 2004
Genre	Short Drama
Sales	Juliette Veber, New Zealand Film Commission email <a href="mailto:juliette@nzfilm.co.nz">juliette@nzfilm.co.nz</a> Tel: +64 4 382 7686

## Short Synopsis

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Good friends Jayde and Wiremu, tag along with their teenage siblings on a trip to a local swimming hole. But igniting young passions can sometimes be as explosive as kerosene.

## Long Synopsis

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In a hot river (Kerosene Creek), running through a deep forest a group of teenagers party. One couple (Wiki and Sonny Boy) bring their younger siblings, Jayde and Mu who are best mates. It's a volatile and incendiary mix - like kerosene itself.

It starts off a day like many others. But what they see, and what happens in that place of heat and steam will change everything - forever. Through the three day funeral, Jayde must face farewelling Mu with their secret intact.

## Director's Notes

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### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Making Kerosene Creek was both a great honour and a significant challenge for me. As a Maori writer and director, this film provided a unique opportunity to explore one of the most significant foundations of Maori custom, the tangi, the profoundly cathartic rites of tribute and farewell to the Dead. But on another level, the film is an exploration of Life – of that unique moment between childhood and adulthood, between innocence and sexuality, when a realm of exciting and confusing possibilities is opening before a young person's eyes.

The title of the film comes from a natural hot river running through a forest in my tribal home area of Rotorua. As its name suggests, Kerosene Creek is a place of heat and steam where young people go to drink and laugh and party and make out. It's a volatile mix -like kerosene itself. The other location in the film, Taheke marae, is also of great significance, being the spiritual home of grandmother's sub-tribe, Ngati Hinerangi.

Very early on we decided to make this film 'real', which led to a series of key decisions - from shooting in Kerosene Creek itself, to casting the juvenile leads from Rotorua who would have authentic accents and appearances, to filming the funeral sequences in a real meeting house alive with the history and spirits of its tribal past (to our best knowledge this is the first time a tangi has been recreated on an actual marae). I am proud that the film is all the more authentic because of these decisions.

### Director's Bio

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Michael Bennett trained at the Australian Film Television and Radio School in Sydney. His last short film was the silent fable Cow, which featured at numerous international festivals, including screenings at Critics Week at Cannes (2002), Locarno, Valladolid, Brisbane, and the Madrid Festival of Experimental Film.

In 2000, Michael wrote the screenplay for the feature film Jubilee. He has worked on a number of television series, including writing and directing four instalments of the acclaimed thriller series Mataku, described as "the Maori Twilight Zone".

Michael has a number of original features in development, including Tina and The Tekoteko (a fully computer-animated kidult mythological action-adventure produced by Kerosene Creek's Catherine Fitzgerald), The Year of the Lamb (a thriller about a Maori serial killer), and Dick (a multi-narrative drama set in the cross-cultural urban hot-spot of South Auckland).

Michael's partner is costume designer/director Jane Holland. They have three children, Tihema, Mahina and Matariki Star.

## **Production Company: Blueskin Films Ltd**

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CATHERINE FITZGERALD's extensive experience as a script consultant and dramaturg, film funding executive, film and broadcasting policy consultant, documentary producer/director and Film Festival manager led her to establish Blueskin Films Ltd in mid 2002.

Since then she has produced, two internationally acclaimed theatrical short dramas, a further two short dramas (recently completed), a documentary, a digital feature film (also in post production) each of which profiles new film directing talent.

She has a slate of feature films in development focusing on award winning theatre and prose writers. She is committed to working with highly talented creatives to produce quality films with broad international appeal.

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## **Festivals**

2005 Clermont-Ferrand Market Screening, France  
2005 Berlin International Film Festival, Germany  
2005 The New Zealand Film Festival, New Zealand  
2005 Rhode Island International Film Festival, USA  
2005 National Geographic All Roads Film Festival, USA  
2005 Buster International Film Festival For Children and Youth, Denmark  
2005 Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia  
2005 Brisbane International Film Festival, Australia  
2005 ImagineNATIVE Film and Media Arts Film Festival, Canada  
2005 Bilbao Film Festival, Spain  
2005 Prague Short Film Festival, Czech Republic  
2005 Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival, Taiwan  
2005 Indigenous Film & Media Arts Festival, USA  
2005 Carrousel International du Film de Rimouski, Canada  
2006 Pan African Film Festival, Los Angeles, USA  
2006 Asia Society and Museum Festival, NY, USA  
2006 Lola Kenya Screen Festival, Kenya  
2006 Magma Short Film Festival, Rotorua, New Zealand  
2007 Alaska Native Film Festival, Alaska

## KEY CAST :

Jayde	Atarangi Manley
Mu	Darcey Ray Flavell Hudson
Wiki	Miriama McDowell
Sonny Boy	Taungaroa Emile

## KEY CREW

Written by	MICHAEL BENNETT
Directed by	MICHAEL BENNETT
Produced by	CATHERINE FITZGERALD
Director of Photography	LEON NARBEBY
Casting Director	NANCY BRUNNING
Production Designer	GUY MOANA
Sound Designer/ Music Composer	NIC MCGOWAN

## FULL CREDIT LIST

Written and Directed by	Michael Bennett
Produced by	Catherine Fitzgerald
Cast	
Jayde	Atarangi Manley
Mu	Darcey Ray Flavell Hudson
Wiki	Miriama McDowell
Sonny Boy	Taungaroa Emile
Robbie	Jarrod Rawiri
Tatum	Danielle Mason
Zoey	Rangimarie Holtham
Other friends	Murray Bidois, Emily Nicholls, Dolina Wehipehana
Jayde & Wiki's Mother	Grace Hoet
Mu and Sonny Boy's Mother	Nancy Brunning
Mu and Sonny Boy's father	Paul Heggie
Wahine karanga	Tui Matira Ranapiri-Ransfield, Aneta Morgan
Director of Photography	Leon Narbey
Editor	John Gilbert
Casting Director	Nancy Brunning
Production Designer	Guy Moana
Sound Recordist & Designer	Nic McGowan
Production Managers	Georgina Allison, Vicky Pope

1st Assistant Director	Larry Parr
2nd Assistant Director	Melody Taylor
Unit Managers	Rata and John Wiki
Continuity	Robin Lloyd
Production Runner	Maika Bennett
Focus Puller	Brenden Holster
Clapper Loaders	Inga Fillary, Lucy Bowie
Boom operator	Kyle Griffeths
Gaffer	Joe Bidois
Lighting Assistant	Joshua Jones
Grip	Dean Maxted
Grip Assistants	Daimon Wright, Melissa Ririnui
Standby Props	Tony Arahanga
Costume Designer	Jenny Rushton
Standby Wardrobe	Josephine Reddy
Makeup	Anita Brolly
Make Up Assistant	Frankie Karena, Tawa Armstrong
Locations	Paul Heggie
Stills	Kirsty Griffin
Foley artist	Glen Bullen
Catering	Fenwicks Deli & Cafe
Accommodation	Cosy Cottage Camping Ground
Camera Equipment	Panavision
16 mm Stock	Kodak Film
Processing & Transfer	The Film Unit
Special thanks to	<i>Park Road Post</i> Sue Thompson, John Neill, Sheryn Lane, Sharon Leamy, Peti Nohotima, Brian Scadden, Jon Newall,
Digital Grading	Colin Harrison
Online Editor	Shanon Moratti
Sound Mix	John Boswell
Title	George Port, PRPVFX
Rostrum Camera	Reiner Schoenbrunn
MUSIC	
Original Score	Nic McGowan
“Ride with us”	
Performed by Boss	
written by Sam Hudson	
Courtesy of Soundsquad Entertainment, Rotorua	
“MC Representer”	
Performed by Boss featuring Bustafree	
written by Sam Hudson, Pep Hudson	
Produced by Boss	
Courtesy of Soundsquad Entertainment, Rotorua	
“Love Your Smile”	
(Miriama McDowell, Danielle Mason, Rangimarie Holtham)	

Performed by Miriama McDowell, Danielle Mason, Rangimarie Holtham

“Tangi”

(Nic McGowan)

lyrics from “Ko te matarekereke” by Hone Hurihanganui

vocals Nancy Brunning

INSURANCE

Aon Risk Services

Filmed on location at Taheke Marae, Okere Falls and Kerosene Creek  
(Kaingaroa Forests) in Aotearoa New Zealand.

**Ka nui nga mihi ki a koutou, Ngati Hinerangi me Ngati Pikiao me o  
koutou tipuna whare a Rangitihi mo o koutou kaitiakitanga i te kaupapa  
nei, aa, me o koutou manaakitanga hoki ki a matou ma nga kaimahi.**

NGA MIHI NUI KI A:

George & Arahia Bennett, Kawekura Samuels, Faith and David Smith, Elaine  
Bennett, Gill Bennett, Don and Pauline Bennett, Bruce & Tui Bennett, Audrey Kingi,  
Katy Virtue, Shane Wiki, Joey Wiki,

Justine Gloyne and Neville Manley and whanau, Carolyn Flavell and Rocky Hudson  
and whanau,

Brunning whanau, Teparu Ashmore, Greg Bell, Tracey Bishop, Brons whanau, Piripi  
Christie, Hinewai Clark, Te Waata Cribb, Curtis whanau, Mahia Donner, Renata  
Ellison, Leonie Emery, Cheyne Hakaraia, Chekani Hemi, Maiau Houltham, Elizabeth  
Knoth, Maaka whanau, McCormick whanau, Teariki Manarangi, Laurel & Steve  
Porima, Chanz Mikaere, James Morris, Joanna Patterson, Pare Ronaki, Martin  
Searanke, Ratena Simpkins, Te Ao Tahana-Reese, Taiepa whanau, Turike Tairea,  
Joanne Tompson, Mei Whata, Williams whanau, Alysha Wilson, Richard Witeri, Paul  
Tamai, Vicky Grant, Julie Galloway, Toa Waaka, Craig Wadsworth, Te Wananga o  
Aotearoa & Reverend Te Napi Tutewehiwehi Waaka,, Jonathan Fohrman, Bub  
Hohepa, Elsie Rakuraku, Rick Loos, Keith Osborne, Taki Rua & Sarah Griffiths and  
Amanda Hereaka, The NZ Film & Television School, Tracey Brown and Gail  
Appleton, Oktobor, Gibson Group, Caffé L’Affare, Peter Tonks, Chico Loughlin,  
Malcolm Yorke, Kevin Donovan, Margaret and Harry Harrison, Nikki Allison, Lynne  
Parr, Caroline Malthus and Paul Left, Jane Holland, Tihema, Mahina, Matariki

LOGOS

DOLBY in selected Theatres

***For Mum and Dad, Ted and Elaine Bennett***

Produced by Blueskin Films

In association with

The Short Film Fund of the New Zealand Film Commission

Executive Producers

Liz di Fiore and Peter Salmon

Godzone Pictures

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