

The Lawnmower Men of Kapu

Written and Directed by Libby Hakaraia



PRESS KIT

Lest they be lost, tell them who they are.

INTERNATIONAL SALES

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NEW ZEALAND FILM

PRODUCTION NOTES

Writer	Libby Hakaraia
Director	Libby Hakaraia
Producer	Tainui Stephens
Production Company	Kakano Films Ltd
Duration	14 mins

LOGLINE

A boy witnesses the seemingly magic powers of his Aunties and the continuation of tradition.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

The Lawnmower Men of Kapu

Atawhai is a boy on the verge of manhood. He is a favorite of his Aunties, and he in turn adores them. But the Aunties have grown old and he fears they may lose their ability to keep the Marae, the communal gathering place of the tribe, alive. Atawhai has been told that the marae meeting house breathes life when the families gather there.

Atawhai is counting on his three Uncles to help the Aunties. But the Uncles have a major falling out with each other. Atawhai feels powerless to help his Aunties, or intervene in his Uncles' dispute.

But his Aunties are much wiser than he thinks. Even stubborn men can be taught a lesson when it is done with love.

Atawhai witnesses a timeless tale of his people. He learns a valuable lesson about family and tradition; and his place in both.



WRITERS NOTES

This film is a story written on my own Marae in Otaki New Zealand. It is a work of fiction but as it evolved I came to realise that the heart of the film is real.

Atawhai is a boy searching for his place on his marae. He is speaker of the Maori language and is being schooled in all of the traditions of the tribe. As a boy of 13/14 he has not yet been invited by the adults to participate or take responsibility in the upkeep of the marae or the events that take place there.

Atawhai is playing himself in the film. He is not a trained actor. The Aunties are his real Aunties. They are my real Aunties as well. Therefore directing them was both a privilege and a challenge as I realised (after the shoot) that I had not wanted to put undue stress on them.

The Aunties did in fact, as they did in my original script, alter the very narrative of the film. In my script Atawhai was a minor character and the story was focused on the Aunties. However in post production I had my own growth experience and came to see that the film is about the parts we all play in families, at the marae, and how each generation contributes to the collective traditions.

Atawhai therefore is the central character of the Lawnmower Men of Kapu. He is the storyteller and it is through his eyes that we see the petty squabbles of adults that threaten to tear apart the fabric of a family.

We also see through his eyes that his Aunties are magicians, or at least; adept puppeteers!

The story is a universal one of love for family, and optimism for the generations yet to come.

PRODUCTION COMPANY -KAKANO FILMS LTD

KAKANO FILMS LIMITED was set up by Libby Hakaraia and Tainui Stephens to produce The Lawnmower Men Of Kapu.

Funded by the NZ Film Commission the Lawnmower Men of Kapu was filmed on the RED camera in Otaki at Te Pou o Tainui Marae.

PRODUCER BIOGRAPHY

Tainui Stephens is of the **Te Rarawa** people of **Te Tai Tokerau**. Since 1984 he has been an independent film and television producer, director, executive producer, writer, and presenter. He is comfortable working in a wide range of genre and content and has made several hundred hours of programming and film.

He is committed to the role of the Maori storyteller in all modern media and has been a long time advocate and practitioner of Maori language broadcasting. Tainui is personally attracted to compelling stories that critique and celebrate the human condition.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Libby Hakaraia is of **Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Toa Rangatira** and **Te Ati Awa** tribes.

She has a background in radio and television journalism and current affairs before beginning work in television documentaries 13 years ago.

Libby has directed or produced 17 prime time documentaries in New Zealand including two award winning documentaries. In recent years Libby has directed and produced a number of different series for television including 26 episodes on finding ones Maori roots (Tatai Hono) for Maori Television.

This is Libby's third short film. Her first producer credit was for **Hawaikii 2006** which screened at Berlin Generation and 6 other international festivals. She also produced **Kehua** which also screened at Berlin Generation in 2008.

Libby is currently working on several television productions and feature film scripts.

KEY CREW

Written & Directed by	Libby Hakaraia
Producer	Tainui Stephens
Directors of Photography	Phil Burchell Hamish MacIntyre
Soundtrack	Warren Maxwell
Production Design	Shayne Radford
Editors	Nikki Parlane Annie Collins
Executive Producers	Quinton Hita Tearepa Kahi

CAST

Atawhai	Atawhai Raureti
Aunty Borgia	Borgia Hakaraia
Aunty Kiripuae	Chrissie Gray
Aunty Heniti	Heniti (Janet) Marino
Aunty Retitia	Retitia (Betty) Hakaraia
Rawiri Haka	Rawiri Paratene
Sonny Haka	Sonny Arahanga
Rob Haka	Rob Mokaraka
Atawhai's cousins	Oriwa Hakaraia Eva Hakaraia

CREW

Production Manager	Jan Stensness
Production Assistant	Ngarangi Walker
1st Asst Director	Tainui Stephens
2nd Asst Director	Briar Grace Smith
3 rd Asst Director	Lisa Chatfield Lizzie Dunn
Camera asst (focus)	Aline Tran
Focus Puller	Matt Tuffin

Grip asst	Maurice 'Moose' Kapua
Continuity	Linda Halle
Lighting	Byron Sparrow
	Gunmetal
Gaffer	Chris Chandler
Lighting	Chris Murphy
Lighting asst	Simon Oliver
Field Sound	Anaru Dalziel
	Benoit Hardonniere
Boom Operator	Joel Anscombe-Smith
Data Wrangler	Adam Dransfield
Art Dept assistant	Justin (Juddy) Reynolds
Wardrobe	Emma Ransley
Makeup	Dara Wakely
Acting coach	Maya Dalziel
Stills photography	Himiona Grace
	Tainui Stephens
Storyboard artist	Stephen Ellis
Graphics Artist	Michael De Young
Technical advisor	Pat Hakaraia
Catering	Soul Food Catering
	Chere Hakaraia
Crew Hauora	Tony Ropata
Runners	Manupiri Rikihana
Runner	Te Whaiao
Offline Suite	Blue Bach Productions
Grading	Laurence Alexander
	Rubber Monkey
Sound Design	Darren Maynard
	Sound Scope
Sound Mix	Park Road Post