

# MANANUI

Directed by

Poata Eruera



PO BOX 11 546, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

MANANUI.PB

# MANANUI

## SYNOPSIS

Born and raised in the city, Mana takes leave from his middle management job to seek his cultural roots and Maori identity by immersing himself in the ways of his rural tribe. He soon learns that being tangata whenua (people of the land) involves the constant burying of the dead. Despite his constant questioning of the “old ways” and his attempts to update traditional systems, Mana is tolerated by the local community as the “townie” or “city slicker”.

When a family member commits suicide, Mana stands apart from the rest of the community in a standoff conflict between traditional Maori values and contemporary Maori reality. The resolution evolves from a spiritual phenomenon that forces both sides to find a meeting point.

Mananui is a story of conflict with the universal theme of old versus new, generation versus generation, and the philosophical battle between the traditional and the contemporary.

## **BIOGRAPHY POATA ERUERA - DIRECTOR**

When Poata Eruera was three years old, his sister lay in a deep coma after an accident. His father offered himself to the service of God if He would spare his only daughter. Six months later he offered his two eldest sons as well. Nine months later, his youngest son Poata was included in the deal with God. His daughter regained consciousness. So began Poata's indoctrination into the world of parable and storytelling.

Influenced by early Greek Philosophy in his teens, Poata withdrew from the Church on the grounds of personal hypocrisy. Seduced by the mind theatre of radio, he became New Zealand's youngest commercial radio announcer and the first Maori radio announcer in private radio.

In 1984, Poata met comedian Billy T James who encouraged him into writing a first draft screenplay titled BARKING AT THE MOON. Intrigued by film and wanting to understand the nuts-and-bolts of film making, he worked as Assistant Director on Merata Mita's feature film MAURI.

Love took him to Rarotonga in 1989 where he spent four years working as a Creative Director for an advertising agency. During this period, he had a hands-on education in writing and directing television commercials for New Zealand clients. These were broadcast throughout the Pacific.

He filmed TVC's in the Cook Islands, Niue, Tonga, Fiji and Western and American Samoa. He also worked in the Casting Department of the Television Mini Series THE OTHER SIDE OF PARADISE, a New Zealand/Australia and English co-production filmed on location in the Cook Islands.

Poata returned to New Zealand in November 1993. Since then he has completed the following screenplays:

BARKING AT THE MOON	Feature Film - black comedy
AT THE WILL OF THE WIND	Feature Film - period drama
A BIT DICEY	Feature Film - comedy
BATS IN THE BELFRY	Feature Film - comedy
WILD PORK & WATERCRESS	Feature Film - drama
THE PARCEL	Feature Film - thriller
MANA	Feature Film - action romance
MANANUI	Short Film - drama
THE CALL UP	One hour TV drama
DEATH OF THE AVON LADY	Short Film - drama

MANANUI is Poata's first film as a Writer/Director.

**Poata Eruera**

9 Osman Street

Glen Eden

AUCKLAND

Ph/fax (09) 818 8334 Mobile (021) 631 214

**WRITER (\* Writer/Director)**

Barking at the Moon	Feature Film	Newey/Pillsbury
At the Will of the Wind	Feature Film	Pillsbury/Wallace
A Bit Dicey	Feature Film	Tucker Films
Bats in the Belfry	Feature Film	Tucker Films
Death of the Avon Lady*	Short Film	Liz DiFiore
Mananui*	Short Film	James Wallace
Wild Pork & Watercress	Feature Film	Newey/Crump
Mana (ex Pounamu)	Feature Film	Wallace/Firth
The Parcel	Feature Film	Newey/Hardy(Aus)
The Call Up	Sunday Theatre TV	Wallace/De Nave
Ming	Feature Film	Tucker/Adman

**Work under Consideration:**

Blue Helmets	Feature Film	Layton (US)
Undercover Cop	Feature Film	Selwyn/Blyth
Penpals	Feature Film	Keir

**Script Consultant**

Kitty & Frank (W.T)	Short Film	Gillian Roberts
Wise Up	Short Film	Neighbourhood
Marty & Dick	TV Sitcom	Hadlow/Armstrong

**DIRECTOR**

The Coral Route	Doco	Air New Zealand
See You in 94	Promo	CI Airport Authority

**TVC's - Pacific (Rarotonga/Samoa/Tonga/Fiji)**

Watties	14 x 30's	The Adman Ltd
NRM Stockfeed	3 x 30's	
Anchor	10 x 30's	
Tegel	5 x 30's	
Tip Top	8 x 30's	
Just Juice	2 x 30's	

**FILM PRODUCTION**

Director	Mananui	James Wallace
2nd AD	Mauri	Mita/Murphy
Casting Assistant	Other side of Paradise	SPP/Grundy/Central

## **BIOGRAPHY LIZ DIFIORE - CO-PRODUCER**

Born in New York of New Zealand parents, Liz Difiore has worked in many different areas of the New Zealand film industry. She completed a post graduate Diploma in Broadcasting from the University of Auckland, and following early involvement directing, shooting and editing docos, she has worked consistently on film and television drama projects for the past eight years.

These range from the NGA PUNA MAORI DRAMA SERIES and a number of other Maori productions, to local and international co-production TV series e.g. PLAINCLOTHES and U.S. originated HIGH TIDE and BROTHERHOOD OF THE ROSE, and features OLD SCORES and ALEX.

Her involvement, being mainly in the Location and Production Managing areas has given her the opportunity to develop a strong overview in the practical and organisational end of film making, while at the same time maintaining the creative integrity as much as possible.

Liz is very interested in working on more short films and features, incorporating the skills she has acquired to a more creative advantage.

MANANUI is the first drama she has produced, but looks set to be the beginning of more extensive involvement in this area.

Between short films she is currently Production Managing a 65 Episode German/English series for South Pacific Pictures (NZ) called RIDING HIGH.

**CURRICULUM VITAE** As at 4/10/95

**Liz DiFiore**

**PO Box 78-186, Grey Lynn**

**Auckland, New Zealand**

**Fax/Tel:64-9-360-1556 and Mobile 025-974-025**

Languages: English, Spanish, French  
Education: 1986 Post Graduate Diploma in Broadcasting - A Bursary  
1984-85 BA in Anthropology, Maori Studies, Spanish, A- Bursary -  
Both degrees from University Of Auckland  
Citizenship: - NZ/USA (New Zealand parents - I was born in New York)

***PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT***

6/95 TO **RIDING HIGH** - South Pacific Pictures - 65 Episodes - TV drama series  
5/95 TO **MANANUI** - *Producer* - James Wallace Productions - 15 min. 35mm drama  
7/94 TO 10/94- **LETTER TO BLANCHY** - Isambard - 4 Ep. TV comedy/drama series  
8/93 TO 11/93- **NGA PUNA MAORI DRAMA SERIES** - He Taonga Films - 3 of a 4 part Film/TV Drama Series  
3/93 TO 8/93 - **GIVE US A CLUE** - First Pictures - Studio Game Show - First 70 Episodes  
8/91 TO 2/92- **NZ EXPO PAVILION MULTI- SCREEN FILM & IBARAKI PROMO** -  
Logan Brewer Prod. Design  
8/90 TO 9/90- **SOLO** - Future Productions - 1 Hr. TV Doco  
6/90 TO 7/90- **THE RHONDA SHOW** - Light Ent. Pilot - He Taonga Films  
3/89 TO 4/89- **LYDIARD** - Trisha Stratford Productions - 1 Hr. TV Doco  
PLUS VARIOUS COMMERCIALS

***LOCATION MANAGEMENT***

2/95 TO 4/95- **PLAINCLOTHES** - Location Manager - 8 Final Episodes of 26 Ep.T.V. Drama  
4/94 TO 6/94 - **VARIOUS COMMERCIALS** - Locations, Casting & Production Management  
11/93 TO 4/94 - **HIGH TIDE** - Straight Throw - 26 Ep. US TV Series  
8/92 TO 3/93 - **DEEP WATER HAVEN** - South Pacific Pictures/Grundy's/Fr. TV - 24 Ep. TV series  
4/92 TO 5/92 - **ALEX** - Isambard/Aust. - Feature Film  
2/92 TO 3/92 - **JAPANESE COMMERCIALS** - Coke Lite & Nissui Size Sydney -  
Location/ProductionManagement  
7/92- **RAY BRADBURY THEATRE** - Location Scout - South Pacific Pictures,TV series  
3/91 TO 8/91- **THE OTHER SIDE OF PARADISE** - Grundy's(AUST.), Central TV(UK), SPP (NZ)  
2 part TV MiniSeries  
1/91 TO 2/91 - **OLD SCORES**- HTV (Wales), South Pacific Pictures (NZ) - Feature Film  
2/90 TO 6/90- **STARRUNNER** - Atlantis (Canada), South Pacific Pictures (NZ) - 8 EP TV Series  
11/89 - **WILDFIRE** - Grundy's, South Pacific Pictures - Location Scout - TV Series  
10/89 to 11/89- **ALL FOR ONE** - Atlantis, South Pacific Pictures - 6 EP TV Drama Series  
8/89 - **SHRIMP ON THE BARBIE** - Evaux Investments Ltd. - US Feature - Location Scout  
6/89- **ROIMATA** - Te Manuka Films - TV Drama  
2/89 TO 3/89- **JUST ME AND MARIO** - Greg Stitt Productions - 1/2 hr. Drama  
6/88 TO 9/88- **BROTHERHOOD OF THE ROSE** - NBC - US Mini-Series  
PLUS NUMEROUS COMMERCIALS THROUGHOUT

***RELATED WORK***

10/94 to 2/95 **HERCULES** - Pacific Renaissance - 13 Ep. US TV Series - Wardrobe Co-ordinator  
7/89 TO 2/90- **OPENING & CLOSING CEREMONIES** - XIVTH Commonwealth Games - Logan Brewer  
Production Design - Co-Ordinator/1st. AD  
10/88 **FINDERS KEEPERS** - He Taonga Films Ltd. - 1/2 Drama - Production Assistant  
2/87 TO 9/88- **MANGAWHAI WOMEN'S FESTIVAL** -\* Producer/Cam-Op/Editor - 1/2 Hr. TV Doco  
5/88 **THESE HILLS ARE TAPU** - Thames Coast Preservation Society - Editor  
3/88 **LET YOURSELF GO** - "Sweet Harmony" Music Video - \*Producer/Cam-Op/Editor  
1/88 TO 2/88- **FUNNY BUSINESS** - First Series, Comedia Productions - 2nd AD  
10/86TO 11/86- **WORKING GLASS** - U. of Auck. - (ITVA Award 1987), Broadcast TV1 2/88 - Director/Editor  
1987 **BROWN STREET VIDEO** -\* Produced/Wrote/Directed/Edited Corporate Docos  
5/85 **ANZART** - A.V. Back-up for Australian/NZ Multi Media Artists Symposium  
1984/85 Audio/Visual Centre - U. of Auckland - P/T Student Assistant  
Off-line Production/All AV Back-up - Video/Film/Sound systems etc.



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AGENT FOR FILM & T.V. ACTORS; FIGHT AND STUNT CO-ORDINATION.

**CLIFF CURTIS**  
**BIOGRAPHY**

Year/Birth : 1968  
Height : 1.83 m (6'0")  
Build : 70kg  
Size : Slim  
Hair : Brown  
Eyes : Brown  
Accent : NZ

**Awards:**

1994 *Best Supporting Actor in Film* for *Desperate Remedies*

**Film:**

1992 -The Piano Lesson (Mana) Dir. Jane Campion  
1992 - Desperate Remedies Dir. Peter Wells & Stuart Main  
1993 - Rapa Nui Dir. Kevin Renolds; Producer Kevin Costner  
1993 - Once Were Warriors Dir. Lee Tamahori  
Mananui (short film)  
1995 - Mana (Lead - Dir. Poata Eruera)  
1995 - Chicken (Zeke) Dir. Grant La Hood

**Television:**

Safer Sex (Warren) Life in the Fridge  
Frontline Neighbourhood Watch  
Undercover (telemovie) Shark in the Park  
Issues Kahu & Maia  
Hercules (Pacific Renaissance) Mysterious Island  
Sina and Jim (Montana Series)

Various television commercials

**Theatre:**

Training with New Zealand Drama School 1988/89. Course included acting, improvisation, voice, movement, dance, fencing, comedia Del-Arte, Clowning.

Various workshop attended :-

New Zealand Drama School Productions 1989  
The Cherry Orchard (Yepikhodov)  
Happy End (Bill Cracker)  
Comedia Del'Arte Punch moves house (Punch)  
Reflections (monologue) James K. Baxter  
Ten Stories High (improvised short stories)  
Mantis Co-op 1987 (Horowhenua based semi professional co-op)  
Man of La Mancha (Dr Carrasco)  
Mixed Doubles (4 monologues)  
Come as You Are (various roles)  
Fallen Angels  
Hungry City (Watershed Theatre Co)

**Other**

NZ Amateur Rock 'n Roll Champion 1987/88. Basic dance skills (ballet, tap, ballroom)  
Clowning, compere, singer with various rock 'n roll bands. Builder and glazier (4 years)





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**GEORGE HENARE O.B.E.**  
**BIOGRAPHY**

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<b>Year/Birth</b>	:	1955
<b>Height</b>	:	5'10"
<b>Build</b>	:	Medium
<b>Size</b>	:	M
<b>Hair</b>	:	Dark - Greying
<b>Eyes</b>	:	Brown
<b>Accent</b>	:	NZ and various

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**Awards:**

1994 *Best Theatrical Performance* (Jesus Christ Superstar) Entertainer of the Year Awards

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**Film:**

The Silent One	Queen City Rocker
Rapa Nui (Kevin Costner - Producer)	
Mananui (short film)	Dir. Poata Eruera (James Wallace Productions)

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**Television:**

Governor	The Flying Kiwi
Stars on Sunday	Park Terrace Murder
Gather Your Dreams	Porters
Gloss II	Ray Bradbury Theatre

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**Theatre:**

Vast experience in Theatre.

Began in 1965 with New Zealand Opera Company's production of Porgy and Bess. Remained with company for six years graduating from the chorus to character principal e.g., Goro in Butterfly, Koko in The Mikado.

Worked with Downstage in numerous productions.

Toured Hong Kong, Japan, USSR, Budapest and Athens.

New Zealand Maori Theatre Trust.

National tour of Schools with New Zealand Opera Quartet.

In 1971 joined Mercury Theatre playing diverse roles such as King Lear, Snoopy, Lenin, Pirate King, Ugly Sister etc. etc.

Permanent Mercury cast member since then appearing in most of the Mercury productions since 1971, most often in lead roles.

1991 appeared in Downstage, Wellington production as "Othello".

Toured with "Night and Day" and "Extremities"

1992 - NZ tour as lead with "Chess"

1992 - Melbourne Theatre Co as "Othello"

1994- NZ & Australian Tour of "Jesus Christ Superstar"

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**Other:**

Numerous radio plays and a television series with a vocal trio called "Blowing in the Wind" singing gospel songs.

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**LAWRENCE WHARERAU**  
**BIOGRAPHY**

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<b>Year/Birth</b>	:	1962
<b>Height</b>	:	1.81m
<b>Build</b>	:	88kg (Solid)
<b>Size</b>	:	XXL (51cm neck)
<b>Hair</b>	:	Black (long)
<b>Eyes</b>	:	Hazel
<b>Accent</b>	:	NZ

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**Film:**

Crush	Dir. Alison McLean - Hibiscus Films
The Piano (Kamira)	Dir. Jane Campion - Jan Chapman Prods.
Sinking of the Rainbow Warrior	Dir. Michael Tuchner - Ten Four Productions
Mananui (short film)	Dir. Poata Eruera (James Wallace Productions)

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**Television:**

Crimewatch  
Gloss I, II and III  
Strange Journey (German TV Production)  
The Neighbourhood Network (TV3)  
Hercules (Pacific Renaissance)  
Savage Play (Scottish/NZ Production)  
Mysterious Island  
Xena (Pacific Renaissance)

Television reporter for - Koha, Wero, Nga Take Maori, Pounamu, Whakairu, Why Stay Home, Friday Night, When the Haka became Boogie, Now Marae, including studio and field interviewing and presenting to camera.

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**Other Interests:**

Sports, reading, NZ Films, the arts.

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